



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **June 11, 2015**

#### **More road work slated for I-74 this weekend**

Shelbyville News  
Paul Gable  
6/11/2015

The orange barrels are positioned and road work will continue again this weekend on portions of I-74 as more improvements are made. According to Indiana Department of Transportation spokesman Harry Maginity, the work is from Snail Creek Bridge to the Big Blue River Bridge - a span of roadway that is 6.95 miles in length. It is an INDOT Greenfield District Major Project listed as "HMA Overlay, Preventive Maintenance," according to Maginity. Much of the project consists of the following: full depth concrete patching, including subgrade work; partial-depth asphalt patching; and it also includes partial repairs at the exit ramps of State Road 9 and Fairland Road. "After repairs are made, the mainline will be milled and resurfaced with a 1.5-inch asphalt overlay," Maginity said. The work actually began last fall after Dave O'Mara Contractor, of North Vernon, received the award after posting the lowest bid of about \$2.7 million.  
[http://www.shelbynews.com/news/article\\_c1845ec0-1071-11e5-ba39-3ba2e07f62ea.html](http://www.shelbynews.com/news/article_c1845ec0-1071-11e5-ba39-3ba2e07f62ea.html)

#### **Whether Lake County should borrow again is debatable**

NWI Times  
Bill Dolan  
6/11/2015

The Lake County Council gave preliminary approval this week to borrowing as much as \$19 million this year to remove asbestos, pave roads and repair roofs. But council members promise plenty of debate, as early as next month, about how much of a loan is needed and how it should be spent before they go back to the county's creditors. Council President Ted Bilski, D-Hobart, Councilmen Dan Dernulc, R-Highland, Dave Hamm, D-Hammond, and Jamal Washington, D-Merrillville, voted to begin discussions on the proposed borrowing. Bilski said the county isn't increasing its debt significantly because some past bonds will be repaid soon. He added that roads are deteriorating and revenue from the state to repair them has shrunk. He said the council has turned down his proposal of a wheel tax - a flat assessment on passenger cars and motorcycles and a higher assessment on heavier cargo-carrying trucks to be spent solely on road repair. "I hear from the public that our roads are terrible, our bridges are falling apart. There is no other alternative to the bond, unless we adopt a wheel tax," Bilski said. Commissioners have proposed spending \$6.9 million on road projects. The Lake County Highway Department proposes to reconstruct and repave more than 20 miles of rural roads in Calumet, Center, Hanover, St. John, Cedar Creek and West Creek townships.  
[http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/whether-lake-county-should-borrow-again-is-debatable/article\\_de53c11a-b363-5339-9343-68ac977880ae.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/whether-lake-county-should-borrow-again-is-debatable/article_de53c11a-b363-5339-9343-68ac977880ae.html)

### **I-69 bridge work half way done for year**

WANE-TV

6/9/2015

Construction work along I-69 is half way complete. INDOT is replacing the northbound and southbound bridges over Peckhart Ditch between exits 326 and 329. A spokesperson with INDOT told NewsChannel 15 that 50 percent of the work is complete on the southbound bridge after three 68-foot concrete beams were set in place. Motorists will continue to see land shifts on this stretch of the interstate through November when the \$3.2 million project winds down for the year. INDOT will replace the northbound bridge during the 2016 construction season. The spokesperson reminded drivers to be alert and to follow all construction signs. Many work zones have reduced speed limits or lane restrictions - and all of them have people working within them. Slow down, pay attention and stay safe.

<http://wane.com/2015/06/09/i-69-bridge-work-half-way-done-for-year/>

Also <http://wishtv.com/2015/06/10/3-2m-project-to-replace-2-i-69-bridges-in-northeast-indiana/>

### **Column: Another crisis looms**

Current in Fishers

Larry Lannan

6/11/2015

The Indiana General Assembly did the Fishers community a big favor with actions tied to school funding, but another crisis looms for Fishers and other local communities throughout the state. Indiana's method of funding street and road work is in serious need of change. State legislative leaders are already saying the 2016 session will be aimed at dealing with the deficit between the need to keep our road network in good shape and the money available to do it. In the past, the gasoline tax has been essentially a user fee system - the more you use the roads, the more you pay to build and maintain the road system. However, that model is no longer viable with the fuel efficient vehicles we see on our streets today. That means fewer gallons of fuel are used, and results in lower gasoline tax collections. Sadly, there are no good and easy answers to this problem. One approach would be to increase the gasoline tax or find some other source of revenue to pay for streets and roads. Another idea being floated would not tax you on the gasoline you buy, but based on the number of miles you drive. The technological barriers and intrusiveness of such a system are major drawbacks. Let's keep an eye on how our legislators choose to deal with this issue.

<http://currentinfishers.com/column-another-crisis-looms/>

### **Rain further delays I-65 construction**

WLFI-TV, 18

Brittany Tyner

6/9/2015

Due to recent rainfall, restrictions on Interstate 65 have been pushed back once again. The added lanes project throughout Tippecanoe County was originally scheduled to start June 1. That was then moved to June 10, but now it will have to wait until Monday. The \$82.8 million project will add an additional lane in each direction, just south of the State Road 38 exit all the way to a mile north of the State Road 25 exit. The project also includes four noise walls and widening the State Road 25, State Road 26 and Wildcat Creek bridges. Then crews will also be working on four overhead bridges.

The project is slated to be complete in late November 2017.

<http://wflf.com/2015/06/09/rain-further-delays-i-65-construction/>

### **Advisory contract for bridges tolling canceled**

Jeffersonville News and Tribune  
Elizabeth DePompei  
6/9/2015

In another shakeup for the Ohio River Bridges Project, the Kentucky-Indiana Joint Board named a new interim tolling system adviser Tuesday. Parsons Transportation Group will replace eTrans Kentucky Inc. in overseeing tolling design and testing on a temporary, six-month contract. The tolling adviser also monitors Kapsch TrafficCom IVHS Inc., the project's tolling system provider. Officials on both sides of the river, including Indiana Department of Transportation Deputy Commissioner Jim Stark, said eTrans did not live up to expectations. "I think anytime that you have an adviser that you bring on board, you want good quality, consistent leadership and project management, and we just weren't getting those things from eTrans," Stark said. The canceled contract with eTrans will not affect the contract with Kapsch or impact the project's scheduled completion dates. A six-lane I-65 northbound bridge will be the first of the project's three parts to be completed, with a January 2016 expected completion. The rehabilitation of neighboring Kennedy Memorial Bridge that will result in six southbound lanes is expected to be finished by December 2016. A new east-end bridge is expected to be finished by October 2016, at which time tolling may begin.

[http://www.newsandtribune.com/news/advisory-contract-for-bridges-tolling-canceled/article\\_21f97828-0eef-11e5-b3aa-939bec7dfd84.html](http://www.newsandtribune.com/news/advisory-contract-for-bridges-tolling-canceled/article_21f97828-0eef-11e5-b3aa-939bec7dfd84.html)

### **Aging Tippecanoe Co. bridge set for repairs**

WLFI-TV, 18  
Kayla Sullivan  
6/9/2015

Another structure in Tippecanoe County is showing its age. The bridge over N. River Road in West Lafayette has some damage. The Tippecanoe County Highway Department is fixing leaks, cracks and falling concrete. Of the \$600,000 cost, \$400,000 is covered by money from the Indiana Department of Transportation. INDOT gave the money to Tippecanoe County when it took over the bridge. The remaining sum will come from the county bridge fund. Executive director Opal Kuhl said construction will begin soon.

<http://wlfi.com/2015/06/09/aging-tippecanoe-co-bridge-set-for-repairs/>

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[www.buildindianacouncil.org](http://www.buildindianacouncil.org)