



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

February 7, 2013

State probes INDOT official's I-69 land deal

The Journal Gazette

2/5/13

INDIANAPOLIS – Gov. Mike Pence is directing his top ethics cop to thoroughly investigate Indiana's purchase of land owned by a state transportation official and his family as part of the expansion of Interstate 69. The move follows an investigation by The Indianapolis Star that indicated Troy Woodruff, chief of staff for the Indiana Department of Transportation, failed to inform the state that he had sold land as part of the I-69 expansion. The Star also found six land deals that netted \$1.8 million for Woodruff's uncle and cousins, who then bought land from Woodruff and his immediate family for more than market value. Woodruff, who oversaw 500 employees at the INDOT district through which I-69 passed, denies any wrongdoing and says a 2010 report by the inspector general, the state's top ethics policeman, cleared him in the deal. "I had no involvement whatsoever with property purchases on I-69 other than the parcel I owned with my brother and father," said Woodruff, a former state representative. In a story published Tuesday in the Star, Pence spokeswoman Christy Denault said the governor asked his general counsel to contact the inspector general's office "to make certain that the latest allegations are being thoroughly investigated." Inspector General David Thomas had investigated Woodruff's sale of about three acres in Daviess County to the state and cleared him of wrongdoing, but legal and ethics experts who reviewed his report were troubled by his legal reasoning and questioned how thorough the investigation was. "This whole thing smells to high heaven," said Julia Vaughn of Common Cause Indiana. [State probes INDOT official's I-69 land deal | The Journal Gazette](#)

In Goshen, U.S. 33 route plans to be finalized this summer

The Elkhart Truth

2/6/13

GOSHEN — Plans for the new U.S. 33 route are coming into focus and a final decision on plans is expected this summer. Goshen city engineer Mary Cripe said the Indiana Department of Transportation is reviewing two options, but is leaning towards one in particular after many discussions with the city. The original project entailed working on the existing alignment of U.S. 33 and adding an underpass on Madison Street below the railroad tracks near Eighth Street. The north and south ends of Eighth Street would then be rounded off into cul-de-sacs to accommodate for the underpass. The city found several issues with that proposal, however, noting that U.S. 33 would still be routed through the heart of the downtown district and the lack of an intersection at Eighth Street would significantly impact north-south traffic flow. Other concerns included the safety of children walking to school with no safe way to cross U.S. 33, major construction impacts to traffic flow on U.S. 33 itself and major railroad work required for the underpass. Cripe was pleased that INDOT took seriously the city's concerns about the original plan. "INDOT listened and worked with the community," she explained, adding that the

department had been quite easy to work with. [In Goshen, U.S. 33 route plans to be finalized this summer](#)

Indiana Clergy Lobbies For Mass Transit

WIBC

2/7/13

A group of Indiana clergy members is urging state lawmakers to let voters decide the fate of mass transit. Dozens of ministers from more than 17 faiths gathered at the Statehouse Thursday. They're part of the group called IndyCAN or Indianapolis Congregation Action Network. They say mass transit is an important economic issue for Central Indiana and will determine future growth for the region. Rev. Charles Henderson says many low-income Hoosiers need more viable ways to get to job locations. Henderson says boosting job opportunities for these people will help grow Indiana's overall economy. The group has launched what they call 40 Days of Prophetic Witness to advance the mass transit cause.

[Indiana Clergy Lobbies For Mass Transit | Indy's News Center - 93.1 WIBC Indianapolis - Live. Local. First.](#)

Karickhoff bill would create new county excise tax

Kokomo Perspective

2/7/13

Indiana state representative Mike Karickhoff has introduced a bill with three other sponsors, which, if adopted, would impose a new tax to fund highway costs and maintenance. House Bill 1117 is a county excise surtax and wheel tax. It permits a county income tax council to impose a motor vehicle excise surtax and a wheel tax for a county. The current law permits only the county council to impose these taxes. The bill specifies that the body that initially imposes the excise surtax and wheel tax is the body that is empowered to increase, decrease, or rescind the excise surtax and wheel tax. The surtax and wheel tax must be adopted together, the bill states. The bill also would permit the county income tax council to adopt the surtax and wheel tax. If the bill is voted in, it would be enacted on June 1, 2013. "We have to find ways to make dollars available to locals," Karickhoff said of the bill. "The people in Indianapolis are not going to solve problems for the locals. I'm trying to help Kokomo." The bill has been filed, but has not been voted on yet. Karickhoff said it would be about two weeks before it goes to committee for discussion. House Bill 1117 would help Howard County in that some income tax money would be available for the people who live here. Karickhoff said there have been many ideas tossed around on ways to help bring in more money for highway funding. [Karickhoff bill would create new county excise tax - Kokomo Perspective: News](#)

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