



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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SEI Lawmakers On '16 Session: "RFRA Stands For Road Funding Right Away"

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Mike Perleberg
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Indiana lawmakers are not required to meet in 2016. The only legislation they are required to pass by law is the biennial budget bill, and that was taken care of during the 2015 session. Still, there are plenty of major issues that require the state legislature's attention sooner than later: road funding, ISTEP+ testing, and adding LGBT protections to the state's civil rights law among them. "This year RFRA stands for Road Funding Right Away," Frye said. Indiana Democrats have been pushing for increased infrastructure funding this year, arguing that Indiana's reputation as the "Crossroads of America" is at stake. They have proposed an extra \$2 billion in highway funding. Governor Pence has pitched a plan to add \$1 billion in road funding this year. Frye cited a Purdue University study asked for by lawmakers a few years ago which determined that Indiana needs to spend between \$1 billion and \$1.3 billion each year to get the state's roads up to par. Whether motorists believe it or not, they are being indirectly taxed by Indiana's roads. "Hoosiers are paying \$2 billion a year in additional automobile maintenance because of road conditions and \$4 billion a year in additional damage and insurance or medical because of accidents that are contributed to road conditions. Folks, we are already paying the tax," Frye said, citing a second study. Where the funding may come from for highway improvements is the billion dollar question. Raatz suggested lawmakers perhaps look at Indiana's gas tax to create road improvement funding. Whether the road funding bill includes funds for local highway departments will be bore out in the legislative process. Frye said House Speaker Bosma said in his Organization Day speech to lawmakers last month that the bill would include new funding for locals. For businesses that are relocating to Indiana, there is a major transportation component to their decision, Perfect said. EagleCountryOnline.com SEI Lawmakers On '16 Session: "RFRA Stands For Road Funding Right Away" - EagleCountryOnline.com

Hamilton County to convert Ind. 37 into roundabout corridor

Indianapolis Star
Chris Sikich
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Hamilton County, Fishers and Indiana officials plan to announce an agreement on Dec. 10 to convert the bustling Ind. 37 highway into a roundabout-style corridor similar to Keystone Parkway in Carmel. Hamilton County Highway Department Director Brad Davis and Hamilton County Council member Rick McKinney told The Indianapolis Star the proposal includes \$100 million from Indiana, \$12 million from Fishers and \$12 million from the county. County officials discussed the outline of the deal, including the cost figures, at a meeting Wednesday morning. Details, Davis said, still are being finalized. The proposal includes eliminating five stoplights to

build roundabout-style interchanges from 126th Street to 146th Street. The funding, timeline and other details will be announced at the Dec. 10 news conference. Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness and Hamilton County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt have been spearheading the proposal with strong involvement from top officials in Gov. Mike Pence's office. "We're all excited and look forward to an announcement," Heirbrandt said. "It's no secret that continued traffic congestion on State Road 37 has been a problem." County officials have been building support to convert the highway into a roundabout-style corridor for years. In 2014, the county proposed a \$243 million plan to build roundabout-style interchanges at nine intersections all the way through Ind. 32 in Noblesville by 2021. They had identified no funding, though. [Hamilton County to convert Ind. 37 into roundabout corridor](#)

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