



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **August 18, 2016**

#### **Road project costs Logansport thousands in overruns**

WLF1

Alexis Moberger

8/17/16

LOGANSFORT, Ind. (WLF1) — A state road project is costing the city of Logansport thousands of dollars. Now, Logansport officials are looking for ways to pay off the unexpected bills and are turning to local lawmakers for help. Indiana is known as the crossroads of America, but a crossroad project in Logansport is straining the city and is putting them \$360,000 over budget. “I don’t think we want to be known as the most costly crossroads of America,” Logansport Mayor Dave Kitchell said. The cost is increasing because workers are running into limestone near the construction site. “Didn’t they know there was limestone there? Because it’s less than a half-mile from the Wabash River,” Kitchell said. The more limestone crews remove, the more it’s costing the city. “It’s going to be a major stretch for a community that’s already losing 30 percent of its tax base next year,” the mayor added. The city is adding a crossroad that includes left turn lanes and stoplights at the intersection of 18th and Main streets. The project has been in the works for five years and construction began in March. Kitchell said it’s a state project that the Indiana Department of Transportation is overseeing it. “They manage the project and contractors may perform the project,” he said. “But if there are cost overruns, the city pays the bill.” Now Kitchell is asking INDOT to pay the bill and he’s asking local legislators including State Sen. Randy Head to back him up. <http://wlf1.com/2016/08/17/road-project-costs-logansport-thousands-in-overruns/>

#### **Collapsed Bridge Research To Drive Infrastructure Funding**

Indiana Public Media

Brandon Smith

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At first look, the Steel Bridge Research, Inspection and Training Engineering Center, or S-BRITE Center, commonly called the bridge gallery, isn’t remarkable. The grassy field next to the Purdue University Airport has a wide gravel path cutting through its middle, with slabs of concrete dotting the field. On top of the slabs are pieces of steel, dozens of feet long, most of them a few feet off the ground, elevated by concrete blocks. As S-BRITE Center director Robert Connor points out, these pieces of steel – parts of decommissioned or collapsed bridges – have been collected from across the country, including a railroad bridge from Lansing County, Michigan and a highway bridge that spanned I-65 on the east side of Indianapolis. The bridge gallery is Robert Connor’s brainchild. Its purpose is to educate and train bridge inspectors, and to improve the practice of inspecting. “And it isn’t, then, to just throw up our hands and say ‘Well, we’re no good,’ or ‘This inspector’s no good,’” he explains. “That isn’t what it’s about. It’s to train them better.” “So once we know what we’re not maybe good at, now I can develop targeted training that might simply mean, ‘You need a magnifying glass and this type of flashlight, and here’s how you hold it,’ and

'Oh, gee, our detection goes way up,'" he adds. "But we don't have that data to know that that's the kind of training we need to develop." <http://indianapublicmedia.org/news/collapsed-bridge-research-drive-infrastructure-funding-103717/>

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