



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

September 9, 2014

Transportation funding undergoing changes

NWI Times

Lu Ann Franklin

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PORTAGE | The world of federal funding for transportation improvement projects throughout Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties looks vastly different, according to a report heard Tuesday by the Transportation Policy Committee of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission. Gary Evers, NIRPC transportation projects manager, said the Indiana Department of Transportation now oversees federal aid thanks to MAP 21 passed by the U.S. Congress and signed by President Barack Obama in 2012. The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century governs funding and authorization for federal surface transportation spending. The new accounting system "is more precise, but it takes more time," Evers said. "There is now an eight to 10-year production schedule. (NIRPC's) Transportation Improvement Program is now part of this plan." That means some projects "won't receive funding for years," Evers said. Other impacts include not being able to carry over balances in funding from one year to the next and changes in the banking system NIRPC has used since 1998. "We couldn't move money back and forth. These changes are being phased in by 2018," he said about new banking procedures. "Some things (to be funded) in 2015 will have to be moved into 2016 and beyond," Evers said. In other business, the TPC learned about planned outages are coming to the South Shore from Michigan City to South Bend, a 30-mile distance.

[Transportation funding undergoing changes](#)

Chip and seal on Ind. 67 destroying windshields in Morgan County

Indiana Economic Digest

Brian Culp, Reporter Times

9/8/14

MARTINSVILLE — A treatment applied to Ind. 67 by the Indiana Department of Transportation was designed to fill cracks and maintain the road, officials say. Unfortunately, it is also cracking, chipping and breaking windshields of many motorists. Chip and seal is a treatment that begins with a layer of tar to fill in cracks in the road. A layer of aggregate stone is put on top of the tar and is followed by a sealer. Highway work crews began putting the treatment on Ind. 67 at the beginning of August. Peggy Holzworth, who is a customer service representative with Morgan Insurance Group, said they have seen about 100 claims for chipped and cracked windshields since the state began the chip and seal process. "I hate it," Holzworth said Friday, adding that her husband's windshield is among those that have been damaged. "We've had in the range of 100 claims on chipped and cracked windshields." Other area agents didn't want to put a number on what they've seen, but said they had taken many claims. The process that is causing the damage is one that has been used on highways in northern Indiana, but is new to

this area, said Will Wingfield, who is with the communications office of INDOT. "There aren't any examples of this in southern Indiana," Wingfield said. "But we have done this on U.S. 35 near Laporte and U.S. 24 near Fort Wayne and U.S. 30 near Valparaiso." Jason Lowther, who is a pavement engineer on the Ind. 67 chip and seal project, said this type of maintenance was necessary on the stretch of Ind. 67 between Martinsville and Mooresville. "The last project in this stretch was 1997-98, when three levels of (hot mix asphalt) were applied," Lowther said. "It's 16 to 17 years old. "We conducted a roadway assessment in 2012 to look at and address deficiencies. Ind. 67, according to that survey, had mostly slight severity of distresses. It was still a pretty good ride. We're trying to look at more pavement preservation techniques. So, we looked at what we could do to the roadway to extend its life."

One thing INDOT does to preserve roadways is fill cracks as they appear.

[Chip and seal on Ind. 67 destroying windshields in Morgan County - Indiana Economic Digest - Indiana](#)

Carmel Main Street Construction to Begin

Inside INdiana Business

9/8/14

CARMEL, Ind. - The City of Carmel will begin a major street improvement project working on portions of Main Street near the new state highway interchange on U.S. 31. The \$4.4 million city project, set to get underway this fall and funded mostly by state transportation funds, has been awarded to E&B Paving. The project calls for reconstruction and expansion of the roadway, installation of new utility lines, curbs, gutters, storm sewers and sidewalks. The roundabouts at Illinois and Old Meridian along Main Street will also be expanded to accommodate two lanes of traffic. The work is being done in order to meet the traffic demand anticipated as a result of the new interchange currently under construction. The Main Street project will extend from the Illinois Street roundabout west of the highway, to the Old Meridian Street roundabout east of the highway. "This is an exciting project for Main Street, and its improved connectivity east and west across Carmel," said Mayor Jim Brainard. "We are pleased to see the state incorporate roundabouts into its U.S. 31 interchanges, which along with our Main Street project upgrades will make travel more safe and efficient." The Main Street interchange will also be the primary entry point for motorists from across the state to access Carmel's popular Arts & Design District, located a mile east of the interchange. "This is a rapidly changing area and this project is designed to improve the infrastructure needed to handle what we predict will be a much higher volume of traffic," said Jeremy Kashman, city engineer.

[Carmel Main Street Construction to Begin - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

INDOT, County Officials Plan To Widen Lafayette Center Road

Indiana's News Center

Rachel Martin – 21Alive

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ROANOKE, Ind. (21Alive) – A \$30 million road project is in the works that will impact Allen and Huntington Counties. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) held a public meeting at Cornerstone Alliance Church Monday night showing off all the details. State, Allen and Huntington County officials are planning to widen nearly four miles of Lafayette Center Road from I-69 into Roanoke. A portion of Lafayette Center Road runs from southern Allen County into Huntington County and is a major route along companies like General Motors (GM) and Vera Bradley. Planners say an increase in truck traffic, in particular, spurred the expansion project. INDOT blueprints show the road expanding from two to four lanes, and even five lanes in some areas, giving room for a turn lane. In the process, about eight homes will have to be torn down. Jay Poe, Huntington County Surveyor, says he spoke to a few of those homeowners. "Several of those people have indicated that they're so afraid of the traffic, their homes are so close now that they're ready to sell and get out now. And some others probably aren't going to be as happy to

sell their property. They've lived there for years and years and may not want to go," said Poe. Poe says the \$30 million for the project is coming from the Transportation bill that was passed by the Indiana General Assembly. The project isn't final yet, but officials hope to get it approved later this Fall, with construction beginning in 2016.

[INDOT, County Officials Plan To Widen Lafayette Center Road \(VIDEO\) | Indiana's NewsCenter: News, Sports, Weather, Fort Wayne WPTA-TV, WISE-TV, and CW | Local](#)

Former Indy Mayor to Talk Transportation

Inside INdiana Business

9/5/14

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. -- Crumbling infrastructure, insufficient funding, urban congestion, carbon emissions, workforce shortages, antiquated systems, inefficient supply chains, skyrocketing construction costs and daunting freight projections - these are just some of the issues to be discussed in Indianapolis on Oct. 7-8 at the 12th annual Indiana Logistics Summit, which is titled "Solving the National Transportation Crisis." Two nationally-renowned innovators will be featured at the 2014 Summit - Lawrence Burns, Ph.D., a former General Motors executive and "re-inventor of the automobile" as well as Stephen Goldsmith, former Mayor of Indianapolis, Deputy Mayor of New York City, current Harvard Professor and one of the nation's foremost experts on government reform, innovation and public-private partnerships. More than 300 industry leaders from top transportation, distribution, logistics and manufacturing companies will come together next month at the Indianapolis Convention Center to hear national experts address the U.S. transportation crisis and discuss what business executives and government officials should be doing about it. "The American Society of Civil Engineers has graded the condition and performance of our nation's infrastructure as a D+ and estimated that the investment needed by 2020 will be \$3.6 trillion," said Rich Cooper, CEO for the Ports of Indiana. "All modes of transportation are facing similar issues related to antiquated funding models that can no longer support our country's future needs. Transportation infrastructure is a cornerstone of our economy and failing to invest in these multimodal systems will have crippling long-term effects on our nation." Co-hosted by Purdue University, Conexus Indiana and the Ports of Indiana, the Summit brings together representatives from all modes of transportation, government, economic development and academia to discuss issues affecting the industry and how to grow business through logistics.

[Former Indy Mayor to Talk Transportation - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

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