



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **February 14, 2013**

#### **Veterans Memorial Parkway slated for more improvements**

Journal and Courier

2/12/13

The orange cones of progress will once again appear on Veterans Memorial Parkway in Lafayette. This year, construction crews will be working on the segment between Concord Road and U.S. 52. "We will widen Veterans Memorial Parkway from two to four lanes there," said Jenny Leshney, city engineer. "On the south side of the road, we will build a new section of trail to connect with where we left off in front of Walmart." The new, multiuse path will stretch 9,800 feet, from Osborne Lane to U.S. 52. The project also will include street lighting and sidewalk construction on Concord Road. More than 16,000 vehicles travel between South Ninth and Concord Road each day. The work will be done under traffic — meaning drivers will have to navigate through narrow lanes while crews are working on the road. Bids will be opened in March. Construction is expected to start in April and end by October. Economic development income tax revenue, tax increment financing and cumulative capital funds will pay for the project. In 2009, the city widened the road to four lanes between South Ninth Street and Concord Road. On the east side of Lafayette, the city is planning to extend water and sewer lines to residents who have been on septic systems for at least 50 years. [Veterans Memorial Parkway slated for more improvements | Journal and Courier | jconline.com](#)

#### **Electric car drivers could pay gas tax**

WISH TV

2/13/13

INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) - Owning a hybrid, electric, or alternative fuel car may save some Hoosiers money at the pump, but if some state lawmakers have their way, you will be taxed each year for owning a clean energy vehicle. State Lawmaker Randy Frye wants Hoosiers to consider clean energy vehicles. He supports the use of natural gas as a motor fuel. Along with the push to go green, Frye says there is a necessity to create a new tax. "All of us need good roads and we have to pay for those roads one way or another. Unfortunately, that is a tax," said Frye, a Republican who represents Indiana District 67. The problem Indiana is facing is each time you fill up your gasoline tank, 16 cents of every dollar pays for road repairs and improvements. As more and more people switch over to hybrid, electric, and alternative fuel cars, the money the state receives from sales at the gasoline pump gets smaller and smaller. State Representative Frye of Greensburg authored a bill that requires owners of alternative fuel vehicles to pay a road use tax. He expects electric and hybrid cars will be added to the bill. "What we are trying to accomplish here is no matter what vehicle you are using, the tax is the same," said Frye. Electric car owner Keith Payne hadn't heard about the proposed tax. He and his wife recently purchased a Nissan Leaf which gets between 80 and 100 miles to the gallon. Payne likes the idea of cutting back on gasoline dependency and understands the dilemma the state is facing when it comes to

diminishing tax revenues at the pump. But he questions if now is the time to start taxing car owners like him. "I think it may be a little bit early figuring out we need to tax it because we don't know what may happen in the next five years," said Payne. One State Senator suggests charging "plug-in" car owners a road impact fee of \$100 a year. [Electric car drivers could pay gas tax](#)

### **Committee Passes Mass Transit Bill**

Inside INdiana Business

2/13/13

Indianapolis, Ind. -- While hundreds of Hoosiers gathered at the Indiana Statehouse today to participate in a "Transit Day" rally, the Indiana House Ways and Means Committee voted 20-2 in favor of House Bill 1011, which seeks a public referendum for voters to decide on future funding of mass transit in central Indiana. "Having the support from members of the House Ways and Means Committee is crucial to this debate on the sustainability of expanded mass transit in central Indiana," said Ron Gifford, executive director, Indy Connect Now. "Fiscal responsibility was one of our top priorities when developing the Indy Connect plan and our financial model is built on conservative assumptions about revenues and expenses. The bipartisan support from committee members today demonstrates that these legislators believe we have presented a credible and sustainable transit plan." HB-1011 was filed by State Representative Jerry Torr (R-Carmel). The bill received nearly unanimous support by the House Roads and Transportation Committee on January 30, voting in favor 11-1. As public support has grown, more than 8,000 Hoosiers have signed petitions, encouraging lawmakers to authorize the referendum to place mass transit on the ballot so local voters can decide on how to fund an expanded mass transit system. A voter referendum is needed to approve local funding in Marion and Hamilton counties before expansion of the system can begin. Completion of the Indy Connect plan is expected by 2025. "The people of central Indiana know what is at stake here, and they're making their voices heard. We urge them to continue to reach out to state lawmakers as the bill now moves to the House floor for final consideration there," said Gifford. Supporters of expanded mass transit are encouraged to visit the Indy Connect Now website, [indyconnectnow.com](http://indyconnectnow.com), and sign a petition that will be shared with state lawmakers. [Committee Passes Mass Transit Bill - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#) Also, [Mass-transit measure passes key House hurdle | 2013-02-13 | Indianapolis Business Journal | IBJ.com](#)

### **House expected to vote on mass transit expansion next week**

FOX 59 News

2/13/13

A bill to expand mass transit in Central Indiana cleared another critical hurdle—and will move to the full House. The House Ways and Means Committee passed House Bill 1011 in a 20-2 vote Wednesday. Late last month, the House Roads and Transportation Committee gave the go-ahead by an 11-1 tally. Wednesday's vote came as supporters organized a rally at the Statehouse. "It's nice to see so much support for it, from citizens, and also our legislators," said Annie Mansfield, who recently moved back to Indianapolis from Chicago, where Mansfield said she enjoyed the city's large public transportation system. "The grassroots support for this issue has been outstanding," said Ron Gifford, executive director of Indy Connect Now. "It demonstrates that there's a real need and desire to have a good transit system in our community." The House could vote on the bill next week. Its path in the Senate may prove more challenging, as lawmakers worry about the cost of the \$1.3 billion plan that has the support of several local officials, including Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard. The proposal would call for referendums next year in Marion and Hamilton counties, where voters would decide whether to authorize a three-tenths of one percent local income tax to pay for the plan. Other counties could opt in later. "It is a significant step for us in Marion County and Central Indiana," said state Rep. Greg Porter, R-Indianapolis. But what about the communities further from town? Some legislators voiced their concerns Wednesday, suggesting the issue should go to the ballot on the township

level, instead of voting county-by-county so that more rural areas would not have to be included in the tax. “I understand their point that people in farther ends of those counties, in more rural areas, would be less likely to use it and wouldn’t benefit from it as much,” said the bill’s author, Rep. Jerry Torr, R-Carmel. “(But) we believe everyone in Central Indiana will benefit from this.” Ballard has said that expanding mass transit around Central Indiana is the next step in making Indianapolis more attractive to businesses and professionals. The proposal would double bus service, add express bus routes and create corridors for rapid transit such as light rail. Federal money would cover the cost of the system, but not all of it. The local income tax would go to help pay for the state’s share of the expansion. [House expected to vote on mass transit expansion next week | Fox 59 News – fox59.com](#) Also, [RTV6 - Central Indiana Transit Vote Approved Overwhelmingly By House Ways And Means Committee - Local Story](#)

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