



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Mass Transit Line Moving Forward

Inside INdiana Business

9/16/14

WESTFIELD, Ind. - Westfield, IN- Mayor Andy Cook will join Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard and other officials today to make an important announcement about the future development of regional mass transit. Rep. André Carson (IN-7) last week announced Central Indiana received a \$2 million TIGER grant. Today's news conference will provide details on the use of that funding to plan construction of the first transit line in Central Indiana. The grant will be used to assist IndyGo and the City of Indianapolis with the next phases of development, environmental analysis and preliminary engineering for the city's Red Line, which is proposed to run from Westfield's Grand Park through downtown Indianapolis to Old Town Greenwood. "As the City of Westfield continues to grow, important projects such as The Red Line will provide our residents with increased access to transportation, and allow our community to engage in regional economic development in ways we have not yet realized," Cook said. "We are excited to be partners in this transit initiative." The announcement will occur today at 2:00 p.m. in the Indianapolis Arts Garden. TIGER grants began in 2009 to help cities invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives.

[Mass Transit Line Moving Forward - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

Indiana rail upgrade decision expected this fall

FOX19

9/16/14

COLUMBUS, Ind. (AP) - Officials are expecting a decision from a federal agency by the end of October on plans for upgrading 106 miles of railroad tracks through southern Indiana. The proposal from Louisville & Indiana Railroad and CSX Transportation would allow the line between Indianapolis and Louisville, Kentucky, to handle larger and faster trains. The companies had expected a decision from the federal Surface Transportation Board during the summer. Louisville & Indiana Railroad president John Goldman tells The Republic construction would start next year if approval is granted this fall. Columbus Mayor Kristen Brown says she remains concerned about an increase in train traffic causing more delays for drivers and emergency vehicles. Goldman says the project would allow trains to get through crossing much faster.

[Indiana rail upgrade decision expected this fall - Cincinnati News, FOX19-WXIX TV](#)

How a new Indiana Toll Road operator could impact you

WSBT-TV

Kelli Stopczynski

9/15/14

The company that operates the Indiana Toll Road and its lenders are finalizing negotiations for a debt settlement, said Indiana's Toll Road Oversight Director James McGoff with the Indiana Finance Authority. But the state would not comment on reports that the Indiana Toll Road Concession Company may soon file for bankruptcy or that the Toll Road could get a new operator. However, another member of the Oversight Board told WSBT drivers should not feel the impact of the apparent financial problems for the ITRCC. It's all reaction to a recent article in the Wall Street Journal that said the ITRCC is weighing a possible bankruptcy filing in the coming weeks. The Indiana Finance Authority must approve any future operators of the Toll Road, McGoff said, which is part of the lease agreement signed in 2006. It's designed to make sure the 157-mile toll road stays open and in good condition for everyone who uses it. "For the most part, it's not too bad," said Illinois driver Duane Barnes, who drives the Indiana Toll Road. "Winter time can be very tricky," added semi truck driver Devin Coleman. There's mixed reaction about current condition of the Toll Road. "Compared to Illinois it's a lot better. Their toll roads are a little rough out there," laughed Bill Closs, who said he drives the Indiana Toll Road a couple times a month. The Toll Road Oversight Board says the language in the state's lease with the ITRCC should protect drivers in the event of a new operator. Leatherman said the controversial toll road lease has been a good thing for Indiana. St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties each got \$40 million and Elkhart used it to help finance projects like the Johnson Street and Six Span Bridge construction projects. The money also helped pay for the new U.S. 31 and some 200 other projects in the state, Leatherman said. He also cited improvements to the toll road itself.

[How a new Indiana Toll Road operator could impact you | Local - WSBT.com](#)

Highway tax should fund only road work

NWI Times

Byron Wilson, Opinion

9/14/14

Politicians and special interest groups complain about the decreasing funding available for highway maintenance. These groups actively support an increase in highway fuel taxes. So look at the current gasoline tax; Indiana's rate is 18 cents per gallon and the federal rate is 18.4 cents per gallon. Enormous sums are collected, yet it is never enough for these groups. Politicians love to give away other people's money, and much of this tax revenue is given to non-highway projects. Let's be honest and look where some of these fuel taxes are actually being spent. Funds are given to non highway projects such as bike and walking trails, infrastructure projects such as the Gary/Chicago International Airport railroad relocation and mass transit projects. Some of these projects might have some value but funding should not come from fuel tax funds while our roadways need repair. It is disingenuous to claim funding is inadequate when much is spent elsewhere.

[Highway tax should fund only road work](#)