



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

September 8, 2016

Road funding among issues addressed by Farm Bureau delegates

Greensburg Daily News
9/8/16

INDIANAPOLIS — More than 260 delegates from all corners of the state gathered in Indianapolis recently to determine policy positions of Indiana Farm Bureau. “This is our most important meeting of the year. Our policy is grassroots driven and the August delegate session focuses our advocacy efforts for 2017,” said INFB President Randy Kron. Delegates unanimously supported a continued push for increased road funding. Farmers rely on quality roads for transporting commodities and equipment. INFB policy encourages the General Assembly to increase funding for state and local roads and bridges in addition to increasing fuel taxes. Delegates also added language that supports shifting current sales tax on fuel for road construction and maintenance. http://www.greensburgdailynews.com/opinion/road-funding-among-issues-addressed-by-farm-bureau-delegates/article_028dffdb-19df-5386-98b5-32320bc129e9.html

I-69 Section 5 Developer Owes \$9M, In Danger Of Default

Indiana Public Media
Barbara Brosher
9/7/16

In a letter sent Tuesday to I-69 Development Partners, the Indiana Finance Authority said the developer owes more than \$9 million to subcontractors hired to help build Section 5 of the interstate, which will run from Bloomington to Martinsville. The project is being completed through a public-private partnership. The letter comes after one subcontractor halted work on the project this week after not getting paid. The IFA’s letter says I-69 Development Partners owes Bloomington-based Crider and Crider \$2.3 million. “I’ve got a question for Mike Pence, who’s running around trying to be vice president of the United States,” says Jackie Yenna, president of the White River Chapter of the Southern Indiana Regional Labor Council. “If you can’t step in and help out the people of your own state, how in the world are you going to be expected to step in and help the people of 50 states?” Bloomington Mayor John Hamilton echoed those frustrations. He says he’s not satisfied with what he’s hearing from Indianapolis, and the state needs to step in to ensure timely completion of Section 5. “In a project that was to be completed within the next month, we now face it seems at least another year of construction — perhaps significantly longer,” Hamilton says. “Every week it’s not completed is a week of inconvenience, lost productivity and loss of life and limb.” Another pay dispute earlier this year also halted work on Section 5 for a brief period. “The State of Indiana is holding its contractors and developers accountable,” Kara Brooks, spokesperson for Gov. Pence, said in a statement. “Any accusations to the contrary are just a sad attempt to score political points.” <https://indianapublicmedia.org/news/i69-section-5-contractor-owes-9m-danger-default-104764/>

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