



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Pence sweetens on stimulus as state benefits

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Dan Carden
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INDIANAPOLIS | When it comes to federal spending for Indiana projects, Gov. Mike Pence is discovering the view from his Statehouse desk is a lot different from his old stomping ground in the U.S. House. Consider the governor's visit to Hammond on Thursday: Pence cheered the start of the Indiana Gateway rail improvements that will help speed freight and passenger rail travel through Northwest Indiana. "I say let's blow the horn, let's get the Gateway open and be on the way to a more prosperous Indiana," Pence proclaimed at the Hammond-Whiting Amtrak station. The \$71.4 million project will cut delays at region rail crossings by 70 hours a year, shave an hour off Amtrak trips between Chicago and Detroit, and create an estimated 700 jobs, according to Pence's Indiana Department of Transportation. But the money for the project isn't coming from INDOT. The Indiana Gateway is being paid for by the federal government through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, more commonly known as the stimulus. As a congressman, Pence had a lot to say about the stimulus when it was being debated by the U.S. House. As chairman of the House Republican Conference, he led opposition to the stimulus in the chamber and condemned it repeatedly in national television appearances.

http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/pence-sweetens-on-stimulus-as-state-benefits/article_fd09e549-992a-50f0-8776-013d6634755a.html

Local officials considering whether to take over some state highways near Bloomington

The Republic
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BLOOMINGTON, Indiana — Officials in southern Indiana's Monroe County are considering whether to take over portions of three state highways around Bloomington. The proposal from the Indiana Department of Transportation would give the county a boost in road funding while making it responsible for maintaining the routes, The Herald-Times reported. County highway director Bill Williams said he's reviewing how much the state has spent on repairs, snow plowing and other work before deciding whether to support the change. "We're going to look at their maintenance costs and what they do, and how that will factor into our department," Williams said. The routes involved are Indiana 45 northeast and southwest of Bloomington, Indiana 48 west of the city and Indiana 446 north and south of Lake Monroe. Those highways generally carry less traffic than the Indiana 37 and Indiana 46 routes into Bloomington that would remain under state control. The discussion comes as construction is underway on the Interstate 69 extension from near the Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center southwest of Bloomington to Indiana 37. A contract with the state would put maintenance of about 33 miles of current state highway under the county's control in perpetuity. "You'd be taking these for the long haul," Sandra Flum, Interstate 69 project manager,

told county officials this week. "Under the ground is still the state roadway. How you maintain it is up to you." The deal would give county officials control of the highway right of ways and what development or projects could be allowed along them. Officials estimate the road switch would give Monroe County \$3.7 million in one-time federal credits and an extra \$172,000 a year in road funding from the state. Maintenance and repair costs are projected at about \$33 million over the next 20 years.

[Local officials considering whether to take over some state highways near Bloomington](#)

Pence visits to promote jobs, health care

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Christin Nance Lazerus

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Pence said the purpose of the visits aligned with his administration's strategy of making Indiana a state that works — from new jobs and infrastructure to education and the proposed expansion of the Healthy Indiana medical insurance plan. "We've been able to combine the best of the old and best of the new," Pence told the crowd at a Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce event in Hammond. He said a commitment to balanced budgets and \$2 billion in reserves has allowed the state to make investments in infrastructure and education, while innovation is driving his proposal to expand Healthy Indiana to residents earning up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. Federal funds will be used to reduce congestion on one of the busiest rail corridors in the United States as Amtrak and Norfolk Southern will construct a third rail line and make other major improvements along a 30-plus-mile stretch in Lake County. "When it comes to the three guiding principles of Indiana infrastructure — taking care of what we have, finishing what we started and planning for the future — the Indiana Gateway project is a triple threat that underscores the importance of a multimodal transportation system capable of efficiently moving both people and freight," Pence said. "With teamwork, we can lead Northwest Indiana and Indiana as a whole to be even better situated for the future." The project is expected to be completed by 2016.

[Pence visits to promote jobs, health care](#)

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