



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **March 21, 2013**

#### **Potholes litter road to tax cut**

Journal-Gazette  
3/20/2013

As Gov. Mike Pence and House Speaker Brian Bosma ramp up their respective campaigns for and against a state income tax cut, Hoosiers should know that the issue is as much about maintaining state highways and local streets as it is about a minor tax cut. While a 10 percent tax cut may sound good, Pence has not made the case that a tax cut of little more than \$3 a week for a typical Hoosier is more important than giving local governments a more reliable income stream to keep up roads and streets. The governor spoke Tuesday at the Statehouse to members of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns. They are mayors and council members who express concerns that reductions in gasoline excise tax revenue and state controls on property taxes have limited their capacity to adequately maintain local roads and streets. The House budget plan would increase financing for local streets and state highways by \$250 million. A Pence tax cut would reduce state revenue by \$750 million. It doesn't seem likely both can occur. Pence says he prefers beefing up money for local roads and state highways by tapping into the state's surplus - which would be, at best, a one-time measure. Bosma and other Republican legislative leaders prefer a plan that redirects the portion of gasoline excise tax revenue that now funds state agencies back to roads. A portion of the separate sales tax on gasoline would also go to roads. Using those two gasoline taxes is more of a long-range approach than Pence's one-time proposal and would allow state transportation officials, county commissioners, mayors and town boards to better plan for road maintenance.

<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20130320/EDIT07/303209989/1021/EDIT>

#### **Potholes: City offers new way to track and view road repair requests**

Indianapolis Star  
Jon Murray  
3/19/2013

Indianapolis has created a new way for the public to keep track of pothole reports by launching a Pothole Viewer website. During the pothole-filling season, roughly March through June, the Department of Public Works sends out 10 to 15 crews each day to fill reported potholes. So far this month, according to a DPW news release, its crews have responded to 929 requests, averaging a turnaround time of less than three days. The new website allows users to view open pothole requests across the city or at a neighborhood level. They also can see chuckholes that have been filled in the last six months, color-coded by response time.

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20130319/news05/303190093/potholes-city-offers-new-way-track-view-road-repair-requests>

## **Mass Transit Bill Moves Forward**

Inside Indiana Business

3/21/2013

The Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee is the next stop for a bill calling for a referendum on mass transit funding in central Indiana. The proposal has been passed by the Local Government Committee, but that discussion was limited to transit policy issues. The cost of expanding mass transit is expected to be more closely examined by the tax and fiscal policy committee. The bill calls for voters in Marion and Hamilton counties to decide if income taxes should be increased to support mass transit expansion. Supporters of the plan regard it as an economic development issue, while opponents are concerned about the cost. Governor Mike Pence says he is concerned about a potential tax increase for some Hoosiers at a time when he's trying to lower income taxes. He also wants to make sure people in other areas of the state don't end up subsidizing a central Indiana project. The bill has already been passed by the House. The plan lost a key supporter this week when Senate Luke Kenley (R-20) was removed as second co-sponsor.

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/newsitem.asp?ID=58532>

## **Projects put on hold because of lack of funds**

WLF1

3/20/2013

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLF1) - Some Tippecanoe County construction will be put on hold due to a lack of federal funds. Senior Transportation Planner Doug Poad presented the list of funds to other county planners Wednesday afternoon. He said the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) cut the greatest group of funds. Poad said the Surface Transportation Program fund was cut from \$4 million to \$3.3 million. The planners agreed to put projects on Lindberg and Soldiers Home roads on hold until they have the appropriate funds. "We decided to keep those on our high priority list so that if we do get additional funds at some future time whether it be in the next year those projects would receive the funds first." Poad said. The earliest the construction was scheduled to begin was 2015.

<http://www.wlfi.com/dpp/news/local/projects-put-on-hold-because-of-lack-of-funds>

## **Road sign project progressing, expected to be complete by November 1**

Greene County Daily World

Nick Schneider

3/20/2013

The Greene County Sign Modernization Project is set to be completed Nov. 1, a consulting engineer told the county commissioners Tuesday. Jason Fee, of the Indianapolis engineering firm of Janssen & Spaans, reported that contractors should be on site no later than April 1 to begin the final phase of the \$917,000 re-signage project, which will display new E-911 addressing names and numbers on all county roads. Fee said work is continuing on some road name revisions, but those changes will be made and ready for the contractor in about two weeks. Project manager Brad Issacs told the commissioners the project will be wrapped up before winter. The project involves approximately 8,000 pieces of signage that will replace and update all of the signs on county roads. The plan started in 2008 when the commissioners signed an agreement with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) to proceed as a participant in the Hazard Elimination Safety (HES) Program. This is a match-funding project using 90 percent reimbursement aid from the Federal Highway Administration and 10 percent local funds.

<http://www.gcdailyworld.com/story/1951688.html>

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