



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

July 13, 2017

Update: Gov. Holcomb announces construction plan for first 5 years of 'Next Level Roads' initiative

Tribune Star
7/13/17

INDIANAPOLIS – Gov. Eric J. Holcomb and Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner Joe McGuinness today kicked off Indiana's Next Level Roads initiative and shared construction plans for the first five years of a new 20-year program to improve Indiana's roads and bridges. They were joined by members of the Indiana General Assembly, who advanced legislation this session that provides funding for a long-term, sustainable, data-driven infrastructure plan. "Our transportation network of roads and bridges plays a major part in Indiana's success story both now and in the future," Gov. Holcomb said. "With a fully-funded plan in place for the next 20 years, Hoosiers can rest assured that Indiana will remain the Crossroads of America for generations to come. I thank our lawmakers for their committed leadership to make this possible, and I commend INDOT for working hard to identify key projects so that we could be ready to roll with this five-year plan so quickly." In May, Gov. Holcomb asked INDOT to provide a list of projects to begin and complete in the next five years to maintain Indiana's position as the Crossroads of America. The road construction plan for the first five years of Indiana's Next Level Roads initiative outlines specific INDOT projects that will preserve existing roads and bridges, finish current projects and invest in Indiana's overall transportation system. The plan outlines approximately \$4.7 billion in total investment over the next five years—resurfacing nearly 10,000 lane miles of pavement and repairing or replacing approximately 1,300 bridges.

http://www.tribstar.com/news/indiana_news/update-gov-holcomb-announces-construction-plan-for-first-years-of/article_b85d96d5-f2d7-5f68-8d03-281178ea7880.html Also, <http://www.indystar.com/story/news/politics/2017/07/13/4-7-billion-road-plan-include-work-465-gov-holcomb-says/467735001/>

Double Track local funding finalized; now it's up to feds

NWI Times
Andrew Steele
7/13/17

The St. Joseph County Council's vote Tuesday to finance the county's share of the South Shore Line's \$290 million double-tracking project capped a seven-week period that saw financing secured in each county along the line. The county is committing \$18.25 million to the Double Track project, and plans to sell bonds to finance that contribution. For St. Joseph County, the project promises to help reduce the trip from South Bend to Chicago to an hour and a half. "90 minutes or bust!" South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg tweeted after the vote. The city itself intends to finance a project of as much as \$25 million to reroute the South Shore in the city and move its airport-based station to make the trip quicker through the city. St. Joseph County Commissioners

had approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the city's Redevelopment Commission pledging each to the projects June 20. The \$18.25 million figure represents one-eighth of the engineering and construction cost of the project. Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties have made a similar commitment. http://www.nwitimes.com/business/local/double-track-local-funding-finalized-now-it-s-up-to/article_c92f630c-490d-5605-8feb-740ee7dd5c74.html

Vigo County decides use of its EDIT funds; about \$3 million could go to road work

Tribune Star
Howard Greninger
7/12/17

Funding for road maintenance could be more than \$3 million in Vigo County in 2018. That's part of Vigo County commissioners' proposed use of Economic Development Income Tax funds for next year, which includes about \$1.3 million for road maintenance plus an additional \$1 million for a matching state grant. The county is seeking \$1 million in matching funds from Indiana's 21st Century Crossroads program. "For us, it is a 50-50 match. It is the second year for this program. We applied last year and got the full \$1 million. We are applying for that again this year," said Vigo County Engineer Jerry Netherlain. However, in 2018, Netherlain said, the state program is targeting smaller counties, which need only a 25 percent match to receive a 75 percent match in road surfacing funds from the state. "There could be more counties applying for the same money, so it is possible we would not get the entire amount," Netherlain said. "We are hopeful to get the full amount." The county will learn in late August how much road surfacing funding it will receive for 2018. Vigo County has 987 road miles. Of that, 200 miles are gravel and about 10 miles are concrete. The county targeted about 17 miles of asphalt to be resurfaced this year, costing about \$60,000 per mile, said Bobby James, assistant superintendent of the county highway department. "We plan to do about 40 additional miles of mill and chip and sealing this year, at about \$30,000 per mile," James said. Commissioners Wednesday reviewed proposed 2018 budgets with the Vigo County Council's budget committee. http://www.tribstar.com/news/local_news/vigo-county-decides-use-of-its-edit-funds-about-million/article_49e3b8f3-7c0c-5d0e-8576-0c00a2698af6.html

Porter County Bridge fund increased by Commissioners

Chesterton Tribune
Jeff Schultz
7/12/17

The Porter County Board of Commissioners voted 2-0 in favor of doubling the tax rate for the County's Cumulative Bridge Fund from one to two cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. Commissioner Vice-President Laura Shurr Blaney, D-South, who chaired a special meeting Tuesday in the absence of President Jeff Good, R-Center, said her board has been asked why it's not using the bridge fund for the \$3 million needed to repair three bridges named in the \$30 million capital projects plan. The bridge fund has been depleted, she said, and the Commissioners are looking to pay for the three bridges another way. Good had suggested last month bonding against the proceeds from the sale of the Porter Memorial Hospital as one possibility to complete large capital projects. When those bridges are rebuilt, Blaney said the bridge fund should have time to grow back to where it can be used to maintain and fix other bridges regularly. "It goes without saying that this type of infrastructure must be maintained. It's not really a choice," said Blaney. According to County Attorney Scott McClure, the two-cent tax rate would help the bridge fund generate nearly \$1.5 million annually. Blaney said the Commissioners recently increased the bridge fund tax rate from half to one cent in 2015. It had been .5 cents for about 30 years prior to that and for a long time was the lowest in the state. At one cent, it is currently the second lowest rate in the state. But, Porter County has more bridges than most other counties in Indiana, she said.

http://chestertontribune.com/Porter%20County/porter_county_bridge_fund_increa.htm

Holcomb to Unveil Next Level Roads Plan

Inside Indiana Business

Alex Brown

7/12/17

INDIANAPOLIS - Governor Eric Holcomb will Thursday kick off a trip throughout the state to unveil his Next Level Roads Plan at a series of news conferences. The events, the first which will take place in Indianapolis, will detail the Indiana Department of Transportation's road construction plan for the next five years. INDOT says the plan reflects new funding from the long-term infrastructure funding bill approved by the Indiana General Assembly earlier this year. INDOT Commissioner Joe McGuinness will be on hand for each of the five news conferences scheduled for Thursday and Friday. The first news conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. in Indianapolis with Indiana House Speaker Brian Bosma (R-88) in attendance. Holcomb and McGuinness will then travel to Lafayette to unveil the plan at 11:30 a.m. joined by State Senator Brandt Hershman (R-7). The final stop on Thursday will take place at 3:00 p.m. in Terre Haute, which will also include remarks from State Sen. Jon Ford (R-38). The governor has two additional news conferences scheduled for Friday in Evansville at 9:00 a.m. and in Sellersburg at 1:30 p.m.

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/35871528/holcomb-to-unveil-next-level-roads-plan>

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