



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

August 20, 2015

Infrastructure projects outlined

The Journal Gazette
Sherry Slater
8/19/15

John Sampson traces northeast Indiana's cooperative attitude to a 2009 conversation. David Long, a state senator representing parts of Allen and Whitley counties, said then that the region's delegation to the General Assembly wanted to allocate state money to pay for local officials' priorities – but legislators didn't know what those priorities were. "It hurts us as a community when we're not prepared and this money goes somewhere else," said Sampson, president and CEO of the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership. "Never again." Sampson joined business and government officials from a 13-county region Tuesday as the Conexus Indiana Northeast Regional Logistics Council unveiled its priorities for investment in road, air, rail and water infrastructure for the next 30 years. Among the highway project priorities are limiting access to U.S. 30, widening U.S. 33 to four lanes and expanding U.S. 6 to four lanes from west of Kendallville to the Ohio border. In each case, according to the report, the goal is to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow. U.S. 33, for example, is a winding, two-lane road connecting Fort Wayne and Elkhart. Recreational vehicles assembled in Elkhart have to travel U.S. 33 to reach Interstate 69 on their way to being shipped out to RV dealers nationwide. Various manufacturers located in Ligonier also ship products on trucks using U.S. 33.

[Infrastructure projects outlined | Local | Journal Gazette](#)

Indiana Could Request More Federal Aid For Flood Damage

Indiana Public Media
Gretchen Frazee
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State officials are beginning a process that could provide federal disaster relief to 29 counties that sustained damage from severe weather, including tornadoes and flooding, in June and July. Officials from local governments, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and FEMA are conducting damage assessments in 29 counties this week. Based on those assessments, the state could request more federal aid for those counties. If approved, federal grants would pay up to 75 percent of expenses for damage to roads, bridges and other public facilities, as well as for debris removal and rescue operations. "We think we have good numbers. We think we have good information, but it all depends on what's acceptable to FEMA," IDHS spokesman John Erickson says. The state has been collecting data on the cost of the damage since it occurred, but IDHS had to wait until now to do a full evaluation. "Because flooding hangs around for a while, you have to wait for floodwaters to recede to get an accurate assessment of the damage that's occurred in different areas," Erickson says. The 29 counties the state is assessing now are Allen, Benton, Brown, Clark, Decatur, Delaware, Fulton, Hendricks, Huntington, Jackson, Jasper, Jay, Jefferson,

Jennings, Johnson, Marion, Marshall, Miami, Montgomery, Morgan, Newton, Pulaski, Scott, Vermillion, Wabash, Warren, Washington, and Wells. IDHS officials hope to have the preliminary assessments done this week. They do not have a timeline on when a final request might be submitted to FEMA.

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Fishers proposes \$6M in upgrades to 116th Street

Indianapolis Business Journal

Lindsey Erdody

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The city of Fishers is planning a \$6 million project to ease traffic congestion to the east of Interstate 69 along 116th Street, requiring the acquisition of as many as eight homes. The project includes adding a new eastbound lane on 116th Street from I-69 to Cumberland Road and removing the traffic signal at USA Parkway, the city announced Tuesday. A new traffic signal would be installed at 116th Street and Exit Five Parkway with double left turn lanes from eastbound 116th Street onto Exit Five Parkway and at Oak Drive onto 116th Street westbound. Oak Drive also would be widened and extended south to intersect with USA Parkway. Fishers officials are working with the Indiana Department of Transportation to consider extending the new eastbound lane as far west as Commercial Drive. Construction is expected to start next summer. The city would have to acquire additional right-of-way and/or as many as eight homes along both 116th Street and Oak Drive for the project, a city spokeswoman told IBJ. City officials did not specify whether the property acquisition was included in the \$6 million cost estimate. "Interest in the I-69 business corridor continues to increase, and it is important that we take a proactive approach to infrastructure as the area develops," Mayor Scott Fadness said in a prepared statement. "This project is a smart solution to mitigate the congestion our residents experience today and improve traffic flow as more businesses are drawn to our entrepreneurial culture."

<http://www.ibj.com/articles/54493-fishers-proposes-6m-in-upgrades-to-116th-street>

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