



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **August 25, 2016**

#### **Mayor Joe Hogsett stops short of encouraging voters to support Indy transit referendum**

Indianapolis Star

John Touhy

8/24/16

If Indianapolis voters approve a mass transit referendum in November, it will be without Mayor Joe Hogsett's encouragement. While Hogsett says he has been a consistent supporter of improving the transit system, he has declined to ask voters to push the "yes" button for a referendum to raise personal income taxes for an expansion. Instead, the mayor is urging voters to "educate" themselves and make their own choice. "Why have a referendum if the public is to be strong-armed?" Hogsett asked. "The appropriate role of the elected officials should be to help and inform voters." Hogsett said determining whether higher taxes should pay for the improvements "should be a community decision," which the ballot initiative represents. "I am sensitive to the fact that some people oppose it," Hogsett said. Hogsett's reserved position comes as the Indy Chamber, a fierce advocate of an upgraded bus system, prepares to roll out a publicity campaign to urge voters to pass the initiative in the Nov. 8 election. The proponents on Thursday will announce the program, called Transit Drives Indy, in which a coalition of business and community organizations will sponsor educational gatherings and provide speakers and experts about the initiative. Some backers said if the city's highest-ranking elected official led the charge for its passage it would increase the referendum's chances of succeeding.

<http://www.indystar.com/story/news/2016/08/24/hogsett-support-transit-tax-limited-stops-short-of-advocating-yes-vote/89107394/>

#### **Local communities get \$2.6 million from state for road projects**

The Herald Bulletin

Ken de la Bastide

8/24/16

ANDERSON – Local communities have been awarded more than \$2.6 million for road projects under the state's Community Crossings program. The city of Anderson and Madison County received the maximum amount of \$1 million in state matching funds by the Indiana Department of Transportation. Anderson will use the \$1 million for paving Eighth Street from Rangeline Road to Winding Way and a portion to pay for the paving of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Mayor Thomas Broderick Jr. said the city applied for the matching funds in July of this year utilizing a 50 percent match from the funds received earlier this year from the state LOIT (local option income tax) distribution. "We are pleased that the city, through its city engineer's office, was able to secure these funds in order to be able to continue to improve our local roads," Broderick said. The state grant is in addition to \$5 million the city is spending on paving projects this year and has budgeted \$5 million for paving work in 2017. "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," Lt. Gov. Eric Holcomb said. Madison County submitted a list of nine projects at a cost of \$2 million.

[http://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/local-communities-get-million-from-state-for-road-projects/article\\_7778c8c6-697f-11e6-8cb3-533ad71f457e.html](http://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/local-communities-get-million-from-state-for-road-projects/article_7778c8c6-697f-11e6-8cb3-533ad71f457e.html)

### **Doubling down pays off for city; Vincennes receives additional \$1 million for street projects**

Sun-Commercial

Jenny McNeece

8/24/16

Some things are worth the wait. Vincennes officials on Tuesday learned they'd more than doubled their paving dollars as part of the Indiana Department of Transportation's Community Crossings Matching Grant program. INDOT, several days ahead of schedule, announced the program's recipients, and Vincennes received more than \$800,000, money meant to bolster additional Local Option Income Tax dollars handed out this spring by the General Assembly. "We just doubled our paving dollars," said Mayor Joe Yochum excitedly. "That's great news." The General Assembly approved a deal that gave back to cities and counties millions in unspent tax dollars specifically for road repair. Vincennes received just over \$1 million, and at least 75 percent, or \$750,000, had to be spent on infrastructure improvements. But that wasn't all. Also as a part of the legislation, another \$460 million was allocated to INDOT to hand out as matching grants over the next four years for city and county projects. The money requires a 50/50 match, but cities and counties can use the additional money divvied out this spring for that match. City officials have been waiting for months to see whether Vincennes would receive any money — INDOT pushed the initial deadline for applications back by more than 30 days — so Yochum was thrilled with the news. "We had heard there were so many applicants and not enough money," city engineer John Sprague said. "So we figured we would see a couple projects cut from our list, if not more. [http://www.suncommercial.com/news/article\\_4021dc70-6996-11e6-b0ca-fba1fcf49fce.html](http://www.suncommercial.com/news/article_4021dc70-6996-11e6-b0ca-fba1fcf49fce.html)

### **ASPHALT APLENTY: Southern Indiana receives \$5.5M in state grants**

News and Tribune

Elizabeth Beilman and Jerod Clapp

8/23/16

SOUTHERN INDIANA — Seven municipalities in Clark and Floyd have been awarded state grants for infrastructure projects. The Indiana Department of Transportation announced Tuesday the local recipients of matching grants through a program called Community Crossings. More than \$5.5 million will be matched by municipalities in Clark and Floyd counties, alone. Across the entire southern portion of the state, \$49 million total will be distributed to cities, town and counties to fund road and bridge projects. The Community Crossings program was established in March by the Indiana General Assembly and Gov. Mike Pence. "Investing in our roads and our communities as a whole is so vital to the health of our state," INDOT Commissioner Brandye Hendrickson said during a press conference at McCullough Pike in Clarksville. The \$160 million allotted for the entire program comes from surplus money. When state revenue exceeds spending, four areas must receive the extra money first: \$500 million each for education, roads and infrastructure, administrative costs and a rainy day fund. The Community Crossings grants come from surplus money after those \$2 billion mandates were met — "money that we decided to go ahead and spend now," Sen. Ron Grooms, R-Jeffersonville, said. Indiana came in about 11 percent above mandated reserves, Grooms said, from corporate income tax, individual income tax and sales tax revenue. [http://www.newsandtribune.com/news/asphalt-aplenty-southern-indiana-receives-m-in-state-grants/article\\_81dbeb48-697c-11e6-9883-231015dceab3.html](http://www.newsandtribune.com/news/asphalt-aplenty-southern-indiana-receives-m-in-state-grants/article_81dbeb48-697c-11e6-9883-231015dceab3.html)

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