



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

**September 17, 2015**

### **Visclosky Announces U.S. Department of Transportation Funding for Transit-Oriented Development Planning Activities for the South Shore Railroad Extension**

LaPorteCountyLife.com

Congressman Pete Visclosky

9/16/15

Congressman Pete Visclosky announced today that the U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) with \$300,000 to implement transit-oriented development planning activities for the extension of the South Shore Railroad from Hammond to Dyer. The funding is from the Transit-Oriented Development Planning Awards Pilot Program under the Federal Transit Administration. The grant supports various planning activities, including those related to the development of station-area plans that incorporate transit-oriented development best practices of mixed uses, design guidelines and parking requirements, multi-modal connectivity plans, and the encouragement of private sector involvement. General Manager for NICTD, Mr. Mike Noland, stated, "This is great news. The timing on the grant award validates the commitment being made by all three communities - Munster, Dyer, and Hammond - to design stations that provide opportunities for neighborhoods to grow along the West Lake Corridor and the region to flourish. This grant will focus attention on effective planning strategies and tools that encourage livable communities. We look forward to working with the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority on this important initiative." [LaPorteCountyLife.com](http://LaPorteCountyLife.com) | [Visclosky Announces U.S. Department of Transportation Funding for Transit-Oriented Development Planning Activities for the South Shore Railroad Extension](#)

### **TV ad blasts Governor on Indiana transportation issues**

WTTV CBS4Indy

James Gherardi

9/15/15

After major headaches and traffic delays for hours on I-65 this summer, state lawmakers met Tuesday to determine the future of funding for transportation in Indiana. The fight has gotten so heated over transportation funding, a TV ad, paid for by a labor union, has already aired, blasting Governor Mike Pence for what they say is his lack of spending on Indiana roads. The organization "Better Roads Ahead" blames the I-65 bridge failure on the Governor, even going as far as saying deaths along the interstate detour, were his fault. Even after the bridge reopened earlier this month, democratic lawmakers say the I-65 bridge failure is just one piece of what has become Indiana's crumbling infrastructure. "Throughout the entire state, there are insufficient bridges. Throughout the state I think more than 1,900 when you look at them from the most recent data we have, that are rated poor or worse and so what occurs to me is, someone's taking

their eye off the ball here," said State Senate Minority Leader, Tim Lanane (D - Anderson). "It's the typical union way of thinking, going after somebody for political gain. Not really addressing the actual issue and dealing with the situation," said State Senator Carlin Yoder (R - Middlebury). [TV ad blasts Governor on Indiana transportation issues | WTTV CBS4Indy](#)

### **Indiana tax amnesty begins, aims to collect at least \$90M**

The News Tribune

Rick Callahan

9/15/15

Indiana's second tax amnesty period in the past decade began Tuesday, giving delinquent taxpayers a two-month window to pay off their tax debt without enforcing the penalties, interest and collection fees that have accumulated. About 260,000 corporations, small businesses and individuals who owe the state more than \$500 million are eligible for the program, which runs through Nov. 16, Indiana Department of Revenue Commissioner Andrew Kossack said. The amnesty, which was authorized by state lawmakers as part of Indiana's two-year budget, is being counted on to collect \$84 million for Gov. Mike Pence's new Regional Cities program that's aimed at encouraging counties and cities to collaborate on development projects. Another \$6 million will go to the Indiana Department of Transportation to support Amtrak's Hoosier State line that runs four days a week between Indianapolis and Chicago. [Indiana tax amnesty begins, aims to collect at least \\$90M | The News Tribune](#)

### **GOSHEN CITY COUNCIL: \$2M in bonds for construction projects OK'd**

Goshen News

John Kline

9/15/15

Goshen City Council members Tuesday approved the issuance of up to \$2 million in general obligation bonds to help fund three upcoming construction projects. According to Goshen Civil City Engineer Mary Cripe, one of the three projects for which the funding will be used involves using steel sheeting or some other appropriate material to help stabilize the bank of the Elkhart River where it runs along Violet Road just south of Kercher Road. "The river is undermining the banks along that roadway, and we need to do something about it," Cripe said of the need for the funding. "If we wait too much longer, we're going to have a much worse situation." Cost for the project has been estimated at about \$500,000, Cripe said, though that price could potentially come down if an alternate to the expensive steel sheeting can be found. Construction on the project is slated to begin in 2017. Also set to receive bond funding will be the intersection improvement project at Ind. 15 and Kercher Road. According to Cripe, the project is actually a joint project between the city, Elkhart County and the Indiana Department of Transportation. [http://www.goshennews.com/news/local\\_news/goshen-city-council-m-in-bonds-for-construction-projects-ok/article\\_70b5d857-3403-5bcf-ae7a-e0c76ba22637.html](http://www.goshennews.com/news/local_news/goshen-city-council-m-in-bonds-for-construction-projects-ok/article_70b5d857-3403-5bcf-ae7a-e0c76ba22637.html)