



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

March 7, 2013

OUR VIEW: Hoosiers decide transit issue

The Star Press

3/6/13

A mass transit bill now in the Indiana Senate bears watching for its potential impact on Muncie and Delaware County. The Indiana House voted 56-39 last month in favor of House Bill 1011 that would give local communities the means to create better mass transit options through voter referendums. The bill is now in the Senate. While the bill does not “create” anything related to mass transit, it puts in place a mechanism to fund a 10-year, \$1.3 billion expansion of Indianapolis’ bus system, IndyGo, and possibly a light rail system connecting Noblesville to downtown Indianapolis. Marion and Hamilton counties could vote in 2014. Other counties, including Delaware, could decide at a later date. Probably much later for Delaware because the county would be at “the end of the line” for an enhanced bus or rail service. The government entity to make that funding decision here would be the Delaware County Option Income Tax Council, a group consisting of every fiscal body in every city and town in the county, including the county’s fiscal body. However, the majority of the votes belong to Muncie City Council based on population and proportion of votes. Mass transit in central Indiana is virtually invisible. It serves few people in proportion to the total population, yet it is vitally needed to serve as a catalyst for economic development. [OUR VIEW: Hoosiers decide transit issue | The Star Press | thestarpress.com](http://www.thestarpress.com)

Council taps \$1 million in Legacy money

The Journal Gazette

3/6/13

FORT WAYNE – Fort Wayne City Council members revived an idea for spending additional Legacy Fund money Tuesday night, dedicating \$1 million toward neighborhood infrastructure projects. Council members acknowledged that the money – which is to be used for badly needed projects such as streets and sidewalk repairs – is a pittance but approved the proposal unanimously. “I just know the need is great and doing something is better than doing nothing,” said Russ Jehl, R-2nd, who, along with Mitch Harper, R-4th, and John Crawford, R-at large, proposed the measure. The idea was first proposed in December, a week after the council approved spending \$17 million on Legacy projects. It called for spending \$2.1 million on neighborhoods – the entire payment the fund is expected to receive this year – but the council held the measure indefinitely. The Legacy Fund is money from the lease and sale of the city’s old electric utility, City Power & Light. There is about \$47 million on hand; an additional \$28 million will come in over the next 12 years. The fund is meant to pay for “transformative” projects that improve the quality of life in Fort Wayne. Jehl said the measure was taken up Tuesday after the city administration agreed to move up spending on infrastructure in return for lowering the amount coming from Legacy from \$2.1 million to \$1 million. Because of state cuts due to lower gas tax

collections, city officials estimate they are behind about \$70 million on street projects. Council members concede the money won't go far: The recent Lake Avenue "lane diet" project, which reconfigured lanes, improved two traffic signals and repaired areas of concrete, cost \$889,572. [Council taps \\$1 million in Legacy money | The Journal Gazette](#)

County wants state to study widening US 6 in Liberty Township

Chesterton Tribune

3/6/13

The Porter County Commission-ers are sending a clear message to the Indiana Department of Transportation to try to get things moving on widening the state-owned U.S. Hwy. 6 from Ind. 149 in South Haven east to Porter Regional Hospital at the northwest corner of the Ind. 49 bypass and Hwy. 6. On Tuesday, all three County Commissioners voted "yea" to a resolution requesting INDOT conduct a comprehensive traffic study and analysis in preparation for the widening work. Reading from the resolution, Commissioner President John Evans, R-North, said that spikes in traffic along Hwy. 6 have risen from the opening of the new Porter hospital on Aug. 25, 2012. Part of the study will also map out signals and signage to make travel safer, Evans said. INDOT has considered continuing to expand the highway to Ind. 49, since lanes were added from Portage only to Ind. 149, when it could get the funding but so far that day has not arrived. Evans said it is not easy for ambulances coming from Portage that have to cut down from four to two lanes past Ind. 149. "We really would like to see four or five lanes all the way there (to Ind. 49)," said Evans. County Commissioner Nancy Adams, R-Center, mentioned she has had meetings with representatives from INDOT who have said work may not start until 2016 but, if the County and its communities put forward some of their own funds, the work could start sooner.

[County wants state to study widening US 6 in Liberty Township](#)

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