



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

August 27, 2015

The Bridges of Howard County

Kokomo Perspective
Pat Munsey
8/25/15

The recent closure of Interstate 65 for a defective bridge brought Indiana's struggle with its aging infrastructure to the forefront. Communities across the state are facing mounting problems with maintaining bridges and roads as revenues decline and costs escalate. In Howard County, however, motorists can rest easy for now. According to Howard County Highway superintendent Ted Cain, local bridges and roads are in fairly good shape, and they will continue to hold up over the next few years. But there will come a time when some difficult decisions will have to be made. "Our problem is money," said Cain. "When they capped property taxes, that affects the amount of money the county can spend on bridge and road repair. A lot of federal money for bridges comes from the same pool of money that we get for roads. It used to be that we would get money for bridges, but now we don't get that. If we need a bridge done, it competes for the same money as roads. I've never agreed with that, but that's what we are held to."

[THE BRIDGES OF HOWARD COUNTY - Kokomo Perspective: Kp](#)

Indiana Democratic Party Asks INDOT to Provide All Records Surrounding I-65 Bridge on Wildcat Creek

Indiana Talks
Gary Snyder
8/25/15

The Indiana Democratic Party today formally asked the Indiana Department of Transportation to release all communication surrounding "DES #1005679" – known as the I-65 Northbound Bridge on Wildcat Creek. This request comes after more than a month of exaggerated commutes by frustrated travelers and more than six major accidents along INDOT's proposed detour route. "With more than six major accidents along the proposed INDOT detour and the state feeling a significant impact to its economy, the I-65 Bridge closure represents the headache Hoosiers have when it comes to Indiana's D+ rated infrastructure," said John Zody, Chairman of the Indiana Democratic Party. "In just one month, their state has seen yet another one of its coveted reputations – 'Crossroads of America' – placed in jeopardy. Frustrated Hoosiers have the right to know if this problem was at all preventable because this bridge closure has single-handedly clogged one of the most vital transportation and economic arteries in the state. It's time answers are brought to the table right now. Indiana's economic and overall well-being is depending on it." In the letter, Indiana Democratic Party Chairman John Zody asked Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner Brandye Hendrickson to formally release all emails and documents between INDOT and all other parties involved with the expansion project of "DES #1005679" – an assigned number by INDOT to identify the I-65 Bridge in the agency's scheduling system. Zody

also asked for INDOT to remain transparent with Hoosiers on this issue that puts Indiana on the verge of losing its valued “Crossroads of America” reputation. [Indiana Democratic Party Asks INDOT to Provide All Records Surrounding I-65 Bridge on Wildcat Creek | Indiana Talks](#)

Bucshon: Congress Could Take On Highway Funding This Fall

Indiana Public Media

Sara Wittmeyer

8/25/15

The closure of I-65 is shining a light on Indiana’s aging infrastructure. The road has been closed most of the month while crews work to repair a damaged bridge. This comes at a time when the state is in the middle of a two-year study looking at ways to fund its roads and bridges and when Congress is working to craft a long term transportation funding bill. “We have a good opportunity this fall to do a long-term federal highway bill, and we’re going to have to find revenue to do that,” says Rep. Larry Bucshon, R-Ind. District 8, who is a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. “But tax reform looks like that is a good possibility. It will be multi-national tax reform — [it] doesn’t increase taxes for our citizens and our state and potentially could create more revenue to get a good federal highway bill long term.” Federal funds make up a little more than half of Indiana’s \$1.8 billion transportation budget. The federal highway fund has been underfunded for years, and in July, Congress delayed passing a long term solution. The short-term bill shores up the federal highway trust fund through mid-December. State lawmakers boosted funding for roads and bridges in 2013 by \$200 million, but kept it flat in the most recent budget lawmakers approved this spring. House Speaker Brian Bosma, R-Indianapolis, has said infrastructure will be the focus of the next two legislative sessions. [Bucshon: Congress Could Take On Highway Funding This Fall | News - Indiana Public Media](#)

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