



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

**June 9, 2015**

### **Tully: An overshadowed gem in a messy Statehouse session**

Indianapolis Star  
Matthew Tully  
6/5/15

The mayors of Westfield and Shelbyville walked into a Broad Ripple coffee shop Wednesday afternoon and talked for more than an hour about the need for Central Indiana to think as one. "It's about the rebirth of regionalism," Andy Cook, the bold-thinking, second-term Westfield mayor said. "When we band together and work together we produce a much more marketable product as a region." It was an inspired and impressive conversation, one freed from parochial concerns and centered on the idea that as Indianapolis goes, as Carmel goes, as Avon and the area's other communities go, so goes Central Indiana. That's not always been an easy message to sell in a region where many see communities as being in direct competition for jobs, residents and state money, and where there hasn't always been much of a rising-tide-lifts-all-boats mentality. DeBaun supported a push for an improved mass transit system, even though such a push would never directly touch his community. And they both talked about the need for the region to think more as one on issues such as economic and workforce development. The group's long-term mission will center on transit, water supply matters and economic development. Early on, it will seek state money to further jumpstart the planned Red Line transit upgrade that would ultimately better connect the region. It could also provide a new boost to the region's trail systems. [Tully: An overshadowed gem in a messy Statehouse session](#)

### **Company suing Jeffersonville gets paving bid**

News and Tribune  
Elizabeth Beilman  
6/4/15

JEFFERSONVILLE - A construction company that sued Jeffersonville will be paving its roads this year, and City Attorney Les Merkley said the lawsuit is irrelevant to the project. MAC Construction and Excavating Inc. submitted the lowest of three bids by \$500,000 - offering a price of \$1,380,000 - for the annual project, awarded to the New Albany-based company by the Jeffersonville Board of Public Works this week. Jacobi, Toombs and Lanz Inc. - the engineering firm that estimated paving would cost about \$1.5 million - reviewed all three bids and recommended the board contract with MAC. Merkley said it's the most cost-effective contract and was chosen in the best interest of the residents. MAC'S bid includes paving 5 or 6 miles more of road - namely in the Oak Park neighborhood - than the next lowest bid, Merkley said. "Someone should have to explain to the citizens of Jeffersonville why their roads didn't get paved [if MAC wasn't awarded the bid]," he said. An ordinance passed in 2013 prohibits the city contracting with a business or individual who has pending litigation against the city, but a grandfather clause excludes "any business or individual who has a current contract with the city." The city has a

contract with MAC already for its riverfront improvement project and has also contracted with the company numerous times in the past. "I don't think the ordinance prohibits us from awarding the bid [to MAC]," Merkley said. Indiana statute states that first preference should be given to the lowest bidder, he said, and low bids should only be rejected when they are incomplete or poor in some way. [Company suing Jeffersonville gets paving bid - News and Tribune: News](#)

### **INDOT Brings U.S. 31 to Freeway Status With \$350M**

Construction Equipment Guide

Irwin Rapoport

6/4/15

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has provided serious funding to rebuild and widen 13 mi. (21 km) of U.S. 31 in Hamilton County between Interstate 465 and state Route 38 to rebuild the aging highway and upgrade it to freeway status. The work, which began in 2012, will be completed in 2016. "U.S. 31 is a very heavily traveled highway for both commuter and regional traffic," said Nathan Riggs, public information director of INDOT's East Central District. "It also carries a lot of freight and is very important for the trucking industry. In addition, it's an area that has seen a lot of residential and commercial growth in recent years and all of that has led to congestion of the existing U.S. 31 corridor. This is a highway that goes from Alabama to Michigan, so there is also a bigger picture to consider. "The existing infrastructure is just beyond its capacity and that inhibits mobility, safety, and economic growth," he added. "This is what we are targeting and right now we have two projects - one in Carmel, a \$141 million project being constructed by E&B Paving Inc. and Gradex Inc. and another in Westfield, a \$63 million project that Rieth-Riley Construction Co. Inc. is completing. They really go together with two other major U.S. 31 projects that we already completed - in Kokomo we completed a freeway around that city, as well as one in the South Bend area." [INDOT Brings U.S. 31 to Freeway Status With \\$350M | Story ID: 25470 | Construction Equipment Guide](#)

### **County optimistic as it seeks Eisenhower Bridge funds for 7th time**

The Herald Bulletin

Ken de la Bastide

6/3/15

ANDERSON - For the seventh time, Madison County officials are hopeful that the federal government will award a \$12.4 million grant to replace the Eisenhower Bridge in downtown Anderson. Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Transportation released guidelines for the disbursement of \$500 million through the TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Grant program. The deadline for submitting applications is midnight Friday; Madison County officials sent in their request on Wednesday. Charles Leser, Madison County engineer, said county officials traveled to Washington, D.C., in May and met with the director and deputy director for the TIGER program. "Basically, they said if they had more money we would have been funded," Leser said. "I'm more confident than in past years. We were well received by the U.S. Department of Transportation and congressional leaders." Leser said the county's request is good for the awarding of the grant because federal officials are looking for requests in the \$11 million to \$13 million range. "They like bridge projects because they impact a lot of people," he said. Leser said work could start next year if the \$12.4 million is awarded in the fall. "We still have some utilities to relocate, but we would be ready to start construction in the summer of 2016," he said. "It would be done in 2018." [http://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/local\\_news/county-optimistic-as-it-seeks-eisenhower-bridge-funds-for-th/article\\_74692316-b19f-5d2b-a51b-33fc9fee4d38.html](http://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/local_news/county-optimistic-as-it-seeks-eisenhower-bridge-funds-for-th/article_74692316-b19f-5d2b-a51b-33fc9fee4d38.html)

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