



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

**June 29, 2017**

### **Tribune-Star Editorial: Time to wake up and smell the asphalt**

Tribune-Star

6/28/17

Gasoline prices are anything but stable, so it may or may not be obvious to Hoosier motorists that they will suddenly be paying 10 cents more per gallon at the pump this weekend. That's when Indiana's gas tax increase takes effect, a product of legislation adopted in the last session of the General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Eric Holcomb. Indiana's gas tax will rise to 28 cents a gallon on Saturday. What's more, a registration fee of \$15 per vehicle will be implemented on Jan. 1, 2018, with the fee rising to \$150 for electric vehicles that do not use gas but travel on Indiana roads. The rise in taxes and fees marks a significant step toward upgrading the state's vital infrastructure. Much of the money goes toward road funding, and in the first year, the tax should raise \$357 million for the Indiana Department of Transportation and \$260 million for local road projects. There are other revenue-raising elements that will take effect in subsequent years. Overall, the funding package should raise \$6.4 billion during the next seven years. It's easy to grumble about rising taxes and fees, and some Hoosiers are already beginning to vent their frustrations about the impending gas tax increase. But it's important to remember that the state's gas tax has not been changed since 2003, when it went up by 3 cents. In the meantime, roads, bridges and other critical assets have slowly deteriorated while the state struggled to keep up with demand for repairs and new construction.

[http://www.tribstar.com/opinion/editorials/tribune-star-editorial-time-to-wake-up-and-smell-the/article\\_eb391172-5c3a-11e7-8c95-c78ee7291478.html](http://www.tribstar.com/opinion/editorials/tribune-star-editorial-time-to-wake-up-and-smell-the/article_eb391172-5c3a-11e7-8c95-c78ee7291478.html)

### **South Bend mulls roundabout, seeks public input**

South Bend Tribune

Jeff Parrott

6/28/17

**SOUTH BEND** — A year and a half after announcing they might build a roundabout at one of the city's busiest corners, officials Thursday night will seek public input on the possibility. The city's consultant has assigned an "F" rating, the worst possible level of service, to the five-point intersection of Ironwood Drive, Corby Boulevard and Rockne Drive, a corner that sees 27,000 vehicles a day, said Eric Horvath, city public works director. The city has hired South Bend-based Lawson-Fisher Associates to lead the process. The consultant's 2014 report estimated a roundabout would cost \$3.3 million, requiring partial acquisition of the four residential properties and the church, possibly requiring three people to move. It would reduce rush-hour traffic delays from 96 seconds to 16.9 seconds. The improvements would be funded by 80 percent federal money that's passed through the Indiana Department of Transportation, and 20 percent city dollars. The federal funding requires the city to complete an extensive study of how either alternate would affect the environment and nearby property owners. Thursday night's meeting is

not required by federal law. The city is conducting it to keep residents informed, Horvath said. A federally mandated public "design hearing" would occur sometime this fall, at which residents would learn which option the city is leaning toward. Next year the city will make a final decision, which must be approved by INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. The city would then hire a contractor in late 2018 and construction would begin in 2019.

[http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/local/south-bend-mulls-roundabout-seeks-public-input/article\\_6e033eea-d74d-502e-ad56-892b9ab3a356.html](http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/local/south-bend-mulls-roundabout-seeks-public-input/article_6e033eea-d74d-502e-ad56-892b9ab3a356.html)

### **Winnecke: I-69 Bridge Plans 'On The Right Track'**

Inside Indiana Business

Dan McGowan

6/27/17

EVANSVILLE - The Indiana and Kentucky project offices for the proposed I-69 Ohio River Crossing are now open. Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke says the offices show the bridge, which would join Evansville with Henderson, Kentucky, is "on the right track and on the way to completing this important connection." Plans were formalized a year ago when then-Governor Mike Pence signed a memorandum of understanding with Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin to launch a thorough environmental impact study. It will set the table for a potential bridge location, routes and financing options. In April, transportation officials took public feedback and discussed five broad-based, possible corridors for the infrastructure. The Indiana Department of Transportation says a short list of alternatives could be released in mid-to-late July. Open houses in Indiana and Kentucky are expected to follow soon after to provide public feedback. INDOT says the goal is to have a recommended preferred alternative in place by the fall of next year and a Record of Decision locked in by late-2019, which will kick off federal funding exploration, design, land purchase and construction efforts.

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/35763142/winnecke-i-69-bridge-plans-on-the-right-track>

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