



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **August 11, 2015**

#### **Rapid transit coming to Indianapolis?**

WTHR  
Mary Milz  
8/10/15

Rapid transit may come to central Indiana sooner than many people thought. An IndyGo spokesman said if all goes as planned, construction could start on phase one of the Red Line in 2017 with rapid bus route up and running in 2018. Next week, the transit company begins a series of public meetings to vet the plan and seek buy-in before applying for a federal transportation grant. IndyGo spokesman Bryan Luellen said that grant would cover 80% of the roughly \$60 million project. The Red Line would initially start at 66th, travelling along College to 38th Street, over to Meridian and Capitol before making its way to Shelby down to Hannah and the University of Indianapolis campus. The 14-mile route would include 27 stops with buses coming every 10 minutes and running from 5 a.m. - 1 a.m. See a map of the extended route. While rapid transit has been slow to gain traction in Indianapolis, a very car-centric city, IndyGo officials think the Red Line will draw beyond its traditional passengers. "It's a highly upgraded service with elevated platforms every half mile, so that speeds up travel time and it operates in a dedicated lane," Luellen said, adding, "the buses actually communicate with the traffic lights so they're a priority at intersections."

<http://www.wthr.com/story/29754003/rapid-transit-coming-to-indianapolis>

#### **INDOT: bridge woes may stem from original construction**

Journal & Courier  
Chris Morisse Vizza and Dylan Peers McCoy  
8/7/15

A decade after a report identified substructural problems with a bridge across Wildcat Creek, northbound lanes of Interstate 65 closed for the second time in less than a week due to safety concerns. The Indiana Department of Transportation has not yet isolated the specific cause of the issue, according to spokeswoman Debbie Calder. "We had been monitoring it closely since it was shut down," she said. "They decided for the safety of the motoring public they're going to shut it down." Experts in soils and geotechnical science from INDOT, Federal Highway Administration and Walsh Construction will be brought in to evaluate the site. Testing may be needed to identify the proper course of action, INDOT said. There is no estimated reopening time. Substructural problems on the bridge are noted in INDOT inspection reports dating back at least a decade. Bearings at the top of the steel components that support the bridge deck had a significant tilt to the north that worsened when air temperatures fell, inspector Sherwood Garrison noted on May 5, 2005. The tilt seemed tolerable when measured at that time, he wrote, but added: "The large rocker tilt is likely caused by an improper or poorly located Pier #4 during the initial

construction or poorly located drill holes for the bearing assembly top plate. My thought is that the contractor may have tried to place the bearing rockers so that they were in the centers of their respective top and bottom plates, and hence the large lean of the bearing rockers."

<http://www.iiconline.com/story/news/2015/08/07/safety-concerns-close-i65-again--wildcat-creek/31290265/>

### **Democrats call on Pence to spend more on bridges and roads**

WLF1

Dan Klein

8/6/15

With the Interstate 65 problems in mind, the Indiana Democratic party called on Gov. Mike Pence Thursday to spend some of the state's \$2.1 billion surplus on infrastructure like roads and bridges — though they declined to give a specific amount. Party communications director Drew Anderson points to the grade of D+ that the American Society of Civil Engineers gave to Indiana's infrastructure, which is identical to the country's overall grade. "These problems don't only cause headaches for Hoosier drivers but they negatively impact the economy," said Anderson.

"Hoosiers want a governor who will prioritize the problems of today, like fixing the state's infrastructure and fixing bridges, like you see at I-65." But Brandt Hershman, the Republican Senate floor leader, tells News 18 it's important to remain fiscally responsible. "We have to remember that reserve is not a Christmas club account," said Hershman. "It is designed to have emergency reserve funds in case of an unexpected economic downturn to preserve vital services like education and healthcare. It's not a piggy bank to dip into any time somebody has a wish list." Hershman says he's open to finding a funding source for the state's infrastructure, using any and all methods, including raising the gas tax or indexing it to inflation.

[Democrats call on Pence to spend more on bridges and roads | wlf1.com](#)

### **Crown Point roundabout work to begin soon**

NWI Times

Phil Wieland

8/6/15

The stage is set for Crown Point to get its first roundabout, even if part of it will be in Merrillville. The Indiana Department of Transportation opened bids July 8 for construction of the roundabout at 93rd Avenue and Chase Street, on the boundary of the two communities. The low bidder was Rieth-Riley at \$1,889,913. Federal funds are paying 80 percent of the cost, and the city is paying the rest. According to Doug Moats, the INDOT LaPorte District media relations director, the project should begin this month. Completion is not scheduled until July 31, 2016, but City Engineer Tris Miles said that includes all the restoration and landscaping. The roundabout itself could be ready for traffic by the end of the year. Much of the work will be done in the open land on the northeast corner of the intersection, which will allow the road to remain open to normal traffic during construction. One of the legs of the roundabout will connect to the parking lot at the bike trailhead on the west side of the intersection. "It's a project we support, and it will have a positive impact on the traffic," Mayor David Uran said. "It will open the trailhead to be finished, and eventually that trail will connect to the Erie Lackawanna Trail and the Pennsy Trail to the west."

[Crown Point roundabout work to begin soon](#)