



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

May 2, 2017

Editorial: Did road plan really require new taxes?

News Sentinel

5/2/17

The good news is that Indiana now has a comprehensive, 20-year infrastructure plan. No longer will legislators have to scramble each year to find the funding for stopgap road and bridge repairs. The bad news is that it will cost us. Starting in July, our gas taxes will go up 10 cents a gallon. Also, we will pay a new \$15 auto registration fee. Hybrids will have a \$50 fee and electric cars a \$150 fee. And somewhere down the line, the governor might get to designate one or more interstates as a toll road. Could it have been done any other way? Alas, yes. Indiana's default position, when funding is needed for this or that project or emergency, seems to be, "How can we raise new money?" If this were truly the conservative state it is reputed to be, the default should more properly be, "How can we change our spending priorities to find the funding within existing revenues?" Indiana's just-approved two-year budget is for \$32.36 billion. That works out to \$16.18 billion a year. The comprehensive infrastructure plan calls for \$870 million a year in "new" money toward a \$1.2 billion-a-year effort. By our rough calculation, that's about 5.4 percent of the budget. In a yearly budget of \$16.18 billion, state officials couldn't find 5.4 percent to move to an infrastructure program? Let's say, just for argument's sake, that is true. They couldn't find, say, 2.7 percent to offset half the cost? How about 2 percent? Or 1 percent? But that would require a different mindset than the one prevailing in government today. Consider this headline, from a story about President Trump's preliminary tax proposal: "Trump's tax plan could cost the government \$6 trillion." Yes, it could "cost" the government. That headline was in Newsweek, but you could have found it in lots of places. The idea is that the money belongs to the government and it allows us to keep some of it out of the goodness of its heart. A more honest headline would have said, "Trump's tax plan could save taxpayers \$6 trillion." And just to make the discussion complete: Indiana's two-year budget leaves a \$1.9 billion surplus in the pot. Half of that would have paid for more than half of the first two years of the infrastructure project. Just saying. http://www.news-sentinel.com/opinion/20170502/editorial_did_road_plan_really_require_new_taxes

Ground Broken on I-65 Expansion

Inside Indiana Business

Alex Brown

4/28/17

Lowell - Governor Eric Holcomb helped break ground Friday on the \$62 million I-65 expansion in northwest Indiana. Pre-construction work on the project, which covers a 13-mile stretch in Newton and Lake counties, is underway, with the main construction work scheduled to begin in June. The Indiana Department of Transportation says the project, which is part of the Major Moves 2020

initiative, will improve traffic flow and add capacity. The project will run between State Road 2 and U.S.30. "Projects like this I-65 expansion in Lake and Newton counties do more than ease morning commutes; they help our state move at the speed of our 21st century economy," said Holcomb. "With a new long-term plan to fund transportation, Indiana can pursue more investments in our roads, bridges and other infrastructure to improve the lives of Hoosiers and make our state a jobs magnet." The project includes constructing a new shoulder and restriping the existing lanes from U.S. 231 to just south of U.S. 30. Additionally, the outside shoulder and existing lanes will be resurfaced with a third lane and inside shoulder being constructed just south of State Road 2 to U.S. 231. INDOT will also replace the dual northbound and southbound bridges over the Kankakee River. Rehab and resurfacing work will also be done on various other bridges throughout the stretch of interstate. State Representative Ed Soliday (R-4) and INDOT Commissioner Joe McGuinness were also on hand for the groundbreaking ceremony. McGuinness says, "Adding new travel lanes and upgrading existing infrastructure on I-65 in northwest Indiana will greatly improve the user experience for motorists who travel this busy corridor." <http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/35280485/ground-broken-on-i-65-expansion>

Holcomb Signs Road Funding Bill, Declaring It Will "Transform" Indiana

WIBC

Eric Berman

4/27/17

It's official now: Governor Holcomb has signed a long-term road funding plan into law. With dozens of Republican legislators looking on, Holcomb proclaimed the plan earmarking new gas taxes and BMV fees for roads gives Indiana a financial and infrastructure advantage few states can match. He notes the bill is projected to pay for road projects for twice as long as even Governor Mitch Daniels' landmark "Major Moves" program. He says locking in funding for a projected 20 years will "transform" the state, and make it an economic destination for the world. Holcomb also signed the new two-year state budget, and says the spending plan represents a parallel step toward the same goal. He notes the plan includes incentive money he requested to persuade airlines to begin direct flights from Indy to London, and from smaller Indiana airports to key business destinations. A 10-cent gas tax increase takes effect July 1, the first day of Indiana's fiscal year. Holcomb declares roadwork will begin the same day. New fees to register your vehicle at the BMV won't kick in until January. And the earmarking of gasoline sales taxes for roads will be a gradual process which won't even start for two more years, and then will be phased in over four more. <http://www.wibc.com/news/local-news/holcomb-signs-road-funding-bill-declaring-it-will-transform-indiana> Also, <http://www.theindychannel.com/news/politics/gov-holcomb-signs-budget-road-funding-bills-into-law> Also, <http://www.indystar.com/story/news/politics/2017/04/27/holcomb-sign-gas-tax-increase/100971286/>

City breaks ground on new road off of Highway 62

News and Tribune

Danielle Grady

4/27/17

JEFFERSONVILLE - The city of Jeffersonville broke ground today on a new road off of Indiana 62 that's integral to a future 70-acre commercial development. The \$4 million Gottbrath Parkway, funded and built by the city, will be located between I-265 and Utica Sellersburg Road, according to a news release. The road, named for the Gottbrath family farm, will start at a lighted intersection and extend southeast, crossing New Chapel Road and eventually connecting to Utica Sellersburg Road. Gottbrath Parkway, which will feature new lighting, landscaping and sidewalks, will run through Bridgepointe Commons, a development that will include four hotels, a medical campus, restaurants, senior housing, a cinema and other retail. The large commercial campus is being developed by Denton Floyd Real Estate Group. Brandon Denton, co-owner of the

company, said in a previous interview with the News and Tribune that Bridgepointe Commons would not be possible without the creation of Gottbrath Parkway. The road's first phase will cost the city \$2 million and will extend just past New Chapel Road. It will take seven months to construct. The second phase is expected to start construction next year and be finished by the end of 2018. From Ind.62 to New Chapel Road, Gottbrath Parkway will include four lanes plus a two-way turn lane. After New Chapel Road, the street will feature two lanes plus a left turn lane. Gottbrath Parkway will also include a curb and gutter, as well as a storm and sanitary sewer. Mayor Mike Moore has told the News and Tribune that the road will stop drivers from cutting through the Steeple Chase neighborhood, as well as spur economic growth in the area. The news release said the road is also expected to relieve traffic congestion on Utica Sellersburg Road at the intersection of Ind. 62. http://www.newsandtribune.com/news/city-breaks-ground-on-new-road-off-of-highway/article_16dcf53c-2b94-11e7-8d37-97c025f5fa9c.html

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