



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

**April 18, 2017**

### **Deadline looming for Indiana lawmakers to strike budget deal**

South Bend Tribune  
Brian Slodysko/Associated Press  
4/17/2017

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Indiana lawmakers set a Friday deadline to reach an agreement on the state's next two-year budget, as well as the Republican majority's top priority - raising taxes to pay for improvements to the state's crumbling infrastructure. But with just days left in this year's legislative session, the House and Senate still appear far apart on some key tax provisions. That's put some other pieces of Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb's agenda in limbo. It's possible the factions won't come together this week. In that case, they could continue negotiating until the official April 29 deadline for the yearly legislative session, given that all sides want a deal. But lawmakers had hoped to adjourn early. "Once we get agreement on roads, the budget and liquor, we're getting out of here," said House Speaker Brian Bosma. "It's my hope that will be before next Friday, but I'm leaving my calendar open."

[http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/politics/deadline-looming-for-indiana-lawmakers-to-strike-budget-deal/article\\_44cf7ef0-235c-11e7-ad60-2b01736ccd5e.html](http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/politics/deadline-looming-for-indiana-lawmakers-to-strike-budget-deal/article_44cf7ef0-235c-11e7-ad60-2b01736ccd5e.html)

### **Bridge Project To Close Part of Highway**

MyWabashValley.com  
4/17/2017

A bridge project will close one lane of a busy highway in Parke County next week. The Indiana Department of Transportation announces a bridge deck replacement project on the U.S. 36 Bridge over the Wabash River. Traffic will be restricted to one lane, beginning Monday, April 24th. The bridge work is scheduled to be completed by the first week in October of this year. The remainder of the project stretching into 2018 will include paving and bridge deck overlays. U.S. 36 will be resurfaced from Rockville to the Indiana/Illinois State line. This portion of the project is scheduled for completion on September 30th, 2018. The project was awarded to Wabash Valley Asphalt for \$10.2 million.

<http://www.mywabashvalley.com/news/bridge-project-to-close-part-of-highway/693235160>

### **IN Focus: Supporters, opponents square off on gas tax debate**

Fox 59  
Dan Spehler  
4/16/2017

INDIANAPOLIS - With only a few days remaining in this year's legislative session, lawmakers are

still debating the details of a road funding plan that could include an increase in the state's gasoline tax. House Bill 1002 aims to establish a "sustainable, long-term" road funding plan, raising the gas tax by 10 cents over two years, as currently structured after the bill was changed by the state Senate. It includes an additional \$15 vehicle registration fee and adds a \$100 fee for commercial license plates. In addition, the bill would add a \$5 fee on each new tire bought in the state. The Senate bill differs from the House version, which immediately shifts all gas tax revenue to road improvements. The House version also called for a 10-cent increase in the diesel fuel tax, while the version advanced by the Senate Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy proposed a 6-cent increase phased in over two years. The bill is now in a conference committee, where lawmakers from the House and Senate are trying to work out their differences and reach a compromise before sending the final version of the bill to Governor Holcomb.

<http://fox59.com/2017/04/16/in-focus-supporters-opponents-square-off-on-gas-tax-debate/>

### **Caution: Plenty of road construction ahead**

Palladium-Item

Rachel E. Sheeley

4/15/2017

You can't get there from here.

That might not be the reality on Richmond streets and Wayne County roads this summer and next, but it's likely going to feel that way as multiple road improvement projects kick in at the same time. Several projects already have begun, and orange barrels are popping up faster than weeds. Starting Monday, work will begin to replace the eastbound and westbound bridges carrying Interstate 70 over Indiana 121/New Paris Pike on Richmond's east side. The I-70 bridge project is one of many the Indiana Department of Transportation will have underway in Wayne County this year and in 2018. If drivers can maintain their patience, they will see the rewards as INDOT invests more than \$43 million in area roadways. That doesn't take into account the nearly \$2.5 million in Community Crossings grants issued for this construction year for road projects in Richmond, Centerville and Wayne County, plus INDOT's contribution to the Stellar Communities streets project in Richmond.

<http://www.pal-item.com/story/news/local/2017/04/15/caution-plenty-road-construction-ahead/100393068/>

### **Letters: Don't short change local roads**

Indianapolis Star

Letters to the Editor

4/14/2017

While road funding shortfalls are a statewide issue, the majority of problems created by these gaps fall to city, town and county governments. Why? Because these local governments maintain 75% of Indiana's road lane miles and 70% of the state's bridges, but receive only 46% of state-generated revenue for roads and bridge maintenance. The challenges local governments face are considerable. According to the 2016 "Indiana Local Road and Bridge Conditions" report, only 15% of city roads, 17% of town roads and 11% of county roads were rated as "good." All others were rated as "fair" or "poor." Facing these realities, we applaud the 2017 Indiana General Assembly for addressing long-standing road funding needs. They are wise to seek long-term dependable funding dedicated solely to road and bridge maintenance. While both the House and Senate have addressed this issue, local government agencies support the House version of HB 1002, and encourage the Senate to consider a version that puts similar levels of resources and control into the hands of local governments. The key difference between the two versions is the level of funding going to the local government agencies. According to an engineer studying the issue, the proposed increase for local road funding in the House version is 42 percent, versus a 20 percent increase in the Senate version. The impact of this difference goes beyond pot holes and rusty bridge beams. If infrastructure so critical to the state's economy continues to

deteriorate, job growth and economic development will suffer. As representatives of local governments throughout Indiana, we strongly encourage legislators to support the House version of the bill so that we can continue to grow and prosper.

<http://www.indystar.com/story/opinion/2017/04/14/letters-dont-short-change-local-roads/100460192/>

### **One of the most extensive and expensive INDOT resurfacing projects to begin next week in northern Indiana**

WTTE 4 CBS

4/13/2017

One of the most expensive and extensive interstate repaving and repair projects is set to get underway next week in northern Indiana. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) have announced that work will begin Monday, April 17th, on a \$47.2 million project to patch and resurface Interstate 65 that spans across three counties of Boone, Clinton and Tippecanoe counties. The project on I-65 includes patching and resurfacing of nearly 100 miles of interstate in both directions from one mile south of U.S. 52 in Lebanon to nearly 3.5 miles south of State Road 38 in Lafayette, and will also include replacing the decks on the State Road 47 Bridge and on Tippecanoe County Road 900 and 1000 East Bridges over I-65. The entire project is scheduled to be completed by October of 2018.

<http://cbs4indy.com/2017/04/13/one-of-the-most-extensive-and-expensive-indot-resurfacing-projects-to-begin-next-week-in-northern-indiana/> Also <http://fox59.com/2017/04/13/one-of-the-most-extensive-and-expensive-indot-resurfacing-projects-to-begin-next-week-in-northern-indiana/>

### **Gas tax hike could leave out locals**

Anderson Herald-Bulletin

Ken de la Bastide

4/13/2017

ANDERSON - Local members of the Indiana General Assembly expect gasoline tax and other fees to be increased to raise money for improvements to roads, but local units of government may be left out of the equation. The tax increases are estimated to raise up to \$1.2 billion for transportation infrastructure. In the original legislation, passed by the Indiana House, 20 percent of the funds, approximately \$376 million, would go to local units of government. That funding was removed by the Senate, with the entire \$1.2 billion going to the Indiana Department of Transportation, said Sen. Tim Lanane, D-Anderson. Lanane and Rep. Terri Austin, D-Anderson, believe there will be an effort in conference committee to hammer out an agreement that will provide some road funding for local government entities. "It will come down to negotiations," Austin said. "Someone has to advocate for local units of government." Austin said half of Indiana's 92 counties have implemented a wheel tax and that everything involving infrastructure funding is on the negotiating table. "There will be a push to restore some local funding," Lanane said. "Local funding could be tied to a local wheel tax."

[http://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/local\\_news/gas-tax-hike-could-leave-out-locals/article\\_2a14f3e4-fb8c-517c-adc8-9798a00c79b0.html](http://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/local_news/gas-tax-hike-could-leave-out-locals/article_2a14f3e4-fb8c-517c-adc8-9798a00c79b0.html)

### **Major Bridge Project to Begin in Wayne County**

Inside Indiana Business

Alex Brown

4/13/2017

Crews are set to start work next week on a \$5.6 million project to replace twin bridges on Interstate 70 in Wayne County. Walsh Construction Co. will begin shifting traffic in both directions of I-70 at State Road 121 for construction of two new three-span bridges. The Indiana

Department of Transportation says the contractors will use a method called "slide-in bridge construction." The process involves building new bridge decks on temporary supports adjacent to the existing bridges. When complete, crews will demolish the existing bridges and slide the new ones laterally into place. INDOT says using the slide-in bridge construction process will accelerate construction, increase safety, reduce costs of maintaining traffic and minimize the impact on drivers during construction.

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/35144767/major-bridge-project-to-begin-in-wayne-county>

### **Project Team for I-69 Ohio River Bridge Seeking Public Input**

TriState Homepage

Greg Parker

4/12/2017

Road construction, it can bring on headaches for the best driver, especially in the Evansville and Henderson area. Now a major project in the works that is expected to bring much needed relief to drivers has taken another step. On June 30th, 2016, Former Indiana Governor Mike Pence and Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin, signed a two-state commitment to bridge the gap. "This is the next logical step for the state of Indiana," said former Governor Pence. Governor Bevin said, "When we say we're doing a study, sometimes that could be misunderstood. This is a 17-million dollar investment." Now, 10 month later, the "I-69 Ohio River Crossing" project team continues its 3 year feasibility study for a new bridge between the Hoosier and Bluegrass states. But it's not only looking for the input from elected officials. They're looking for yours as well. "What are early thoughts?" says I-69 Ohio River Crossing Spokesperson, Mindy Peterson. "Are there some routes we haven't considered? Some routes that they would prefer for us to take a look at." Two open houses, one in Henderson and one in Evansville, have been set up for residents to get an overview of the entire project including bridge designs, financing, and a project timeline. An opportunity, Peterson says, to contribute to our country's missing link. "You have I-69 that now, really from Texas to Michigan basically complete, you have that interstate traffic that must have a place to go and if you don't have that final connection in place here, you're going to have a lot of demand on the local system." Following the feasibility study, Peterson says the hope is that bridge construction will begin once the Record of Decision is established in late 2019.

<http://www.tristatehomepage.com/news/local-news/project-team-for-i-69-ohio-river-bridge-seeking-public-input/691712315>

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