



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

November 19, 2015

EDITORIAL: Fixing, improving Region 'Crossroads' infrastructure should be top priority
NWI Times
11/19/15

The condition of highways and byways in our Region — and in the larger sense, throughout Indiana — is all too often the butt of jokes uttered by drivers from neighboring states. It's hard for locals to argue with the criticism when their teeth are regularly jarred loose from driving over New Chicago-sized potholes along Northwest Indiana thoroughfares and side streets. It's also difficult when travel on our main highways and interstates more closely resembles a crowded game of chicken with semitrailers — or a virtual parking lot because of roadway congestion. If you're tired of the extra dental work — and vehicle repair bills — then consider attending a first of its kind Regional Priorities Summit from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday at the Purdue University Calumet Alumni Hall in Hammond. Today is the last day to register. Summit attendees are slated to identify regional priorities and develop action plans for implementing short- and long-term goals for the Region. It's hard to imagine the condition of our roads and other transportation-related infrastructure not occupying prominent positions on that list. Just last week, we learned from the 2015 Urban Mobility Scorecard that roadway congestion delays in the Calumet Region have increased 45 percent in the past two years. Anyone living in Northwest Indiana for any length of time isn't surprised by that statistic. [EDITORIAL: Fixing, improving Region 'Crossroads' infrastructure should be top priority](#)

Legislature organizes for 2016: Moseley says roads and ethics to be highlights
Chesterton Tribune
Jeff Schultz
11/17/15

A plan to rebuild Indiana's highway system, transparency by elected officials and changes to the ISTEP test are just a few of the issues the Indiana General Assembly will be facing in its next session. This afternoon kicks off the 2016 assembly year with the annual organizational day in which leaders of the House and Senate gather in committees and start discussions of what their goals will be when the Assembly meets again in January. Legislators can also begin filing bills after today. The upcoming session, starting Jan. 5, will be shorter than last year since lawmakers will not be working on a biannual budget in 2016. The Assembly's last day will be March 14 and, since it will go more quickly, each lawmaker will be limited to five bills instead of 15. Local State Rep. Charles "Chuck" Moseley, D-Portage, said he expects there will be much attention to Republican Gov. Mike Pence's budget proposal to fund maintenance of the state's existing roads and bridges. Moseley told the Chesterton Tribune last week what he believes will be the main topics this session. Other local State Reps. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso, Scott Pelath, D-Michigan City, and State Sen. Karen Tallian, D-Ogden Dunes, were not available for comment. Pence last month announced his "21st Century Crossroads" plan that would use more than \$1 billion over

the next few years, taking \$241 million from reserve funds, generate another \$240 million by borrowing and use \$450 million in budget appropriations for fiscal years 2017-2020. The Department of Transportation would be able to resurface 16,000 miles of state roads and repair 5,200 bridges over the next five years, according to INDOT's website. [Legislature organizes for 2016: Moseley says roads and ethics to be highlights](#)

Commissioners approve application for \$1.8M in federal highway funds

The Lebanon Reporter

Rod Rose

11/17/15

Federal funding will be sought to defray some of the estimated \$1.8 million it will cost to repair the Sycamore Street bridge over Eagle Creek in Zionsville. County Highway Engineer Craig Parks Monday told the Boone County Commissioners he will apply for the money through the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization. The MPO oversees transportation planning in areas of central Indiana that are considered urban. Southeastern Boone County, including Whitestown and Zionsville, are within the MPO area. At Parks' request, the commissioners approved a "letter of commitment" that he will submit to the MPO. Parks said the letter will give the county a slight edge in receiving the money, which is distributed on a competitive basis. The bridge became Boone County's responsibility when the Indiana Department of Transportation terminated control of what was state Route 334. The two towns are responsible for maintenance of the road, which runs from U.S. 421 to just west of Interstate 65. However, the county is responsible for bridge repairs on local roads. Rehabilitating the bridge will cost an estimated \$1.8 million, Parks said. Boone County's share is an estimated \$598,000, he said. The bridge was built in 1955, according to the advocacy group Transportation for America. In 2013 it was crossed by a daily average of 11,620 vehicles. The bridge deck is rated 4 on a scale of 0 (failure) to 9 (excellent). http://www.reporter.net/news/local_news/commissioners-approve-application-for-m-in-federal-highway-funds/article_79cf572d-bd93-5dda-8b91-0842de7d58ed.html

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