



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

January 31, 2013

Indiana legislators hear pleas for increased funding for transportation budget

Evansville Courier & Press

1/30/13

INDIANAPOLIS — More patching and less paving. Fewer upgrades to key thoroughfares. No money to fix worn-out bridges. That's the grim picture that local officials from around Indiana painted for state legislators during a House Ways and Means Committee hearing Wednesday. They urged lawmakers to pump more money into transportation as they write a new two-year spending plan. The panel was considering three measures that would combine to infuse more than \$400 million into roads budgets — a move that would carry political consequences, since it would lessen the amount available for education and for Gov. Mike Pence's proposed income tax cut. Lawmakers who are pushing for extra transportation funding said it's a priority that they can't ignore. "We're coming to a point where that's becoming critical, and we don't want to get to a place where it becomes debilitating," said House Transportation chairman Ed Soliday, a Valparaiso Republican who is carrying one of the bills. Of the bills considered by the committee Wednesday, the biggest chunk — \$286 million — would come from setting aside half of the revenue collected by sales tax on gasoline purchases for transportation. Up to another \$144 million a year could come from pulling the Indiana State Police, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Revenue out of the list of recipients of shares of Indiana's 18-cents-a-gallon gas tax and devoting that money entirely to roads — a change the other two bills move toward. That extra cash would be split between the Indiana Department of Transportation, which says it needs \$200 million more a year, and counties, cities and towns. "To be the 'Crossroads of America,' we're going to have to make a continued and sustained investment in infrastructure, and I think this is an appropriate way to do it," said Rep. Todd Huston, R-Fishers. [Indiana legislators hear pleas for increased funding for transportation budget » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

Bill would preserve federal transportation money for the state

Post-Tribune

1/30/13

INDIANAPOLIS — The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration threatens to restrict \$40.4 million in federal highway funds for the state not being in compliance with federal mandates on drunken driving, even though the state met federal compliance in 2005 when it passed the laws. According to the NHTSA, Indiana is not strict enough on regulating where open containers can be in motor vehicles and falls short of requiring public service hours for drunken driving sentences. A bill passed Wednesday in the House Roads and Transportation Committee, authored by Rep. Ben Smaltz, R-Auburn, would change the state law to specify that the open container law may have exemptions if the passenger is in a transport vehicle, such as a limousine or an RV where the passenger space is separate from the driver's. The bill would also increase the number of per-day community service hours from six hours to eight hours. The funding represents about 5

percent of the \$807 million in transportation money Indiana receives from Washington. While that money wouldn't be taken away, it would be placed in a federal safety program that comes with more restrictions. Projects would require federal approval before the Indiana Department of Transportation could use the funds. Will Wingfield of INDOT said that could affect next year's transportation budget. What puzzles INDOT and Rep. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso, is seven years ago the state passed the standards asked, but now NHTSA has changed the standards. "The feds came to us," Soliday said. "So the people who were here before me gave them exactly what they wanted. Then around October, they came to us and said, 'You know that thing we said we liked? We don't like it anymore.'" Soliday expects the bill will pass with ease. [Bill would preserve federal transportation money for the state - Post-Tribune](#)

Changes coming to Sagamore Parkway?

WLF1

1/30/13

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLF1) - Sagamore Parkway is one of the most heavily traveled roads within Greater Lafayette, and it may be undergoing major changes. West Lafayette city engineers aren't ready to start construction anytime soon, but several ideas have already been developed to stay ahead of any changes that need to be made. A corridor study was conducted to make sure the main stretch of highway can handle the stress of the growing city. "52 out of West Lafayette and on out to Klondike is what this corridor study looked at," West Lafayette City Engineer Dave Buck said. "That area is evolving. As 231 gets completed and open, that's going to continue to change how transportation uses 52 to get to where they're going and where they're coming from." Buck said his department will monitor how the opening of the 231 bypass will change traffic volume on Sagamore Parkway. If 231 removes some of the volume, only minor changes may need to be made. If not, several ideas and plans are already in place. "They came up with some concept drawings later of adding lanes," Buck said. "One of the concepts was to make it six lanes." The study also accounted for the effects other construction projects will have on Sagamore Parkway's traffic volume, including the expansion of Cumberland Avenue. [Changes coming to Sagamore Parkway? | WLF1 - West Lafayette, Indiana](#)

Bill on mass transport system for Hamilton, Marion advances

Courier-Journal

1/31/13

INDIANAPOLIS – Central Indiana is a step closer to a mass transport system connecting Hamilton and Marion counties. The Indiana House Roads and Transportation Committee voted 11-1 for Rep. Jerry Torr's bill, which would authorize a public referendum on whether to raise taxes to pay for a \$1.3 billion expansion of public transportation systems. "We are pleased with the bipartisan support from the House committee members who understand the importance of having a world-class transit system in Central Indiana," said Ron Gifford, executive director of Indy Connect Now. "We are grateful for the numerous organizations, businesses, local elected officials, community leaders as well as the public who came to the Statehouse at last week's committee hearing to voice their support." The total cost includes about \$668 million to expand the IndyGo bus service in Indianapolis to Hamilton County along with about \$625 million on a light-rail line connecting downtown Indianapolis to Noblesville. Torr, R-Carmel, said the mass transport system would help businesses get their employees to work. Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard supports the bill and said it will be good for local and state economic development. He also said the mass transport system will attract businesses to Indianapolis. [Bill on mass transport system for Hamilton, Marion advances | The Courier-Journal | courier-journal.com](#) Also, [Indiana legislature: Transit measure OK'd by House panel | Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#), [House committee backs mass transit funding referendum | 2013-01-30 | Indianapolis Business Journal | IBJ.com](#)

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