



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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I-69 Interchange Ready For Drivers

Inside INdiana Business

Alex Brown

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A major road project in Hamilton County is complete. The Indiana Department of Transportation says the \$22 million I-69 interchange at 106th Street has opened to traffic. INDOT Commissioner Brandye Hendrickson praised contractor Walsh Construction Co. for completing the project in one construction season. "Our goal here at INDOT is to plan, build, maintain and operate a superior transportation system that enhances safety, mobility and economic growth and this project is no exception and falls right into the mission of INDOT." Construction on the project began in April. The new interchange features a two-lane, oval-shaped roundabout on 106th Street over I-69 with ramps to and from both directions of the interstate. Two separate two-lane bridges each carrying one direction of traffic. The city of Fishers and Hamilton County contributed \$12 million toward the project. Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness says the project exemplifies the cooperation between various government agencies to build and improve critical infrastructure. "This improvement project is a crucial part of the overall plan to increase the flow of traffic in the area, improve residents' and commuters' quality of life, and open up greater economic development opportunities along the I-69 Corporate Corridor," said Fadness. "I am thankful for the collaborative partnership with INDOT and the continuing efforts to develop innovative projects that better serve the community." <http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/33999243/i-69-interchange-ready-for-drivers>

Editorial: Tax increase more likely next year

News-Sentinel

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Such an increase has failed in recent years, falling victim to Gov. Mike Pence's blanket campaign pledge of no tax increases. Incoming Gov. Eric Holcomb has made no such pledge. He hasn't weighed in yet on the cigarette tax, but advocates hope they can make a convincing case and believe they have a better shot than they have had in years. And there is more. Some advocates for the tax hike will want to use the funds raised for a much-needed long-term solution to the state's infrastructure needs. That has already been suggested. But health and business interests will likely insist that the money go to smoking-related health issues. If they succeed, legislators will have to look elsewhere for the answer. A possibility supported by Speaker of the House Brian Bosma is to increase the gas tax, which has been at 18 cents a gallon for nearly two decades, and tie it to inflation. We're not saying there will be a tax increase of some kind, and we're certainly not advocating one at this point. But government costs money, and even the most conservative state in the union will have to raise some tax at some point. Many Hoosier legislators might think the state has reached that point this year, so it would be in your best

interest to pay attention.

<http://www.news-sentinel.com/opinion/Editorial--Tax-increase-more-likely-next-year>

Local lawmakers will have hands on state budget

Times Herald

Mike Grant

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Normally, when lawmakers meet for Organization Day there is a lot of ceremony with very little work. Sometimes the leadership will lay out hints about what might be discussed in the upcoming session. "We received more than a feel this time," said Braun. "The leadership made it clear that we have unfinished business from the last session to get a bill rolling on new revenue for the state's infrastructure. This is going to be the infrastructure session." Last year, the General Assembly passed a couple of funding measures that put more than \$1 billion in local and state road funding. The additional revenue was a one shot deal. Now lawmakers are looking at more permanent funding solutions. "There are a lot of options being discussed," said Bassler. "The one thing I am hearing is that people want a solution. People who are very conservative and normally oppose tax increases are saying they can support one if all of the money goes to road funding." Braun, who serves on the Roads and Transportation Committee and is also in the transportation business, has been heavily involved for the last two years trying to come up with solutions. "This year there will be something substantive," said Braun. "There are a lot of ideas being bounced around. Hopefully, some of them stick so that we can repair our present roads and maybe even get some new roads built." The reason Indiana needs to come up with a new funding solution for road repairs is because the old one has stopped working. Most road funding in the state comes from the 18-cent per gallon gasoline tax. The problem is that with vehicles getting higher mileage, and some using alternative energy sources like natural gas and electricity, the gas tax is not generating the money it did in the past or the money needed to keep the roads repaired. "Currently 7 percent of our roadways are in need of repair," said Braun. "That amount should be closer to 3 to 4 percent. If we continue at our current funding rate, that will quickly jump to 10 percent and that would be very bad." http://www.washtimesherald.com/news/local_news/local-lawmakers-will-have-hands-on-state-budget/article_3bd4ad13-af07-50c3-875e-d0eb94065831.html

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