



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

July 31, 2014

House jams Senate on highway funding

The Hill
Keith Laing
7/31/14

The House on Thursday will try to force the Senate to agree to its version of a \$10.9 billion bill extending federal funding for highways and infrastructure projects. Republicans in the House believe Democrats in the Senate will have little choice but to accept their version of the bill if it is sent back on Thursday afternoon, just before Congress is set to begin a five-week recess. The House plans to adjourn shortly after the vote. At issue is how long transportation funding will be extended in the short term. Democrats want to deal with a longer-term fix during the lame-duck session after the November elections, while Republicans want to extend funding into next year and the next Congress — possibly one with a Republican Senate. Only one day remains before the Department of Transportation says it will have to begin cutting back on construction payments. The extension has become bogged down in a procedural fight that has threatened to halt construction across the country in the middle of the peak season for road and transit projects. The House is expected to take up a version of the transportation funding extension that was approved by the Senate earlier this week. The Senate amended the measure to expire in December instead of next May, but GOP leaders in the House have said they would remove the changes and send the transportation bill back to the upper chamber. The game of bicameral chicken has increased the odds that the transportation department will begin cutting back payments to state and local governments by as much as 28 percent, as the Obama administration, earlier this month, warned would be necessary if Congress does not reach an agreement.

[House jams Senate on highway funding | TheHill](#)

County gives preliminary approval for three road projects

South Bend Tribune
Amanda Gray
7/30/14

SOUTH BEND -- St. Joseph County residents will see improvements to several county roads over the next few years. On Tuesday the Board of Commissioners approved state-local project coordination contracts for lighting along a part of Auten Road, reconstruction of Douglas Road and intersection improvements at the Fir-Brick roads roundabout. County engineer Jessica Clark said that the projects are still a couple of years away from construction, but these are the initial agreements that lead to engineering, designing and ultimately building the projects. Clark said that the projects are still a couple of years away from construction, but these are the initial agreements that lead to engineering, designing and ultimately building the projects. Clark said the request for lighting project along Auten Road comes from local pedestrians. "We've had requests

to light the area,” Clark said. The project could put sidewalks along Kenilworth and Indiana 933, while expanding the shoulder and adding lights along Auten, she said. The county will also make improvements on Douglas Road at the Ironwood Road intersection. Clark said it’s not yet apparent what the improvements will be, but they could include added travel lanes, road reconstruction and intersection improvements. Douglas has been improved north of the University of Notre Dame campus and near Indiana 23, Clark said. Reconstruction would focus on the portion of road in between those two areas. Improvements with Fir Road at the Brick Road roundabout are several years away, she said. These three projects, as well as the second phase of the LaSalle Pedestrian and Bike Trail, are 80 percent reimbursable through their partnership with the Indiana Department of Transportation, according to the project memos. The commissioners also approved new speed limits for Springwood Estates and all of Chain O Lakes subdivisions. The roads in these subdivisions will now have 25 mph speed limits, down from 30 mph, according to Clark.

[County gives preliminary approval for three road projects - South Bend Tribune: Local](#)

Roundabout bids higher than expected

The Herald Bulletin

Ken de la Bastide

7/29/14

Bids for a planned facelift of the gateway into Anderson from Interstate 69 at Scatterfield Road came in considerably higher than the engineer’s estimate for the project. The Anderson Board of Public Works on Tuesday received two bids to convert 59th Street on the west side of Scatterfield Road to include a roundabout and the realignment of 60th Street. Renascent Inc. of Indianapolis submitted a base bid of \$1,858,625 with an alternate cost for additional lighting of \$256,176 to bring the total bid to \$2,114,802. E&B Paving of Anderson bid \$1,878,717 for the base bid and \$249,827 for the lighting for a total bid of \$2,128,545. Anderson City Engineer Mike Spyers said the engineer’s estimate on the cost of the project was between \$1.4 million and \$1.5 million. The Anderson Redevelopment Commission previously approved \$1.3 million for the project. Spyers said the city will have to return to the Anderson Redevelopment Commission to determine if more funding can be appropriated for the project. He said most of the work on the project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

[Roundabout bids higher than expected » Local Business » The Herald Bulletin](#)