



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **May 11, 2017**

#### **Daniels: Investment in Hoosier infrastructure a priority**

Indianapolis Star  
Mitch Daniels  
5/10/17

An outbreak of amnesia seems to have descended on our western suburbs. Within a week, two letters of stunning inaccuracy have appeared in the IndyStar, one "wondering" where the money from the 2006 Indiana Toll Road lease went, the next saying that "it should have gone to road construction." I don't know what state or planet these gentlemen inhabited the last decade, but that's exactly where the lease proceeds went, all of it. That was the whole idea of the transaction, and as governor I insisted at every step that every cent had to go into Indiana's long-term future through investments in infrastructure. From 2006-16, the state highway budget virtually doubled. A construction budget that had averaged \$700 million per year shot up to over \$1 billion every year, peaking around \$1.5 billion. Almost one third of the state's bridges, 1,400 in all, were rebuilt or replaced, and half the existing highway lane miles resurfaced. By the way, this all happened without a penny of new taxes or borrowing, and while the Toll Road itself was dramatically upgraded. If, from their perches in prosperous Zionsville and Plainfield, the authors somehow failed to notice all that repair work, it's a mystery how they overlooked all the new mega-projects, promised for years but never delivered: the no-stop U.S. 31 to South Bend, the Hoosier Heartland Corridor across North Central Indiana, two new Ohio River Bridges in the Southeast, the Fort-to-Port Highway at Fort Wayne, I-69 to Evansville, and more than 100 others. It was the biggest building program in state history, and the biggest by any state in the country during that time. In 2016, CNBC named Indiana's the No.1 infrastructure in the nation. <http://www.indystar.com/story/opinion/2017/05/10/daniels-investment-hoosier-infrastructure-priority/314711001/>

#### **Public to get say on county road plan**

Times Herald  
Mike Grant  
5/10/17

The Daviess County Highway Department has a five-year, \$5 million road improvement plan, but that plan will be vetted by the public before it is put into place. The plan was prepared by Daviess County Highway Department Supervisor Phil Cornelius, who says the county wants to give the public a chance to look at it and make suggestions. "We have selected roads strictly off of data," said Cornelius. "We know data is a good way to start with a plan, but we need to get public input and get ideas outside of our realm so that we get the best plan possible." "We have 550 miles of gravel roads, and we're tired of being number one in gravel roads in the state," added President of the County Commissioners Nathan Gabhart. "This is the beginning phase of our strategy. You take the ideas and discussion and create a general strategy and then take it to the public to get

their feedback." The plan includes 25 potential paving projects throughout the county ranked on current traffic counts. CR 400N between CR 650E and CR 700E is at the top of the list. CR 200N from CR 650E to CR 900E also is near the top of the projects. Another potential project is CR 1000E from CR 800N to CR 875N. "This is not set in stone," said Cornelius. "It's a five-year plan and we want to sort it out over the summer. We're going to have four public meetings at various locations around the county and maybe combine some of those with the regular commissioners meetings." Officials point out this year is one which requires some extra flexibility. The state has just passed a new law expected to significantly increase the amount of money local governments will have to improve roads. [http://www.washtimesherald.com/news/local\\_news/public-to-get-say-on-county-road-plan/article\\_614af27f-c9c9-5a01-b1c2-e5b84bda2b24.html](http://www.washtimesherald.com/news/local_news/public-to-get-say-on-county-road-plan/article_614af27f-c9c9-5a01-b1c2-e5b84bda2b24.html)

### **\$1.6B transportation plan moves to full commission**

NWI Times

Andrew Steele

5/9/17

PORTAGE - The biggest four-year transportation plan in Region history will be up for adoption next week by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission. The commission's planning committee approved it Tuesday. The 2018-21 Transportation Improvement Program lists about 650 potential projects with a total estimated cost of almost \$1.6 billion, NIRPC Transportation Projects Manager Gary Evers told the Technical Planning Committee. "This is the biggest TIP we've ever done. This is the big kahuna," Evers said. Major projects in the TIP - the document listing planned projects that will receive federal funding - include the Northern Indiana Transportation District's Double Track and West Lake Corridor projects. A variety of other potential South Shore Line projects in the TIP include work at each end of the commuter rail line - addition of a track at Millennium Station in Chicago, and a new station at the South Bend International Airport. Other notable projects in the TIP include two sponsored by the National Park Service, Evers said. The NPS plans intersection improvements on County Line Road and replacing a pedestrian bridge to the Paul Douglas Center in Miller. Among a long list of Indiana Department of Transportation-sponsored plans are the addition of turning lanes on U.S. 20 in Michigan City in the area of Evergreen Plaza, and on U.S. 41 in St. John from just north of Lake Central High School to 77th Avenue. [http://www.nwitimes.com/business/local/b-transportation-plan-moves-to-full-commission/article\\_53ef8060-05f9-55b6-ae3c-be9f81039774.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/business/local/b-transportation-plan-moves-to-full-commission/article_53ef8060-05f9-55b6-ae3c-be9f81039774.html)