



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Future of NWI mass transit up for discussion

NWI Times
Keith Benman
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The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission is hosting two meetings about public transportation on Oct. 29 at Wicker Park Social Center, 2215 Ridge Road, Highland. The first session will be from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and the second session from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Information on current mass transit services will be available, and planners want to hear from the public about what is needed in the future. The meeting is being held as part of a settlement agreement reached in May that ended 16 years of federal court litigation between the disability-rights agency Everybody Counts and NIRPC. However, the settlement and plans for the Oct. 29 meeting do not appear to be ending disagreements between the two. Everybody Counts is accusing NIRPC of not abiding by the stipulations contained in the settlement agreement pertaining to the meeting. Specifically, the agency accuses NIRPC of taking inadequate steps to publicize the meeting. That includes what Everybody Counts says is a failure on NIRPC's part to update the list of persons and groups notified of the meeting. "Clearly, there are those who don't really want certain sectors of the public to know about, or participate in, any real dialogue toward identifying the real public transportation needs," said Everybody Counts Board President Evelyn Rhenwick. NIRPC Executive Director Tyson Warner said last week NIRPC is meeting the terms of the federal court settlement and its requirements for the Oct. 29 meeting. He said a notice to announce the meeting was jointly developed with Everybody Counts and that the disability-rights agency was provided with the contact list used for the meeting. "Absolutely, we are in compliance in every way," Warner said.

[Future of NWI mass transit up for discussion](#)

Officials Consider I-69 Funding At Regional Summit

Indiana Public Media
Sara Wittmeyer
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Officials say everything is on the table as they consider how to fund the remaining construction of I-69. Money was the primary focus of this year's I-69 regional summit. Officials say there's money to finish the road from Evansville to Martinsville, but getting it north to Indianapolis and connecting it across the river south to Kentucky will require what many are calling an innovative idea. Money from the lease of the Indiana Toll Road funded the construction of the first three sections of I-69 from Evansville to Crane. The state's gas tax was used primarily to fund section four from Crane to Bloomington, and section five from Bloomington to Martinsville is funded through a public private partnership. Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner Karl Browning says the state hired the company Isolux to construct and operate that section of the interstate. "They're

putting up the upfront money to build it, and then we will pay them an amount of money every year for the maintenance and repayment, if you will, of the original funding,” Browning says. The state hasn’t identified a source of funding for section six. Browning says those discussions are premature because, right now, it’s unclear what path the road will take from Martinsville to Indianapolis. It could continue north up 37, go west, or east. The only stipulation is that it has to connect to Interstate 465. There’s also no funding for the bridge that would connect I-69 in Evansville and Kentucky. Browning says the state is working with Kentucky on a traffic study that looks at all options including public private partnerships and tolls.

[Officials Consider I-69 Funding At Regional Summit | News - Indiana Public Media](#) Also, [Indiana officials still unsure on finishing Interstate 69 extension, building Ohio River span - Daily Journal](#)

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