



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **August 4, 2016**

#### **NWI submits \$45 million road and bridge wish list**

NWI Times

Andrew Steele

8/3/16

More than 300 municipal and county governments across the state are hoping to get a share of nearly \$150 million in road and bridge improvement funds being distributed as part of the state's Community Crossings program. The Indiana Department of Transportation announced Tuesday, it has received 1,592 applications for matching grants from 352 counties, cities and towns. That includes 148 applications from local governments in Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties. Each applicant is eligible for up to \$1 million. Grants will pay half the cost of projects, up to the limit. The local government must get its matching money from a wheel tax, a special local income tax distribution they received this year, or a rainy day fund. Eligible projects include road resurfacing and reconstruction, bridge rehabilitation, pavement sealing and crack filling, and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance in connection with road projects. INDOT's regional offices are reviewing the applications and will announce the grants by the end of August. The agency expects to announce the next opportunity to apply for Community Crossings matching grants in early 2017. In Northwest Indiana, projects totaling about \$45 million were submitted for consideration. All but two of the projects applied for this year in Northwest Indiana are road maintenance — Porter County and Lake County each submitted a bridge project. Some communities submitted a variety of projects — Hobart submitted 20 — while others submitted one application collecting their repaving work into one project.

[http://www.nwitimes.com/business/transportation/nwi-submits-million-road-and-bridge-wish-list/article\\_13955033-2753-5adc-abc1-385bd4875e60.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/business/transportation/nwi-submits-million-road-and-bridge-wish-list/article_13955033-2753-5adc-abc1-385bd4875e60.html)

#### **Ticket revenue up but passengers down on Hoosier State train**

Indianapolis Business Journal

8/3/16

Ticket sales have increased by 14 percent since the Hoosier State passenger train from Indianapolis to Chicago changed ownership and management a year ago, but fewer passengers are using the train. Wednesday is the first anniversary of the line's three-year partnership among Amtrak, Iowa Pacific Holdings, the Indiana Department of Transportation and cities along the route. With the agreement, Iowa Pacific provides and maintains the train cars, Amtrak operates them, and the cities and the transportation department chip in on annual funding. Iowa Pacific President Ed Ellis said the increase in ticket sales revenue comes despite a 12 percent decline in the number of passengers. He blamed the decrease in passengers on earlier uncertainty about the service's viability. Ticket revenue is up because travelers are buying pricier business-class tickets. The revenue figures don't factor in food and drinks, which could raise the amount significantly, Ellis said. According to figures cited by The Star, 27,937 tickets were sold for the

Hoosier State in the past year, compared with 31,903 the previous year. Ticket revenue of \$858,300 compared with \$748,410 the previous year. The train makes a daily five-hour trip from Indianapolis to Chicago four days a week. One-way tickets are priced from \$24 to \$48 each. Under the contract reached last year, INDOT pays Iowa Pacific about \$255,000 a month to run the train. Tippecanoe County and the cities of Crawfordsville, Lafayette, Rensselaer and West Lafayette pay about \$21,000 per month. <http://www.ibj.com/articles/59771-ticket-revenue-up-but-passengers-down-on-hoosier-state-train>

### **City Of Bedford Planning To Construct Roundabout**

WBIW

8/2/16

(BEDFORD) - The intersection of Lincoln Avenue and John Williams Boulevard will soon become a roundabout if approved by the Indiana Department of Transportation. City officials say the roundabout will improve the flow of traffic at the major north-south intersection of Lincoln Avenue making it easier to enter John Williams Boulevard during high traffic times. A roundabout is a circular intersection or junction in which road traffic flows almost continuously in one direction around a central island. INDOT favors roundabouts to replace traditional four-way traffic signals to reduce accidents, traffic delays, fuel consumption, air pollution and construction costs, while improving safety, increasing capacity and enhancing intersection beauty. The roundabout will be paid for through a 50/50 matching grant. Bedford Street Commissioner Dan Kirk told the Bedford Board of Works during a special meeting Thursday the city requested \$1.6 million to make improvements to local streets and construct the roundabout. The city has about \$750,000 it received in March when the state released monies held in reserve from the Local Option Income Tax. Mayor Shawna Girgis say the LOIT funds will be used for the city's match portion. <http://www.wbiw.com/local/archive/2016/08/city-of-bedford-planning-to-construct-roundabout.php>

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