



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Young 'Cautiously Optimistic' on South Shore Funding

Inside INdiana Business

Andy Ober

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INDIANAPOLIS - Senator Todd Young (R-IN) calls the \$900 million South Shore rail expansion projects "the best bang for the buck" Indiana could hope for in terms of federal funding for infrastructure projects. Young says, since President Trump's proposed budget would eliminate the funding stream that local officials were planning on, he is working with stakeholders including Congressman Pete Visclosky (D-1) and Jackie Walorski (R-2) as well as Senator Joe Donnelly (D-IN) to find alternative funding. During a Studio(i) interview, Young said the double-tracking project would tie northwest Indiana to Chicago and "catalyze a private sector stimulus." The projects would include extending the existing corridor south to Dyer and double-tracking the line between Gary and Michigan City. There is also a proposal to relocate part of the line in South Bend to improve access at the South Bend International Airport and make the trip to and from Chicago shorter. In July, the St. Joseph County Council unanimously approved more than \$18 million for the double-tracking project. The city of South Bend has approved \$25 million for the project. LaPorte, Porter and Lake counties have also committed funding for the work. The double-tracking project would involve construction of more than 25 miles of track that could begin in 2019. Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority Chief Executive Officer Bill Hanna believes there is "excellent progress" on talks for funding, citing a recent visit to South Bend from U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao and discussions between Governor Eric Holcomb and Vice President Mike Pence as well as a short conversation between Young and president Trump. <http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/36572831/young-cautiously-optimistic-on-south-shore-funding>

Sellersburg gets state money for Shirley Avenue drainage project, paving

News and Tribune

Elizabeth Beilman

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SELLERSBURG - Thanks to a state funding award, the town of Sellersburg is addressing flooding along Shirley Avenue and paving additional roads next year. Representatives from the Indiana Department of Transportation presented a \$431,000 ceremonial check to Sellersburg officials Wednesday morning as part of the state's Community Crossings program. In the last two years, Indiana has awarded \$300 million in matching grants. This year was the first Sellersburg applied for and received money. "This was a competitive process, so I want to congratulate you guys," Deputy Commissioner Tony McClellan said at Sellersburg Town Hall. "There were a lot of applicants this year. Not everybody received an award this year." A portion of the money will fund new drainage infrastructure near Shirley Avenue - a project that residents asked town officials to initiate. "We're going to be able to construct some curb and gutter, new storm sewers and

repaving the streets that will not only improve the functionality of the street but will be able to capture all this runoff that doesn't get trapped and it floods some of the houses," said Jorge Lanz, president of engineering firm Jacobi, Toombs and Lanz Inc. The storm sewer is too small to adequately collect the amount of stormwater runoff in the area, though much of the water isn't routed to the sewer anyway, Lanz said. The project includes street work on Shirley Avenue and Prather Lane. Construction is set to begin as early as this winter. Sellersburg will also use the grant money to pave streets throughout town, using a grading system to determine the highest priorities, Town Council President Paul Rhodes said. In 2017, the town budgeted \$183,000 for paving, according to Clerk-Treasurer Michelle Miller.

http://www.newsandtribune.com/news/sellersburg-gets-state-money-for-shirley-avenue-drainage-project-paving/article_654bb3fe-aeb9-11e7-b67d-270f7f149a6e.html

Funds sought to fuel project: City seeks grants for overpass plan on State Road 46

The Republic
Mark Webber
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Two separate grant applications seeking federal funding to pay for a portion of the \$30 million State Road 46/State Road 11 railroad overpass will be submitted this week. If successful, that would reduce the amount of money Columbus city officials would otherwise have to come up with on their own, said Dave Hayward, Columbus executive director of public works and city engineer. Bartholomew County government already has agreed to pay up to \$2 million for the overpass, while the city of Columbus has earmarked about \$9.5 million from two tax increment financing districts for the project expected to begin in late 2019. City and county officials said earlier that they would seek grant funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation for the overpass project. One is called the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program, a supplementary discretionary grant opportunity created in 2009. If the Indiana Department of Transportation is awarded a TIGER grant for the overpass on the city's west side, the federal government will pay 80 percent of the costs, Hayward told the Bartholomew County commissioners Monday. But to his knowledge, the only TIGER grant ever awarded to Indiana was \$27.5 million to construct the Cultural Trail in downtown Indianapolis, the city engineer said. The other potential funding source is the new Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) program, Hayward said. INFRA-funded projects provide innovative safety solutions for projects determined to be in line with national and regional economic vitality goals, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation website. Although an INFRA grant would pick up 60 percent of the tab, less than a TIGER grant, it has more available money for more projects than the TIGER program, he said.

http://www.therepublic.com/2017/10/11/funds_sought_to_fuel_project/

City Council approves \$10.8 million budget

Times Herald Mike Grant
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The Washington City Council made quick work of the budget at Tuesday night's meeting. Without comment, the council passed the \$10,823,203 budget on final reading on a 4-0 vote. Mayor Joe Wellman and councilmen Mike Singleton, Allen Brown and Blake Chambers were absent from the meeting. Councilman Jerry Sidebottom presided over the budget passage. He pointed out the city council members have been working on the document for quite some time. "The mayor and department heads put it together," said Sidebottom. "We look at it and go through it and spend a lot of hours on it." Even though the total budget is \$10.8 million, the amount being raised by the tax levy is anticipated to be \$4,725,632. The city expects to lose around \$1 million due to the tax caps. The advertised rate will be \$2.1444 per \$100 of assessed property valuation. "Most of this is built on what we expect to happen," said Washington City Clerk-Treasurer Mary Beth McGookey. "We advertise high just to be safe." The final tax rate and budget numbers will

depend upon the assessed value of property tax in the city and that still needs approval from the state. One thing the city will have in 2018 will be more money in its street funds. More than \$1.68 million is in the motor vehicle highway fund reflecting some of the increases the city has received from the state increase in the gas tax. "The budget also includes the money from the special LOIT (Local Option Income Tax) appropriation we received that has not been spent yet," said McGookey. "There are the Community Crossing projects in there."

http://www.washtimesherald.com/news/local_news/city-council-approves-million-budget/article_713251dd-10bb-58dd-bb69-2c004d106ca8.html

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