



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Elkhart County won't take part in Indiana Toll Road proposal, but four entities are mulling plans to run the roadway, official says

The Elkhart Truth
Tim Vandenack
11/18/14

As many as four entities are interested in bidding to take over operation of the Indiana Toll Road from the consortium that filed for bankruptcy protection last September. Elkhart County, though, invited along with the other Indiana toll road counties to take part in a bid proposal that LaPorte County commissioners are putting together, won't be among them. In an email Tuesday, Nov. 18, to LaPorte County reps, Elkhart County Commissioner Mike Yoder said officials here opted not to participate in the LaPorte County plan. With preliminary proposals to take over toll road operations due Thursday, Nov. 20, lack of time to sufficiently parse the issue figured big in the decision. "To engage in a bidding process to acquire and then operate an asset valued at several billion dollars requires more time than a few days, or even a couple months," Yoder said in the emailed statement, later posted on his Facebook page. That doesn't mean the proposed LaPorte County consortium won't fly. Yoder, who took part in a conference call Monday with LaPorte County reps, their advisers and others, said Lake County officials on the line expressed interest in taking part and pitching in money to help cover preliminary planning costs. "They were already talking about who to write the check out to," Yoder said in a phone interview. LaPorte County reps sought participation from the other northern Indiana counties containing toll road segments — Lake, Porter, St. Joseph, Elkhart, LaGrange and Steuben counties — asking for \$10,000 from each to cover preliminary costs of crafting a proposal.

[Elkhart County won't take part in Indiana Toll Road proposal, but four entities are mulling plans to run the roadway, official says - Elkhart Truth](#)

Plan to make Broadway livable drives forward

NWI Times
Keith Benman
11/17/14

It is clear Broadway has tremendous potential as a mass transit corridor and mass transit has tremendous potential for improving Broadway. That was the upshot of an open house on the "Livable Broadway Plan" held Monday at the Purdue Technology Center of Northwest Indiana, where planners reported on their progress and audience members made their views known through snap polling. "This is just a great corridor from a mass transit perspective," said T.Y. Lin International Chief Planner Jim Considine "It's already set up for high use." Considine is leading formation of a Livable Broadway Plan, a project spearheaded by Gary Public Transportation Corp. The plan is being funded with a \$200,000 grant from the Federal Transit Administration and

a \$50,000 grant from the Lake Michigan Coastal Program of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The plan is examining a 14 mile-stretch of Broadway running from Fourth Avenue in Gary to U.S. 231 in Crown Point, as well as a small stretch of Fourth Avenue running from Broadway to the Metro Center. That stretch of Broadway already forms the "backbone" of GPTC's bus system, according to GPTC Planning and Marketing Director David Wright. The four bus routes running partially or entirely on Broadway carry 355,000 riders per year. GPTC is already working with municipalities and the state on formulating the plan, Wright said. That kind of cooperation will also be needed to eventually implement it. Monday's Livable Broadway open house gave some first glimpses of what's possible. Ideas to make Broadway better run the gamut from simple steps like more bus shelters to more ambitious ones such as bus-friendly traffic lanes and more pedestrian-friendly streets and strip malls. The simplest measures drew almost unanimous support in snap key-pad polling of the audience, while more ambitious ones had the audience splitting votes.

[Plan to make Broadway livable drives forward](#)

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