



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Local officials join call for road funds

The Journal Gazette
Dan Stockman
7/3/14

FORT WAYNE – Union members and local officials called on Congress on Wednesday to fund the national highway bill so states and towns can pay for bridges and roads. Standing in front of a school bus made to look as though a large chunk of a bridge has fallen on it, David Frye of the Laborer’s International Union of North America said Americans are willing to pay for road and bridge work. “This bus is symbolic, but the stakes are real,” said Frye, who is the business manager for LIUNA’s Indiana District Council. “On average, 25 bridges a year collapse in the United States. Which bridge will be next?” Frye said potholes cost Indiana drivers \$391 a year in damage, far more than they would pay in any proposed gas tax increase. Currently, road work is paid for with gas taxes, but officials say the national highway trust fund will run out of money soon unless Congress acts. The Washington Post reported Tuesday that paying for highway projects has bipartisan support, but where the money will come from does not. The White House wants to end reliance on the gas tax by substituting savings derived from closing corporate tax loopholes and encouraging U.S. companies to repatriate offshore profits.

[Local officials join call for road funds | The Journal Gazette](#)

Group calls attention to deteriorating roads and bridges

WANE
Robert Connett
7/2/14

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (WANE) - You might have seen a school bus crushed by a piece of a bridge in Fort Wayne on Wednesday, but don’t worry. It was on purpose, not an actual accident. The bus is used as a tool in a campaign called “Getting Schooled” by the group LIUNA. Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry, City Councilmember Geoff Paddock, and other elected officials joined the group to talk about what they said is a need for Congress to pass an important bill. The long-term, full-investment Highway Bill would keep roads and bridges safe. The group also wants an additional gas tax to help pay for deteriorating roads and bridges. According to a report from TRIP, a national transportation nonprofit organization, 16 percent of Indiana’s roads are in poor condition and cost Indiana motorists \$2.1 billion a year in vehicle repairs. The group also claims that 22 percent of Indiana’s bridges are deficient or obsolete. About 250 of the state’s average 760 traffic fatalities are due to potholes and other poor road conditions. The “Getting Schooled” campaign will continue to make its way through Indiana, making a stop in Indianapolis a week after its Fort Wayne visit.

[Group calls attention to deteriorating roads and bridges | WANE.com](#)

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