



## **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

### **Infrastructure Media Summary**

**July 1, 2014**

#### **Gas prices will be on the rise as state tax takes effect**

FOX 28

Mario Gonzalez

6/30/14

The current flat rate is a 19-cent-per gallon sales tax. Under the Gas Use Tax, the rate will change to seven percent of the average gas price for the state for the previous month. Terry Hoeksema is an Elkhart resident who was filling up at the pump on Monday evening. "I think they're too high," Hoeksema said about current gas prices. "I mean it's coming down a little bit here now. When it starts getting up to the four dollar range, that's crazy." Gas Buddy Petroleum Analyst Patrick DeHaan spoke with FOX28 News about the changes going into effect on July 1. "As prices stand today, motorists will be shelling out just a little bit more money than they were before the tax effect," DeHaan said. DeHaan says motorists will pay about a penny more per gallon under the percentage based tax. "You might not notice it today, but heaven forbid prices go up to four dollars a gallon you'll be spending about five to seven cents a gallon more that will be going to Indiana," DeHaan said. He says as long as gas prices stay at higher levels, the state will come out ahead because of the change. DeHaan says Indiana will make 1.3-cent-per-gallon more in the month of July. "As long as they're going to put it to good use. But when I don't see where the money is going and I'm throwing into this thing and it keeps going up higher, higher and higher, that's not right.," Hoeksema said. DeHaan says the price of gas per gallon was 23 cents cheaper last year on this date. He also says the only way this doesn't fall on the consumer is if prices were to drop to about 1.50 per gallon. In that scenario drivers would pay 12 cents less under the new Gas Use Tax. [Gas prices will be on the rise as state tax takes effect - Fox 28: South Bend, Elkhart IN News, Weather, Sports](#)

#### **INDOT chooses Chicago firm for Amtrak line**

Indianapolis Business Journal

Kathleen McLaughlin

6/30/14

The Indiana Department of Transportation said Monday that it selected Corridor Capital LLC of Chicago to run the endangered Hoosier State passenger rail line from Indianapolis to Chicago. Corridor Capital beat out proposals made earlier this year from three other companies. It remains to be seen, however, what difference the firm will make in service and at what cost. INDOT spokesman Will Wingfield said the state would not share the details of Corridor Capital's proposal until a contract is in place. The contract is pending approval by communities along the Hoosier State route that pitched in last fall to keep the service going for another year. The communities, which include Indianapolis and Lafayette, would have to continue supporting the service. Corridor Capital Chairman James Coston did not return a message seeking comment. The firm compares itself to a real estate developer because it assembles the necessary talent and resources for

passenger service projects. Under the state's request for proposals, Corridor Capital would pick up where Amtrak left off with the Hoosier State, operating four times a week, but at an improved level of service, possibly with wi-fi access, food service and on-time performance. [INDOT chooses Chicago firm for Amtrak line | 2014-06-30 | Indianapolis Business Journal | IBJ.com](#)

### **Home demolition part of U.S. 27 project near downtown Richmond**

Palladium-Item

Bill Engle

6/27/14

Contractors for the Indiana Department of Transportation will begin next week removing two residential buildings from properties along U.S. 27 as it bends between North Eighth and Ninth streets near downtown Richmond. But don't look for the road to be straightened, rebuilt and reopened any time soon. INDOT, using federal transportation dollars, purchased the properties at 302-304 and 306 N. Ninth St. in advance of a project to realign and reconstruct U.S. 27 as it runs through Richmond. Both properties were vacant. But the main work — the rebuilding of the street and the straightening of the curve — won't be done until 2016. "It is still off in our future," said Greg Stiens, city director of engineering and public works. "The curve will be engineered to meet current highway standards. It will be a big improvement." <http://www.palladium-item.com/article/20140626/NEWS01/306260010>

### **INDOT to Transfer 5.8 miles of S.R. 22 to Kokomo for \$4M**

Kokomo Perspective

6/27/14

The Indiana Department of Transportation and Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight have reached a tentative agreement to transfer 5.8 miles of State Road 22 to the city in exchange for cash and federal funding totaling more than \$4 million. "State Road 22 travels through the heart of Kokomo," said Mayor Goodnight. "We believe this transfer is good for both INDOT and the City." Pending contract approval, the city of Kokomo would take over responsibility for State Road 22 where it follows Sycamore Street, Washington Street and Markland Avenue between the west city limits and the new U.S. 31 freeway. As compensation, the city would receive \$1 million in cash and just over \$3 million in federal funds over the next three years to use for transportation improvements. "This agreement allows the city to develop the road to community standards and fund transportation improvements across the city," said INDOT District Deputy Commissioner Brandye Hendrickson. This announcement follows ongoing meetings and discussions between INDOT and local officials, State Reps. Mike Karickhoff and Heath VanNatter, and State Sen. James Buck.

[INDOT to Transfer 5.8 miles of S.R. 22 to Kokomo for \\$4M - Kokomo Perspective: News](#)

### **City, State Strike Bridge Approach Deal**

Inside INdiana Business

6/27/14

MADISON, Ind. - Following a March meeting between Mayor Damon Welch and Governor Mike Pence, the Indiana Department of Transportation has agreed to reroute and improve its approach to the new Milton-Madison Bridge in exchange for turning over State Road 56/Main Street to the city. "This opportunity is a win-win for Madison and Jefferson County," said Mayor Welch. "The new approach would serve as a gateway to the community while we develop our historic Main Street to enhance tourism." A detailed review of environmental impacts would begin later this year, during which a route for the improved approach would be recommended and public input sought. Upon completion of environmental review and land purchases, INDOT would finance and bid the estimated \$14 million project in the fiscal year starting July 2018. "Roads mean jobs, and

U.S. 421 serves as a vital link for cross-river commerce with the new Milton-Madison Bridge," said Indiana Governor Mike Pence. "I applaud the work of the Indiana Department of Transportation and the City of Madison to improve the Indiana bridge approach, which will make Madison an even better place to live and work." After the new approach opens, the city of Madison would take over maintenance responsibilities of 4.4 miles of state highways: -State Road 56/Main Street from S.R. 62/Clifty Drive to the west junction of U.S. 421 -Portions of U.S. 421 between S.R. 56/Main Street and the Milton-Madison Bridge that would not be used in the new approach

-State Road 256 from S.R. 62/Clifty Drive to S.R. 56.

[City, State Strike Bridge Approach Deal - Newsroom - Inside Indiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

### **No More Tolls at Wabash Bridge**

TriState Homepage

6/26/14

A big change is coming for thousands of Tri-State drivers. The tolls on the Wabash Bridge near Mt. Vernon will be ending July 1. Indiana Department of Transportation officials say while tolls are a responsible approach to covering road maintenance costs, they felt the tolls at the Wabash Bridge were no longer needed." "If they were going to get rid of taking tolls," said Alex Weilbrenner of Posey County, "they should've done that before they put the electronic system up a few years ago." INDOT Commissioner Karl Browning says the tolls weren't right because of the low volume of traffic. Nearly 4,000 vehicles cross the bridge everyday between Indiana and Illinois. Mt. Vernon Mayor John Tucker says he supports the move. Some nearby residents question why they're taking them down after putting up the electronic system just a couple of years ago. "They spent a lot of money, I'm sure," said Weilbrenner, "and they only got about two years worth of use of it or three. It just seems like money's wasted." INDOT officials say they will refund those with unused tolls but will still collect on late payments.

[No More Tolls at Wabash Bridge - Tristatehomepage - Eyewitness News](#)

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