



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

August 23, 2016

State awards nearly \$3 million in new local highway funding

The Lebanon Reporter
Rod Rose
8/23/16

County governments have been awarded nearly \$3 million in preliminary grants through the Indiana Department of Transportation's Community Crossroads program. Boone County and Zionsville each received \$1 million, the maximum possible, INDOT officials announced Monday. Whitestown received \$475,000, Lebanon \$274,535, and Jamestown \$46,236, INDOT said. In adjacent counties, Sheridan received just under \$400,000 and Pittsboro just under \$500,000. A total of 102 Central Indiana cities, towns and counties received a combined \$47 million. The communities learned Monday that they had the received grant funding. According to the town's announcement, design on these projects will begin next year, with the exception of the rehabilitation of CR 975 East/Pleasantview Road, which will be under construction and completed this year. The matching grants will cover up to 50 percent of an applicant's projects, INDOT said in letters sent over with the signatures of Gov. Mike Pence and Lt. Gov. Eric Holcomb. Grants are contingent upon communities obtaining contracts with a final bid award amount, INDOT said. That final amount will be used to determine the 50-50 grant split. A project manager will be assigned to each community to help them with their projects. Both Boone County and Zionsville each had sought funding for more than \$3 million in highway improvements. Boone County's list included some roads that are in Zionsville's rural area, for which the county is responsible for maintenance. Those segments include repaving Hunt Club Road from the Zionsville town limit to CR 775 E; CR 700 E from CR 525 S to Whitestown's boundary; and CR 550 S from CR 700 E to the Zionsville town limit. Zionsville has agreed to repay the county's match for the rural projects. http://www.reporter.net/news/local_news/state-awards-nearly-million-in-new-local-highway-funding/article_16d18abd-8f95-5e7c-9e4a-857ac5d31e34.html

Putnam communities to receive more than \$2 million in road and bridge money

The Banner Graphic
8/22/16

Putnam County will soon see an influx of \$2,070,577.50 for local roads and bridges, the Indiana Department of Transportation announced Monday. The Town of Cloverdale, City of Greencastle and Putnam County were among the 102 Central Indiana communities announced to receive a combined \$47 million to improve local roads and bridges through the State's Community Crossings matching grant fund. The Town of Cloverdale is actually getting one of the larger individual grants of \$948,160, behind only a couple dozen larger communities receiving \$1 million or just shy of it. Greencastle will receive a grant of \$656,332, while Putnam County will get \$466,085.50. The local road and bridge matching grant fund was created by the Indiana General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Mike Pence in March 2016. The grant program

provides approximately \$160 million in funding this year available to all Indiana cities, towns and counties on a 50/50 matching basis. Grants for Southern and Northern Indiana are set to be announced on Tuesday and Wednesday. The Monday announcements were made by Lt. Gov. Eric Holcomb and INDOT officials during separate check presentations to officials in Avon, Carmel, Fishers, Noblesville and Westfield. "Few states have invested more in infrastructure over the last decade than Indiana and these Community Crossings grants are another way we demonstrate why Indiana is the Crossroads of America," said Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb. "Communities in Central Indiana are showing a strong commitment to modernizing infrastructure by pursuing these grants and we are looking forward to seeing the projects that these funds will help complete." <http://www.bannergraphic.com/story/2332430.html>

Avon receives INDOT grant

The Flyer Group
Ashton Brellenthin
8/22/16

AVON — Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) officials were here Monday to award the town with a \$1 million grant for the Avon Avenue Improvement Project. The project includes bridge, roundabout and trail construction. INDOT will be visiting several communities across the state to award \$47 million in Community Crossings matching grant funds to cities, towns and counties for local road and bridge projects. Here in Avon, Public Works Director Ryan Cannon said the money will be used to complete the Avon Avenue Bridge and it will also free up some of the town's other funding to go toward paving projects in the community. "We're very excited," Cannon said. "This project was over budget, so it will help pay for some of the overrun costs that we were expecting as well." Rep. Greg Steuerwald attended the check presentation, along with Avon officials and community leaders. INDOT District Deputy Commissioner Alan Plunkett and INDOT Local Program Coordinator Kathy Eaton-McKalip both spoke at the event, along with Avon Town Council vice president Aaron Tevebaugh. "This is a great project for taxpayers," Plunkett said. "We're taking care of what we have and building for the future." Tevebaugh thanked guests for attending the check presentation, while also recognizing Cannon for his work on the project and for successfully procuring the grant. "It will help us to extend our paving throughout the next two years," Tevebaugh said. "We're here today on the site where we'll be gathering again this fall to celebrate our bridge ribbon cutting that is getting ready to take off this October." http://www.flyergroup.com/news/local_news/avon-receives-indot-grant/article_24edee1c-90b5-5deb-817f-7629940976dc.html

EDITORIAL: Indiana should raise gasoline tax for better roads

Kokomo Tribune
Indiana Economic Digest
8/21/16

Indiana's gas tax hasn't changed in more than two decades. The last time it was raised was in 1993, when it was upped from 9 cents to 18.4 cents. This was only the second increase since 1959, as it was also raised from 4 cents to 9 cents in 1990. This rate has not kept up with inflation. We did some simple math with the help of the website Measuring Worth, and here's what we found: A simple purchasing power calculator would say the relative value of 4 cents in 1959 dollars is 33 cents in 2015 dollars. (This answer is obtained by multiplying 4 cents by the percentage increase in the consumer price index from 1959 to 2015.) We would need to double our current rate just to keep with this figure. This shortfall is significant because, like the rest of the country, Indiana is doing quite poorly when it comes to infrastructure grading. As we pointed out last summer, in 2013, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the United States a "D" grade for its infrastructure, while Indiana received a slightly better grade, receiving a "D-plus." What's more, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence's own highway commissioner said before resigning that the state needs more than \$1 billion in new money each year just to keep its roads in shape, our

Statehouse reporter, Maureen Hayden, reported last month. And that's not counting future endeavors of the Indiana Department of Transportation. Something must be done — something more than the \$800 million, stop-gap plan passed in the last legislative session that pulls money from other places to spend on roads and bridges. Our gas tax is simply not collecting as much as we once were. The old model is not going to work. Cars are more fuel efficient. People are driving more fuel efficient hybrids and electric vehicles. Fewer people are driving at all.
<http://indianaeconomicdigest.com/Main.asp?SectionID=31&SubSectionID=92&ArticleID=84977>

INDOT to Make Road Funding Announcements

Inside Indiana Business

Alex Brown

8/19/16

AVON and CARMEL - The Indiana Department of Transportation is set to make several local road funding announcements throughout the state next week. INDOT will make a funding presentation Monday morning in Avon, followed by the announcement of funding partnerships Monday afternoon with mayors from Carmel, Fishers, Noblesville and Westfield. Alan Plunkett, district deputy commissioner for INDOT, and Kathy Eaton-McKalip, INDOT local program coordinator, will make the presentation to Avon Town Manager Tom Klein regarding the Avon Avenue Improvement Project. That presentation is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. At 2:00 p.m., INDOT Commissioner Brandye Hendrickson will make presentations to Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard, Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness, Noblesville Mayor John Ditslear and Westfield Mayor Andy Cook regarding various road improvements planned for each city. INDOT says state officials will make more announcements Tuesday in southern Indiana and Wednesday in northern Indiana.
<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/32801143/indot-to-make-road-funding-announcements>

Secrecy for panel on road funding

The Journal Gazette

Niki Kelly

8/19/16

INDIANAPOLIS – A special committee tasked with recommending stable, long-term road funding options to the legislature will likely craft its plan behind closed doors in executive session – a departure from precedent. Some of the options involve raising gas taxes, tolling existing or new roadways and moving to a per-mile usage fee – things the committee might not be comfortable discussing in public right before an election. Some members of the committee are lawmakers while others are experts in the field or local officials. “I want to put these people on this commission in a position to be able to say anything they want to say,” said Sen. Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville – co-chair of the Funding Indiana’s Roads for a Stronger, Safer Tomorrow Task Force. “We might need to have an overall meeting with everybody to allow that to kind of take place, to kind of have an airing out. And then we need to come back into a public meeting to kind of put together and lay out a plan in view of the public so they can see where it is.” Kenley said citizens would also be allowed to testify and react to any proposal. The procedure hasn’t been finalized, but co-chair Rep. Tim Brown, R-Crawfordsville, is also leaning in that direction. The law was written to allow an executive session even though other summer study committees and task forces do not use them. Kenley acknowledged it is an unusual procedure but said any proposal would still be vetted by the General Assembly in 2017. The commission in its first two meetings has been deluged with data as its members try to grapple with the full state and local need for roads and bridges. Some calculations say \$2 billion in new revenue a year is needed.
<http://www.journalgazette.net/news/local/indiana/Secrecy-for-panel-on-road-funding-14795698>

Hoosier leaders not impressed by Illinois road funding lockbox

NWI Times
Dan Carden
8/18/16

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana appears unlikely to copy Illinois' pending plan to dedicate all tax and fee revenue collected in connection with transportation to spending on roads, mass transit and related infrastructure projects. Illinois voters will decide in November whether to ratify or reject a state constitutional amendment, approved earlier this year by the Democratic-controlled General Assembly, which prohibits transportation taxes from being used for anything other than transportation investments. Supporters of the Illinois Transportation Funds Amendment claim it will put a lockbox on transportation revenues of which they claim \$6.8 billion has been diverted since 2003 for other state spending. On Thursday, a Hoosier panel studying Indiana's long-term road funding needs was decidedly not impressed when representatives from the Indiana Association of Counties and the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns suggested the state adopt Illinois' lockbox plan — though not necessarily through a constitutional amendment. "We're talking about hundreds of millions of dollars that currently go to schools and other items," said Chris Atkins, former director of the Indiana Office of Management and Budget and a member of the Funding Indiana's Roads for a Stronger Safer Tomorrow Task Force. Already all collections from Indiana's 18 cents per gallon gasoline tax go only to road funding. Starting in July 2017, one-seventh of the 7 percent state sales tax on gasoline — approximately \$68 million a year — also will be used just for roads. http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/hoosier-leaders-not-impressed-by-illinois-road-funding-lockbox/article_9139bbfb-a381-554d-b02d-be67508c465f.html

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