



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

September 1, 2016

Road project could bring new business development

Journal & Courier
Jeremy Ervin
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LAFAYETTE, Ind. — A widening project on East Old County Road 350 South could pave the way for new business to move into the industrial area between U.S. 52 and Interstate 65. Milestone Contractors director of operations Mark Andrews said East Old County Road 350 South sees a lot of truck traffic. Taking East Old County Road 350 South allows trucks to avoid a sharp right turn at the corner of South 500 East and U.S. 52 toward Lafayette, Andrews said. "It's pretty difficult if you're in a truck," Andrews said. The work on East Old County Road 350 South would include widening and resurfacing between South County Road 460 East and Newcastle Road. No new lanes will be added, but the existing ones will be broadened to accommodate larger vehicles. Tippecanoe County and the state of Indiana will split costs for the \$1.44 million project. The county's half will be covered by matching funds coming from Community Crossings, a program by the Indiana Department of Transportation. One criteria for receiving the grants was the economic development potential of the project. Without East Old County Road 350 South, however, it might be difficult to support traffic to new businesses. For example, say a business wanted to move into the area northeast of Newcastle Road. That would put it south of Indiana 38 and the Subaru of Indiana Automotive Inc. facility and west of Interstate 65.

<http://www.jconline.com/story/news/2016/08/31/road-project-could-bring-new-business-development/88039944/>

Targeting congestion

The Herald Bulletin
Christopher Stephens
8/30/16

PENDLETON — Construction on Interstate 69 between Indianapolis and Pendleton may be causing headaches now, but the addition of a third lane should help ease congestion during rush hour. The project, expected to be completed in late 2017, is part of the Indiana Department of Transportation's Major Moves 2020 project that looks to rehabilitate interstates across Indiana. Construction is currently in progress between Exit 210 and mile marker 215 with plans to finish a third lane to Exit 219 next year. "That's really a main corridor. There's not a lot of options for getting to Indianapolis," Nathan Riggs, INDOT media relations director, said. "It's really the main artery and we've done a lot of work in recent years to make improvements." The Major Moves program was created by Gov. Mike Pence as a way to revive some of the state's aging infrastructure. With a proposed investment of \$400 million, the project focuses on interstates 65 and 69. Driving through the 14-mile stretch of I-69 after it drops down to two lanes early in the

morning or after 5 p.m. can really be a bother, said Colleen Drake, who travels frequently to Indianapolis as event director at The Flagship Center. "It seems to get backed up really quick," she said. "If you are coming north you really have to plan for losing an hour." Drake has even taken to hopping off the interstate and instead taking country roads because the traffic can be so bad. She said the addition of a third lane could help her save time, and stress, while driving to and from the city. A third lane along the trucking artery would help save Carter Express, a trucking company based out of Pendleton, time and money, said president and CEO John Paugh. "Obviously we support the expansion. It's very needed," Paugh said. "Will it cause heartburn while it's going on? Yes, but it'll be worth it."

http://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/local_news/targeting-congestion/article_a1116f24-a4ef-5c5e-9d3f-7adce3629917.html

INDOT Awards \$160 Million To Hoosier Communities

WBOI

Zach Bernard

8/30/16

The Indiana Department of Transportation completed payouts late last week for its Community Crossings Matching Grant, which covers half the cost of a county or town's road and infrastructure projects. More than 1,600 applications were submitted to receive a piece of the \$160 million dollar grant. In recent months, organizations like the Indiana Farm Bureau have made efforts to get rural residents involved in infrastructure conversations, since revenue sources like the gas tax are becoming less reliable for road funding. Adams County received \$492,500, something highway superintendent Lonnie Caffee says has never happened before. He says it's a good way for the county to give something back to taxpayers. One of the projects Caffee submitted was the six-mile 200 East road that connects state roads 124 and 218. He says he's concerned for the safety of the road. "It's been real rolly and hilly, holds water; you go down there with a truck or car and it feels like a roller coaster," he said. "So we're going to have that wedged and leveled." Caffee says that could cost an estimated \$635,000, but the matching grant allows Adams County to focus on other projects, like a three-mile gravel road that could connect commuters to Fort Wayne. <http://wboi.org/post/indot-awards-160-million-hoosier-communities#stream/0>

State grant money provides funding for 5 road projects

The Banner-Graphic

Jared Jernagan

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When the Indiana Department of Transportation announced \$160 million in Community Crossings grants throughout the state last week, Putnam County was not left out in the cold. The \$466,085.50 in Community Crossings money will fund 50 percent of the cost of surface work to five different sections of county roads. With Community Crossings funds awarded on a 50/50 matching basis, this means that \$932,171 worth of work will be performed as a result of this funding, with all jobs to be completed by Wabash Valley Asphalt. Most prominently, Manhattan Road in Greencastle Township will have mill and overlay work performed from the Greencastle city limits south to County Road 300 West. The \$388,150 project will also include adding super elevation on two curves at the south end of the work area, as well as pavement markings and stone added to the shoulders. Work is set to start after Labor Day and be completed by the end of September. Another job to be completed later this fall is in Floyd Township, where wedge and overlay work is slated for County Road 375 North starting at County Road 800 East. The work will continue north on County Road 857 East and back west on County Road 450 North, ending back at 800 East. Works is scheduled to begin in October, weather permitting. The other three projects partially funded by the project have actually already been completed.

<http://www.bannergraphic.com/story/2335029.html>

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