



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

August 2, 2016

County awaits INDOT road project grant approval

Daily News
Brent Brown
8/2/16

GREENSBURG – The Decatur County Highway Department is awaiting state approval of more than a dozen road and bridge repair projects on the heels of months of work to qualify for consideration for state assistance. Highway Department superintendent Mark Mohr told the Decatur County Board of Commissioners Monday morning that his department submitted its road asset management plan to the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) prior to the deadline for consideration to receive funding from a 50-50 grant matching program. Called “Community Crossings,” the matching grant program will see the state fund half of any approved road and bridge repair project’s cost so long as it meets certain requirements. The maximum amount to be awarded is \$1 million. Creating the road asset management plan was one of several requirements of the grant. County officials, including Mohr and highway department assistant superintendent Tim Ortman, have spent the last several months working to comply with the parameters of the grant, which is open to Indiana county’s having fewer than 50,000 residents. The grant is restricted, however, to currently existing roads and bridges, and preference is given to proposals “that are of the greatest regional economic significance,” according to the state’s transportation department. Counties hoping to qualify for the grant are also limited in ways to fund the projects and must use a combination of reserve (Rainy Day) funds, their Local Option Income Tax (LOIT) disbursement, and/or an implementation or increase of a wheel tax and license excise surtax. The county received a one-time redistribution of LOIT funds from the state in May that totaled about \$667,000.

http://www.greensburgdailynews.com/news/local_news/county-awaits-indot-road-project-grant-approval/article_c5f61b2e-b709-5001-9bca-07b200a5309d.html

Transit off the rails in Hamilton County

Indianapolis Star
Chris Sikich
7/31/16

For more than a decade, Hamilton County communities pushed state lawmakers to provide the means to pay for transit lines from their sprawling suburbs to Downtown Indianapolis. Leaders in Carmel, Fishers, Noblesville and Westfield thought they needed to ease traffic congestion along increasingly crowded corridors to connect workers with jobs Downtown. But something changed after lawmakers gave communities those tools in 2014. Now, when Marion County votes this fall on whether to raise taxes to improve transit, it will go it alone. Hamilton County leaders, and voters, will watch to see what happens. Some of their hesitance is financial. Communities once bullish on transit are no longer sure they want to ask voters to invest in expensive

infrastructure. Other concerns are practical. Roundabout-style intersections have alleviated traffic congestion on U.S. 31 and Keystone Parkway in Carmel and Westfield, and they're planned on Ind. 37 in Fishers and Noblesville. Some of the reticence reflects changing times. Hamilton County communities are creating walkable job hubs, trying to lose the distinction of being bedroom communities. Board members worried about rushing to give voters information on what the Red Line would entail in only a few months. About increasing taxes. About going it alone without all of Hamilton County. "The groundwork (transit advocates) have laid is excellent," board member Matt Snyder said. "But we feel we need more information." cast doubt on whether the more expensive Green Line along the government-owned Nickel Plate rail corridor ever will be built. <http://www.indystar.com/story/news/local/hamilton-county/2016/07/31/transit-off-rails-hamilton-county/87051638/>

Hartford City road paving project begins

Hartford City News-Times

Pat Hughes

7/30/16

Road crews have been out in force in Hartford City as a road paving project involving 34 blocks of roadways within the city began this week. E&B Paving of Muncie was contracted by the city to do the work after submitting the lowest bid on the \$208,637 project, according to Supt. of Public Works Jeff Thomas. Thomas said the roads slated for paving are those in the worst condition. The city was able to determine which roads were in greatest need of repair after earlier this spring after Thomas's office completed a Pavement Asset Management Plan (PAMP), which is required by the Indiana Department Transportation (INDOT) for communities to be eligible to receive state matching funds. In creating the PAMP, Thomas said city employees had to measure the width and length of each block of all 44.3 miles of roadways in the city. Each block then received a rating of 1 to 10, with 1 being the worst condition. Thomas said he was surprised to learn that Hartford City had a lot of roads which were rated two, three and four. Thomas added that he was hoping to receive matching funds from INDOT for another paving project that is estimated to cost close to a million dollars. That project, if funding is acquired, would involve the paving of 166 blocks of roads within the city. He said he did not expect to receive confirmation on the matching funds until this fall. http://www.hartfordcitynewstimes.com/news/local/hartford-city-road-paving-project-begins/article_fee57626-5663-11e6-87dd-3bf021446e77.html

Fingers crossed for roads and bridges grant

The Herald-Tribune

Debbie Blank

7/29/16

BROOKVILLE — In just about two weeks, the Franklin County Council will learn if it was successful in a bid to get a \$1 million matching grant. The council applied for matching funds for local road and bridge projects through the Indiana Department of Transportation's Community Crossings initiative. If the grant is awarded, with \$1 million in state money and \$1 million in county money, what projects will be tackled? County engineer Ted Cooley reported July 27, "We're going to use \$1.6 million on the roads." He has a wish list of 22 projects. Roads need to be graded, asphalt applied, then the tar and chipping process completed. Some of the roads that are planned to be improved are in the southwest part of the county – Harvey's Branch, Hamburg and North Hamburg, Whistle Creek, Morris and Five Points. He predicted, "It will probably take a couple years at least. We're going to buy materials with that." The remaining \$400,000 will be used to better bridges, one in particular. About \$240,000 is needed for this summer's Wolf Creek Road bridge project, Cooley said. The engineer already has a complicated timetable of projects for the next four years. Next summer three bridges will get the same treatment the Huntersville Road bridge north of I-74 recently received – surfaces will be milled off, and then epoxy coatings mixed with stone will be applied to waterproof the decks. On the list are these bridges: St. Mary's

Road between Oldenburg and St. Mary's, Hamburg Road over Salt Creek and Duck Creek Road. Two major projects slated for 2018 already have received 80 percent in Federal Highway Administration funding with the county providing the other 20 percent. Fairfield Road's causeway bridge work will cost an estimated \$1.2 million. After Main Street in Brookville gets rehabbed, Cooley will oversee the Sixth Street bridge project.

http://www.batesvilleheraldtribune.com/news/local_news/fingers-crossed-for-roads-and-bridges-grant/article_b1368217-ab85-53e5-9cd8-4bf5f4f1e73a.html

VIDEO: Ohio River Bridges Nearing Milestones

Inside INdiana Business

Dan McGowan

7/28/16

JEFFERSONVILLE AND LOUISVILLE - Indiana and Kentucky transportation officials say a major piece of the \$2.3 billion Ohio River Bridges Project is on pace to open to traffic in October, while the rest is set to open by the end of the year. The refurbished John F. Kennedy Memorial Bridge will provide access from I-65 South to I-64 West, I-64 East and I-71 North. Crews are replacing more than 3.5 million pounds of steel as part of the process to install a new flooring system on the 52 year-old span. The Kennedy bridge will carry six lanes southbound, while the adjacent Abraham Lincoln Bridge will have six northbound lanes. The East End Crossing is a new span that will bypass downtown Louisville traffic congestion. The Indiana Department of Transportation and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet have also released new aerial footage of the four-lane East End Crossing. <http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/32563558/video-ohio-river-bridges-nearing-milestones> Also, <http://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2016/07/28/kennedy-bridge-slated-fall-partial-opening/87655012/>

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