



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **May 18, 2017**

#### **Commissioners seek state funds for bridge improvements**

The Shelbyville News  
John Walker  
5/17/17

Matching funds are a go to help the Shelby County Commissioners secure state funding for two key bridge projects. The Shelby County Council has approved about \$340,000 in matching funds to get state money for the bridges through the state's Community Crossroads initiative. Begun in 2016, the program offers funds to cities and towns for road and bridge projects to boost jobs and economic development. Mike Obergfell of USI Consultants Inc., the commissioners' engineering advisor, told the council Tuesday evening some good news. "Shelby County will fall under the 75-25 rather than the 50-50," he said, meaning the state will provide 75 percent of the projects' cost if the county pays 25 percent in matching funds. The money will go toward two bridges on the commissioners' 2017-2018 Bridge Improvement Plan. Bridge #501 spans the Little Blue River on Morris Avenue near Forest Hill Cemetery, the site of the old Walkerville covered bridge. That bridge is also a part of the city's planned bike-pedestrian trail. "I've actually been talking with Matt House," Obergfell said, referring to the city's engineer who's working on the planned trail. The other bridge targeted for improvements under the Community Crossings program is Bridge #502 which is on Amos Road and spans the rail line near the Crestmoor subdivision. Amos Road is also on the city's agenda for bike-pedestrian improvements. The total estimated cost of the two bridge projects is \$1.51 million, and the County Council approved about \$340,000 for the match, noting that the final costs may vary from the estimates. [http://www.shelbynews.com/news/article\\_d0d92410-c018-5dd0-9085-09347e060b55.html](http://www.shelbynews.com/news/article_d0d92410-c018-5dd0-9085-09347e060b55.html)

#### **INDOT Hosting Meetings For Local Road Funding Options**

Indiana Public Media  
James Vavrek  
5/16/17

More money is being allocated to local roads, but how that money will be distributed and in what amounts is still up in the air. An infrastructure bill lawmakers approved this session funnels hundreds of millions into the state's roads and bridges. The Indiana Department of Transportation is hosting a series of meetings across the state for city and county officials to learn about what kind of projects will be eligible for funding and how to apply. INDOT Grant Administrator Kathy Eaton-McKalip says the agency will give priority to projects that can make a big impact. "The projects are all scored based upon the need, the quality, whether they are regionally significant and help with economic development," Eaton-McKalip says. Applications that focus on the utilitarian development of roads will be considered more over cosmetic projects. The money approved this session is in addition to INDOT's existing matching funds program and the agency's federal aid program. McKalip's goal is to have every local community see some form of aid. Applications are due between June 5 and July 14. Preliminary awards for funded projects will be announced at the end of August. <https://indianapublicmedia.org/news/indot-hosting-meetings-local-officials-plan-road-funding-120025/>

#### **County plans repair season: 29 miles targeted for fixes pending grant from state**

The Republic  
Mark Webber  
5/16/17

Bartholomew County government leaders plan to put a new layer of asphalt on 29 miles of rural roads this year, 5 miles fewer than last year's record-setting distance. But if state officials don't approve a matching grant late this summer, the county will instead blacktop about 17 miles of roads during the annual overlay project, Bartholomew County Highway engineer Danny Hollander said. While bids for this year's 44 separate projects are scheduled to be opened May 30, contractors are traditionally given the entire construction season to get the work done as their schedule allows, Hollander said. Most contractors submit lower-than-normal bids with that stipulation, which allows them to complete more lucrative private or corporate contracts first, Hollander said. The Bartholomew County Highway Department has a preliminary goal of performing chip-and-seal repairs to an additional 90 miles of roads, Hollander said. "But we probably won't be able to do all of those, either, due to time and money constraints," the highway engineer said. It costs almost four times more to put down new blacktop than it does to make chip-and-seal repairs, but the chip-and-seal process is messier and far less popular, commissioners chairman Carl Lienhoop said. The decision of which sections of deteriorating roads receive the much-preferred blacktop rests largely with Bartholomew County Highway superintendent Dwight Smith, who makes determinations after inspecting all 700-plus miles of county roads in late March and early April. This year's big project involves spending about \$200,000 from regular highway funds to smooth out curves along Lowell Road, Smith said. [http://www.therepublic.com/2017/05/17/bartholomew\\_county\\_targets\\_roads\\_for\\_repairs\\_during\\_construction\\_season/](http://www.therepublic.com/2017/05/17/bartholomew_county_targets_roads_for_repairs_during_construction_season/)

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