



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

June 25, 2015

Daniels to testify about highway construction

The Journal Gazette
Brian Francisco
6/25/15

Purdue University President Mitch Daniels is scheduled to testify today before the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, but he won't be talking about higher education. Instead, Daniels is among witnesses for a committee hearing titled "Unlocking the Private Sector: State Innovations in Financing Transportation Infrastructure." Daniels will provide testimony on Indiana's Major Moves initiative, according to the office of Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind. Coats is a member of the Finance Committee. When he was governor in 2006, Republican Daniels spearheaded Major Moves, a highway construction program approved by the state legislature and largely financed by a \$3.8 billion, 75-year lease of the Indiana Toll Road to a consortium from Spain and Australia. The Toll Road operator filed for bankruptcy last year and was sold this year for about \$5.7 billion to an Australian investment fund. Others scheduled to testify at today's Finance Committee are Shailen Bhatt, executive director of the Colorado Department of Transportation; David Narefsky, co-leader of the Infrastructure Practice Group at law firm Mayer Brown in Chicago; and Baruch Feigenbaum, assistant director of transportation policy for the Reason Foundation in Los Angeles. [Daniels to testify about highway construction | Indiana | Journal Gazette](#)

MORTON MARCUS: Indiana should improve current mass transit systems, not expand them

Goshen News
6/24/15

I do not share the enthusiasm and certainty of many good friends who believe mass transit is a necessary and vital part of our future cities. Rather, I suggest we improve operations of current systems, but invest heavily in the future of moving people. Private automobiles are the finest mass transit system yet devised. They offer comfort, privacy, security and convenience, unmatched by other modes of travel. In many cases, they are more efficient when the value of the passengers' time is considered. Advocates for mass transit are quick and correct to point out current private autos pollute and congest our cities. In addition, they note, one can (should) not read, text, nor sleep while driving. Improvements in private autos are happening quickly. More automatic safety features are showing up in cars. Lighter vehicles are now in use that pollute less and take less room on the road and in parking areas. Appropriate taxes or fees could hasten this transit transformation. Cars could be charged for parking by the foot print they occupy and charged for road usage according to weight, speed, and contribution to congestion. Mass transit systems rely on high population and economic densities, which we do not have in most cities. Typically, mass transit requires a supplemental distribution system as simple as sidewalks, which have been absent in new residential and industrial areas for the past six decades. Mass transit

rarely provides protection from the weather, often is unreliable, and fails to keep customers well-informed about service and delays.

Yes, these factors can be overcome with time and/or with new technology and significant investments. However, the proponents of mass transit fail to recognize the most effective ways to serve those most in need of transportation is not with new trolley cars, express buses, or heavy rail routes. Many people can (should) not drive. http://www.goshennews.com/opinion/morton-marcus-indiana-should-improve-current-mass-transit-systems-not/article_2bb417e5-cb02-59eb-8985-885ceb4a7328.html

Elkhart County Commissioners pass measure for second possible property tax increase

The Elkhart Truth

Emily Pfund

6/24/15

The county could collect an additional \$400,000 next year from the increase to be used for maintaining the county's major bridges. Elkhart County is responsible for maintaining 171 bridges, 19 of which are considered major bridges because they have a span of at least 200 feet, said Tom Rushlow, project engineer for the Elkhart County Highway Department. Over the last 15 years, the county repaired or rebuilt several major bridges - including the Six Span, Main Street and Johnson Street bridges in Elkhart - and is now working on plans to rebuild the Kercher Bridge in Goshen, Lord said. "This fund has been clobbered and this fund has not been large enough to pay for that work," Lord said. To make up for the shortfall, the county uses money from the Economic Development Income Tax fund and other sources for bridge projects. [Elkhart County Commissioners pass measure for second possible property tax increase - Elkhart Truth](#)

Big Upgrades Coming to The Toll Road

Inside INdiana Business

Dan McGowan

6/23/15

The new operators of the Indiana Toll Road are planning major improvements in the coming years. The Indiana Toll Road Concession Co. says it will invest \$130 million into pavement rehabilitation projects and \$34 million over the next five years into new travel plazas. The work is slated to cover the stretch between Portage and Elkhart. A spokeswoman with ITRC says the group will hold meetings this week to detail the pavement work. [Big Upgrades Coming to The Toll Road - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)