



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

December 1, 2015

I-69 extension meetings set in Indianapolis, Morgan County

Indianapolis Business Journal

11/30/15

Indiana highway officials are set to present new details about five preliminary routes for the final section of the Interstate 69 extension south of Indianapolis during public meetings this week. The Indiana Department of Transportation said the meetings will collect additional public comments to help the agency cut the five options for Section 6 from Martinsville to Indianapolis down to a smaller number of routes. The first meeting is scheduled for Monday at Perry Meridian High School in Indianapolis. The second meeting is set for Wednesday at Mooresville High School and the third meeting for Thursday at Martinsville High School. INDOT said doors will open for all of the meetings at 6 p.m. with an open house, followed by a formal presentation and public comment session at 7 p.m. Earlier this year, state highway officials identified 14 possible routes for the extension that would either cut across Indianapolis' south side or adjacent suburban counties. That list was cut to five possibilities in June. The five routes include Indiana 37. Federal and state officials identified that state highway in 2004 as the best possible route to complete the roughly 142-mile I-69 extension between Evansville and Indianapolis. [I-69 extension meetings set in Indianapolis, Morgan County | 2015-11-30 | Indianapolis Business Journal | IBJ.com](#)

Soliday leading road-funding debate at Statehouse

NWI Times

Dan Carden

11/27/15

INDIANAPOLIS | A Northwest Indiana lawmaker will play a key role in shaping the legislation that House Speaker Brian Bosma, R-Indianapolis, recently declared "the jobs discussion of 2016." State Rep. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso, is sponsor of House Bill 1001, a road- and bridge-funding plan that aims to improve state and local infrastructure in the short-term, as well as put Indiana on a sustainable path toward funding long-term highway investments. "From my perspective, nothing is off the table," Bosma said. "We have to assess all the options to provide adequate funds for those needs, both at the state and local level." Soliday, chairman of the House Roads and Transportation Committee, isn't revealing many details of the proposal, which he said is still a work in progress. He plans to hold at least two committee hearings on road-funding ideas soon after the Legislature convenes Jan. 5, including reviewing plans previously announced by Republican Gov. Mike Pence and House Democratic Leader Scott Pelath, D-Michigan City. Soliday said he doesn't support the governor's call for Indiana to take out long-term loans to pay for short-term road repairs. Similarly, he's not keen on spending a significant share of the state's \$2.1 billion budget reserve as Pelath recommended. Instead, he's eyeing ways to empower local governments to collect more money for local roads, and to turn state road funding into more of a user-fee system — possibly by obtaining federal permission to collect tolls that would be used

improve and maintain major highways. [Soliday leading road-funding debate at Statehouse : Politics](#)

County signs contract for Judson Road

Kokomo Perspective

11/27/15

Howard County is one step closer to extending Judson Road across the north side of the city of Kokomo. Last week, the Board of Commissioners signed a local public agency coordination contract with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) for \$1 million in funding for the project. According to Howard County Highway Superintendent Ted Cain, there is actually \$2 million available through the contract, though the county intends to only spend half of it on Judson Road. The remainder could be used for other projects, he explained. "I would like to leave it like this as there is a possibility we could spend more on the project if more federal money becomes available," said Cain. "It used to be the state would allow us to carry money over, but now if we don't use it in their fiscal year, we lose it. "It could come to a point where we have this money available for another project, but if we didn't have a project ready, we could put it in the Judson Road project." Cain said that the county used a similar tactic a few years ago when it extended Touby Pike. By spending \$300,000 than what was allocated on that project, the county was able to use 80 percent of the surplus to fund other projects. And Cain has some other projects in mind. Currently he is requesting proposals for an on-call project involving Morgan Street. He also suggested that some of the extra \$1 million in the INDOT contract could be devoted to engineering work on one or two bridge reconstruction projects he has planned. [County signs contract for Judson Road | KP | kokomoperspective.com](#)

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