



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

**December 7, 2017**

### **Tribune-Star Editorial: Keeping an open mind on tolling**

12/7/17

Any time Gov. Eric Holcomb stops in Terre Haute or west-central Indiana these days, you can be sure Interstate 70 will be among topics he's asked about. What's good about the conversation that will follow those questions is that real action has occurred since the governor took office in January that will bolster the state's fragile infrastructure in coming years. A raise in the gas tax will give the state a jump start in fixing roads and bridges and maintaining the work that gets done. But those funds won't sustain Indiana's needs in the long run. A more consistent and reliable funding stream will be necessary to add lanes to major interstates such as I-70 in order to make them safer and more useful as national thoroughfares. Long-term funding concerns fueled the need for alternatives, and tolling is an option that the state is studying aggressively. Understandably, that will bring pushback from those who live along or near I-70, or who use the major highway routinely. The idea of toll plazas dotting the I-70 landscape across the Hoosier state is not a pleasant one for Hoosier highway travelers. But they would be wise to reserve judgment until the concept is fully studied and a strategic plan is unveiled late next year. During an appearance in Terre Haute last week at a Chamber of Commerce event, Gov. Holcomb insisted that no decisions have been made, and he pledged a "thoughtful, data-driven process" would be followed to determine whether tolls should be implemented and lanes added to I-70. An initial feasibility study was recently completed suggesting that a tolling rate of 4 cents per mile per vehicle on most interstates might be necessary to meet Indiana's transportation infrastructure needs in the future. [http://www.tribstar.com/opinion/editorials/tribune-star-editorial-keeping-on-open-mind-on-tolling/article\\_a3d7f852-dad4-11e7-821d-cb681155a8f9.html](http://www.tribstar.com/opinion/editorials/tribune-star-editorial-keeping-on-open-mind-on-tolling/article_a3d7f852-dad4-11e7-821d-cb681155a8f9.html)

### **Griffith OKs funds for Arbogast Street repairs**

Post-Tribune  
Michelle L. Quinn  
12/6/17

Driving in the town of Griffith will continue to be smooth courtesy of an Indiana Department of Transportation grant. The Town Council, on Tuesday, voted 5-0 to accept a 2018 Community Crossings grant for local roads and bridges. The grant is a 50/50 match that will net the town an additional \$616,500 to continue with road repair, including sewer and curbs. Council President Rick Ryfa, R-3rd, said Arbogast Street will receive the lion's share of the grant, and most of the rest will go toward streets on the north side of town. The grant will continue roadwork that has been going on for the last few years. "Our goal is to keep up all the roads," Ryfa said. "With this grant, we'll be close to having 100 percent of all the roads in town redone. Public Works has done a great job." <http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/news/ct-ptb-griffith-council-st-1207-20171206-story.html>

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