



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **August 8, 2013**

#### **INDOT Awards U.S. 31 Contract**

Inside INdiana Business

8/7/13

WESTFIELD, Ind. - The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has awarded a \$141 million contract for The New U.S. 31 Hamilton County freeway upgrades between 96th and 136th streets to a joint venture between E & B Paving of Anderson and Gradex of Indianapolis. The contract includes U.S. 31 interchange improvements at I-465 and new roundabout interchanges at 106th, 116th, 131st and 136th streets. The project to upgrade U.S. 31 to freeway standards will require temporary highway and local roadway closures, which will be scheduled sequentially and limited in duration to minimize inconvenience to residents, businesses and motorists. Complete closure of U.S. 31 between 136th Street and the Old Meridian Street ramp north of 116th Street will significantly expedite construction and is expected in 2015. Contractors will provide a general schedule in the near future, but preliminary work could begin as early as this fall. All improvements are expected to be open to traffic by the end of 2015. The New U.S. 31 Hamilton County is the first project to use new federal transportation legislation allowing up to 90 percent federal funding to be used for critical freight projects, an increase above the 80 percent maximum for non-interstate routes. An award for the final contract for The New U.S. 31 Hamilton County, which includes a new single-point urban interchange at State Road 32 in Westfield, is expected to be announced later this month. [INDOT Awards U.S. 31 Contract - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

#### **Lawmakers begin transit study**

Rebecca Townsend

NUVO News

8/7/13

Planning for the Indy Connect plan to modernize the city's transportation system continues, even as the policy changes necessary to enable the plan's actualization remain enmeshed in the bureaucratic quagmire known as the Indiana General Assembly. At a Monday summer study committee meeting meant to help state legislators vet a plan to upgrade the city's transportation system, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, continued to voice his longstanding skepticism that greater investment in mass transit systems could justify the cost. "Is anyone looking at subsidizing small vehicles (for carless residents)?" Kenley asked. "Environmental issues are not what they used to be with electric cars and all that." The senator also indicated that he is not easily sold on arguments — as outlined by several mayors and Ron Gifford of the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership — that a more robust public transit system would support revitalization in depressed urban areas. "Are we better off spending money thinking transit will solve problems, or will lack of good schools and safety on streets and jobs in these areas still be an issue?" Kenley asked Gifford. "It's a big cost item so it's going to have to

show some results," Kenley added, noting his often-repeated position that road infrastructure is entirely supported by its users through gas taxes and various vehicle-related sales taxes and licensing fees. "Anyone that says transit will solve everything is a selling you a bill of goods," Gifford said. "To say that a good transit system isn't required to build healthier communities ... is also selling a bill of goods, in my opinion." [Lawmakers begin transit study | Politics | NUVO News | Indianapolis, IN](#)

### **Four teams bidding for I-69 financing, construction**

Indianapolis Business Journal

8/7/13

The Indiana Department of Transportation says four teams of contractors are competing to build one of the final stretches of the Interstate 69 extension. The teams answered Request for Qualifications from the state regarding the construction of I-69 from Bloomington to Martinsville. A Request for Proposals is expected from the state this fall. The state hopes to start converting the 21-mile stretch of interstate early next year. The project is estimated to cost \$394 million, but there is no money left in Indiana's Major Moves fund for I-69 expansion. As a result, Indiana officials hope to pay for the project by exploring creative financing options that rely on existing state revenue. The narrowing of the qualified contractors is one step in the state's ongoing process of completing I-69. INDOT opened a large stretch of the highway last year before former Gov. Mitch Daniels left office. The whole project is expected to connect Indianapolis with Evansville and southwest Indiana. [Four teams bidding for I-69 financing, construction | 2013-08-07 | Indianapolis Business Journal | IBJ.com](#)

### **Mishawaka mayor wants Lincoln Way; state's not ready**

Joseph Dits

WSBT-TV

8/7/13

MISHAWAKA -- Mayor Dave Wood said he's heard a string of complaints about the state highway that cuts through the heart of Mishawaka — Indiana 933, aka Lincoln Way — and he's ready to strike a deal with the state. Why not, he said, let the city take control of all of Lincoln Way within city limits? He made the proposal this spring, and the Indiana Department of Transportation has turned it down, at least for now. It started with INDOT's offer this spring that Mishawaka take over the portion east of Capital Avenue. That, Wood said, was the latest of several attempts INDOT has made over the years, even before he took office in 2010, to have the city take over Lincoln Way. Each time, the city said no — not wanting to simply bear the expense. Then in June, as he was waiting to hear INDOT's response to his proposal, the mayor laid out his plan to city residents in the Mishawaka Communicator, the newsletter that goes out with monthly bills to all of the city's utility customers. He said the city was willing to pitch in for 10 percent of the roughly \$10 million or more in upgrades that the highway needs, as estimated by city officials. Even though the state is in charge of maintaining the road, he wrote: "I receive a disproportionate amount of complaints regarding the overall condition of the road including, but not limited to inadequate lane markings, poor traffic signals, the ambiguity of not knowing if it is a two- or four-lane road through town, handicapped ramps and sidewalks that flood with water when it rains, and the fact that so much asphalt surface has been added that in some locations that there is virtually no curb between the sidewalk and the street." He's frustrated since there's nothing the city can do but pass on complaints to the state. [Mishawaka mayor wants Lincoln Way; state's not ready - wsbt.com](#)

### **Ind. 332 at Nebo to be rebuilt**

Seth Slabaugh

The Star Press

8/6/13

MUNCIE — The Indiana Department of Transportation has awarded a \$1.9 million contract to reconstruct the intersection of Ind. 332 and Nebo Road. "This is a safety project," INDOT spokesman Harry Maginity said. "There have been a number of accidents caused by limited-visibility northbound left turns." New construction in the area is expected to increase traffic at that intersection. INDOT awarded a \$1,886,033 contract to E&B Paving, Anderson, to rebuild Nebo's approach to the state highway from the north; rebuild turn lanes on the highway; install a new storm sewer and add a left turn lane for northbound Nebo traffic, Maginity said. Before reaching the highway, southbound Nebo traffic climbs a hill between Benson Motorcycles and Toyota & Scion of Muncie. That's where most of the construction work will occur. "Nebo will be raised in elevation — lots of fill (dirt) — especially at the north approach to State Road 332," Maginity said. "This will ease steepness at the approach to State Road 332 and respond to sight-distance concerns." He was unable to provide a construction timetable but said a pre-construction meeting between INDOT and the contractor is coming up soon. Nor did he know yet about traffic control during construction. [Ind. 332 at Nebo to be rebuilt | The Star Press | thestarpress.com](#)

### **Road And Bridge Funding: Is It Keeping Up With Needs In Allen County?**

Jeff Neumeyer

Indiana's NewsCenter

8/6/13

ALLEN COUNTY, Ind. --- How much money is enough to fix crumbling infrastructure in Allen County? The Indiana General Assembly is boosting transportation funding for counties across the Hoosier state. The big question, what can we expect locally from the increased cash for roads and bridges? At least one Allen County commissioner says the additional money is good, but we shouldn't expect miracles. Local units of government statewide will see a combined increase of \$100-million a year over the next two years for things like bridge repairs and street upgrades. About \$4.2 million extra dollars will be funneled into Fort Wayne and Allen County. Allen County Commissioner Nelson Peters is a fan of the extra funding, but says it will still leave county government more than \$2-million short of the total needed to stay on top of simple road and bridge maintenance. " We are very, very appreciative of that, but there are certainly some things that are going to continue to be undone and, as far as any new projects, that's fairly unlikely to happen, at least here in Allen County," Peters said. As far as road priorities that will probably remain undone, Peters says the county highway department would love to expand Adams Center Road, Lafayette Center Road, and really get serious about upgrading the county's inventory of 300 bridges. But he says money is tight, so don't count on any of those things happening real soon. The state legislature has a message for local units of government on the subject. State Senator Tom Wyss from Fort Wayne says lawmakers will be keeping tabs on how local governments spend the money, making sure they use it for roads, and not to take care of other budget shortfall issues. [Road And Bridge Funding: Is It Keeping Up With Needs In Allen County? | Indiana's NewsCenter: News, Sports, Weather, Fort Wayne WPTA-TV, WISE-TV, and CW | Local](#)

### **Indiana counties to receive more money for road maintenance**

James Filmore

WSBT-TV

8/6/13

LAPORTE COUNTY-- We may soon see fewer potholes when driving around town. Starting this month, counties in Indiana will see more money for roads. The General Assembly recently allocated a higher percentage of the gas tax to county highway departments which totals about \$65 million a year. The way the money is split depends on the county, but LaPorte County, for instance, will get over a \$1 million a year extra for road maintenance, which equates to a little

over \$90,000 a month. Mike Yacullo is the LaPorte County highway engineer and says, "We're excited. It's always tough to keep up with demand. I think everyone across the nation is battling with trying to keep up the infrastructure." He says for the most part, the extra funding will be used to maintain existing roads. On average, it costs about \$125,000 to pave one mile of a road in LaPorte County, so this extra money could mean 8 to 10 more roads being resurfaced a year. Yacullo says, "There are some roadways that we may not be resurfacing, but markings are deteriorating and we need to freshen those up and also catching up on painting some of the lines on the roads that were resurfaced over the last couple of years." August is the first month Indiana counties will receive the additional money. LaPorte County hasn't received the money yet, but they think it will be available to them in the coming weeks. [Indiana counties to receive more money for road maintenance - wsbt.com](#)

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