



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **December 24, 2015**

#### **Carmel Planning For \$217M in Road Improvements**

Inside INdiana Business

12/22/15

CARMEL - The city of Carmel is proposing a plan that includes infrastructure improvements, road projects and roundabouts. The three-year, \$217 million plan will be presented to the Carmel City Council January 4. The plan includes 13 separate ordinances and three resolutions authorizing bonds to fund the projects. The city says if the bonds are issued, it will result in a small increase in property taxes for most Carmel residents. Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard the average homeowner in a \$200,000 house will pay just \$22 more per year and those in homes over \$345,000 will see no increase because they've reached the constitutional one percent cap. It would be the first time since 1993 that the city has raised taxes for this purpose. "Our residents made it very clear in May that they want us to continue to invest wisely in our community, focusing on projects that make our roads safer, our commute times shorter and the time we spend with our families longer," said Brainard. "It's important that we make these investments while we are a growing city so future generations can benefit from our shared community vision to create the best city in which to live, work and play in the Midwest." The plan calls for the construction of 30 roundabouts throughout the city along with other road construction projects. It would also see storm water infrastructure and subdivision drainage improvements.

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/30811874/carmel-planning-for-217m-in-road-improvements>

#### **EDITORIAL: Highway projects on fast lane**

NWI Times

12/22/15

Gov. Mike Pence is promising a \$70 million widening of Interstate 65 between U.S. 231 south to at least Ind. 2. At the same time, the private company planning to replace the Cline Avenue Bridge is promising it will be completed in 2019. The I-65 project was originally to be bid with the Illiana Expressway project, which has been delayed indefinitely. We're glad to see this needed I-65 project will go through. Northwest Indiana needs additional capacity for surface transportation. We already have maxed out capacity on the Borman Expressway, for east-west traffic, and now we must add lanes to I-65 for north-south traffic. Cramming too much traffic into too few lanes is a major safety hazard. Ask anyone who drives that stretch of road regularly, and they'll share horror stories of close calls or accidents they've witnessed, fueled by a road with too few lanes to carry the volume of traffic now using that road. Adding lanes should make that difficult stretch of road much safer. The project will improve access to fast-developing areas along I-65, including the Ameriplex at the Crossroads office/industrial park. "We are trying to focus our resources on those areas where we have the most growth," Pence said when he announced the project at NiSource headquarters in Merrillville. <http://www.nwitimes.com/news/opinion/editorial/editorial-highway->

[projects-on-fast-lane/article\\_4fa4fb9d-3067-566d-abef-b7af2a8131c6.html](http://www.greensburgdailynews.com/projects-on-fast-lane/article_4fa4fb9d-3067-566d-abef-b7af2a8131c6.html)

### **Soliday casts himself as an evangelist for the roads**

Greensburg Daily News

Maureen Hayden

12/22/15

INDIANAPOLIS - Maintaining the state's roads and bridges is work fraught with obstacles and hazards. It doesn't daunt Ed Soliday, a retired pilot and safety expert who loves telling stories and spinning metaphors. "I'm evangelist, and may 1,000 angels sing when somebody comes to see the light," said Soliday, Republican chairman of the House Roads and Transportation Committee, who aims to convince fellow lawmakers to set aside politics in search of sustainable road funding. Don't queue the music just yet. Soliday's ideas for raising cash for deteriorating roads and bridges include some politically unpalatable proposals, such as tax hikes and toll roads. He has yet to roll out a proposal in detail. But it will include indexing to inflation the state's fuel excise tax -- last raised in 2002 -- which could mean a 5-cent bump in the cost of a gallon of gas. It includes a \$1 per pack hike in the cost of cigarettes, to raise money for the state's Medicaid program. That will free up money from the gasoline sales tax that's now directed into the general fund. Soliday also supports a study of the pros and cons of tolling Indiana's two major interstates, I-65 and I-70, which could raise \$365 million per year to expand those narrow, aging and dangerously crowded roadways. [http://www.greensburgdailynews.com/opinion/columns/soliday-casts-himself-as-an-evangelist-for-the-roads/article\\_ecb89687-0b48-59ba-9a84-ebc827cab3e7.html](http://www.greensburgdailynews.com/opinion/columns/soliday-casts-himself-as-an-evangelist-for-the-roads/article_ecb89687-0b48-59ba-9a84-ebc827cab3e7.html)

---

[www.buildindianacouncil.org](http://www.buildindianacouncil.org)