



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **July 12, 2016**

#### **New Indiana road task force to discuss I-69 bridge funding**

Indianapolis Business Journal

7/11/16

Indiana officials say that the state's new road funding task force will discuss plans to move forward with an Interstate 69 bridge linking Indiana and Kentucky. Sen. Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, told the Evansville Courier & Press that I-69 bridge project is high on the committee's list of tasks. "Our plan is to try and develop a pretty comprehensive plan of the state's major infrastructure needs," Kenley said. "My feeling is that bridge fits into that category." On July 1, Gov. Mike Pence entered an agreement with Kentucky, saying the project is a priority for both states. Rep. Holli Sullivan, R-Evansville, said the announcement was a message to lawmakers that the bridge is a stated priority for Indiana and, therefore, a part of the overall economic plan. "The agreement was the initial step forward that was needed," Sullivan said. "It didn't kick it further down the road, it's now a piece of the puzzle." A bridge advocacy group, BridgeLink, estimated the overall cost of the bridge at \$850 million. Kenley said figuring out a way to fund the project will be on the committee's agenda and that it's too early to rule out any funding resources, including tolling. "We've got a lot of funding decisions that we're going to have to make," Kenley said. <http://www.ibj.com/articles/59376-new-indiana-road-task-force-to-discuss-i-69-bridge-funding>

#### **County on track to meet INDOT deadline; Looking for share of \$460M in extra road money**

Vincennes Sun-Commercial

Jess Cohen

7/10/16

County officials have their eyes on additional state funding for infrastructure improvements and are going full steam ahead to snag the extra bucks. This spring, legislation passed by the General Assembly divvied out millions in unspent tax dollars to cities and counties specifically for road repairs. Vincennes received just over \$1 million while Knox County received nearly \$1.4 million. The legislation also came with \$460 million allocated to the Indiana Department of Transportation to hand out as matching grants over the next four years for city and county projects throughout the state. For the past couple months, First Group Engineering Inc. of Indianapolis has been working on an inventory of county roads — the technical term is a "pavement preservation management system" — that's required in order for the county to apply for that matching INDOT grant. The inventory examines every mile of county roads and prioritizes them in terms of needed improvements and also suggests ways to address the identified issues. Knox County Highway Department Superintendent Donnie Mize said the road inventory is moving right along and the county is right on track to meet INDOT's end-of-the-month deadline for the matching grant application. [http://www.suncommercial.com/news/article\\_a5ac5150-461f-11e6-a18f-37293926b72a.html](http://www.suncommercial.com/news/article_a5ac5150-461f-11e6-a18f-37293926b72a.html)

**ELKHART COUNTY COUNCIL: \$12.55 million approved for C.R. 38/Kercher Bridge reconstruction project**

Goshen News  
John Kline  
7/9/16

Elkhart County Council members Saturday approved \$12.55 million in additional appropriations needed to fund the upcoming C.R. 38/Kercher Bridge reconstruction project. According to Elkhart County Highway Manager Jeff Taylor, Saturday's approvals, which followed similar approvals by the Elkhart County Board of Commissioners earlier in the week, are being requested now in order for him to put the project out for bid later this month. Construction on the project is slated to begin in November and take a year to complete. First to be approved was a \$6.5 million additional appropriation from the county's Major Moves fund, which according to Taylor will essentially be a loan from the county to the highway department that will be paid back over a period of several years. In a related matter, county attorney Craig Buche presented the council with a loan agreement establishing the interest rate and repayment plan for the requested loan. According to Buche, the plan for repayment will include taking the remaining balance from an existing Major Moves loan for past work on the new C.R. 17 corridor — about \$3.3 million — and combining it with the requested \$6.5 million for the Kercher Bridge/C.R. 38 project. By doing so, it will require just one repayment to the fund each year, rather than multiple payments, he said. A loan repayment plan of 15 years was suggested, with an interest rate of 2 percent, resulting in an annual payment of approximately \$800,000 a year. "This would pay the Major Moves fund back in approximately 14.5 years," Buche said of the plan. "And the resolution authorizes you to change the interest rate, change the payment schedule, change or reduce the payments, and prepay as well if you so desire." [http://www.goshennews.com/news/local\\_news/elkhart-county-council-million-approved-for-c-r-kercher-bridge/article\\_ed3566ab-3ce3-559f-912b-b09ff052eb78.html](http://www.goshennews.com/news/local_news/elkhart-county-council-million-approved-for-c-r-kercher-bridge/article_ed3566ab-3ce3-559f-912b-b09ff052eb78.html)

**HUBER and SULLIVAN: Transit tax increase a worthy investment in city's future**

Indianapolis Business Journal  
Michael Huber & Steve Sullivan  
7/9/16

Should residents support transit improvements, including more frequent service and the Red Line? In May, the Indianapolis City-County Council passed Proposition 145, finally giving Marion County voters the chance to say yes to improved transit service with a referendum on our Nov. 8 ballot. Since the council acted, new Census data showed Marion County gaining 4,000 residents in 2015, the largest increase in Indiana. The MIBOR Realtor Association 2015 housing data analysis also described the hottest Indy home-buying market in nearly a decade. Indianapolis is growing—but we can't neglect transit as a quality of life and economic development priority and expect these trends to continue. The Indy Chamber and MIBOR have listened to thousands of local employers and homeowners and learned from other cities as we compete for jobs and investment. Our lack of transit options comes up repeatedly as an urgent issue: Indianapolis is the nation's 14th-largest city, yet our bus fleet ranks 84th. We have to close this gap. A yes vote for mass transit is a vote for growth and for giving local workers and families a better opportunity to reach the middle class through education and employment. It's a vote to bring new investment to struggling neighborhoods, and to make our city even more appealing to new talent and business. <http://www.ibj.com/articles/59290-transit-tax-increase-a-worthy-investment-in-citys-quos-future>

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