



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **March 27, 2012**

#### **COMMUNITY COMMENT: Suspend sales tax on gas for 3 months**

Evansville Courier & Press

3/22/12

According to the Energy Information Administration, the supply of oil and gasoline is higher today than it was three years ago, when the national average for a gallon of gasoline was just \$1.90. Meanwhile, the demand for oil in the U. S. is at its lowest level since April 1997. So this dilemma certainly cannot be blamed on the citizen who is using less gasoline in order to conserve what little money he has to pay bills.

As we prepare for Memorial Day weekend and a busy driving season, rising prices will have such a terrible effect on Indiana residents for this year that a moratorium will at least lessen the burden on spendable income. We should constantly be fighting to protect the rights and freedoms of our working families. My proposal is one step in that direction. My request, therefore, would be for Gov. Mitch Daniels to declare a moratorium on gasoline sales tax from Memorial Day to Labor Day. [COMMUNITY COMMENT: Suspend sales tax on gas for 3 months » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

#### **INDOT Awards First US 50 Bypass Contract**

Inside Indiana Business

3/23/12

Seymour, Ind. – The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has awarded an \$8.4 million dollar contract to Milestone Contractors of Columbus for the initial construction phase of the US 50 – North Vernon Bypass. Milestone Contractors submitted the lowest bid among three construction companies.

This first section stretches nearly two miles from County Road 400 to just south of County Road 150N/O&M Avenue. Crews will begin clearing the new right of way in April for utility work on this section of the bypass. Bids are scheduled to be opened in May for an additional contract to construct the section from County Road 150 N/O&M Avenue to SR 3. This will also feature bridge replacements of Storm Creek, Mutton Creek, and Branch of Storm Creek on US 50. When completed, the partial bypass will link US 50 on the west side of North Vernon to State Road 3 on the north side of the city. The new roadway is expected to be open to traffic by December 2013.

[INDOT Awards First US 50 Bypass Contract - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

#### **Highway bill becomes House Republican headache**

Evansville Courier & Press

3/23/12

WASHINGTON —A bill that Republican leaders were promoting as the centerpiece of their job-creation agenda has instead turned into one of their biggest headaches, thanks largely to tea party conservatives who want to get the federal government out of transportation programs and hand them over to the states.

The House and Senate are heading toward a showdown next week that could result in a cutoff of federal highway and transit aid to states just as the spring construction season starts. The government's authority to spend money from the trust fund that pays for transportation programs, as well as its power to levy the federal gasoline and diesel taxes that feed the fund, expire on March 31. Democrats estimate as many as 1.8 million jobs supported by those programs are at risk. Neither side wants a shutdown, but House Speaker John Boehner has been unable to recruit enough Republicans to pass the GOP's overhaul of federal highway programs. The biggest group of holdouts are conservatives who want highway programs to be paid for entirely by federal gas and diesel taxes even though that might mean a nearly 40 percent cut in spending because revenue from those taxes has declined. [Highway bill becomes House Republican headache » Evansville Courier & Press](#) Also, [Congress pursues modest agenda amid partisan divisions and election year politics | The Republic](#)

### **ArcelorMittal speaks out on Cline Avenue**

NWI Times  
3/25/12

Steelmaker ArcelorMittal has issued an unequivocal statement calling for INDOT to stick to its original pledge and build new on- and off-ramps for Cline Avenue at Dickey Road. The steelmaker calls it a "critical safety matter." The statement comes as the Indiana Department of Transportation appears to be closing on a deal to have a private investment group build a toll bridge to replace the Cline Avenue Bridge. The bridge failed 2 1/2 years ago. "The decision to not include the ramp system is detrimental to the health and safety of our employees, vendors, contractors and the community members living and traveling through the corridor," an emailed statement from ArcelorMittal spokeswoman Mary Beth Holdford says. Arcelor Mittal issued that statement when The Times inquired about remarks ArcelorMittal USA CEO Michael Rippey made Wednesday before the Congressional Steel Caucus in Washington. He urged lawmakers to make renewed investments in the nation's infrastructure and cited the human and economic costs of failing to do so. [ArcelorMittal speaks out on Cline Avenue](#) Also, [ArcelorMittal, INDOT at odds over span replacement](#)

### **Short-term highway funding bill scrapped**

The Washington Post  
3/26/12

House Republicans dropped plans Monday to vote on a three-month extension of federal highway funding, citing insufficient support for the measure. All federally-funded roadwork is slated to grind to a halt on March 31. If Congress fails to act before then, the federal government cannot collect \$93 million per day in gas taxes, millions of construction jobs could be put at risk and eligible commuters would have to wait longer for a planned boost in employer-paid public transportation subsidies. House Republican leaders planned to hold a vote on the short-term measure Monday evening under a rule that would have required a two-thirds majority vote. But aides said GOP leaders dropped those plans amid sustained opposition from Democrats, who want to vote instead on the two-year \$109 billion transportation bill approved by the Senate two weeks ago. "We are in the midst of bipartisan conversations about a short-term extension of the highway bill," said Michael Steel, a spokesman for House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio). "To facilitate those conversations, the House vote on an extension will occur later this week rather than tonight." [Short-term highway funding bill scrapped - 2chambers - The Washington Post](#)

---

[www.buildindianacouncil.org](http://www.buildindianacouncil.org)