



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

April 25, 2013

INDOT Awards Pair of Contracts

Inside INdiana Business

4/23/13

ANDERSON, Ind. - The Indiana Department of Transportation has confirmed the award of an \$1,149,500 contract to re-deck and refurbish a Madison County bridge west of Anderson. Schutt-Lookabill Company of Indianapolis submitted the lowest of five bids. This Local Public Agency (LPA) project at C.R. 600 West over White River is sponsored by Madison County - with 80 percent funding coming from the Federal Highway Administration. INDOT administers the FHWA funds. Schutt-Lookabill crews will remove and replace the bridge deck, install new bridge rails and perform other repairs - including replacement of several steel beams within the superstructure. The contract allows a 120-day closure of C.R. 600W. The bridge and roadway should reopen by the end of September. [INDOT Awards Pair of Contracts - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

Ballard won't give up on mass transit

WISH TV

4/23/13

INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) - Supporters of a new mass transit system in Central Indiana won't give up, and they got some help Tuesday from Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard. The plan to build a bigger, better bus system is something Mayor Ballard, a Republican, has supported from the beginning. The state Senate voted to send the proposal to a summer study committee but supporters hope to revive plans for a 2014 referendum before lawmakers go home. The plan is based on studies that began in the '70s and the mayor told a conference committee that it's time for action. "That plan has been studied, and studied and studied," said Ballard. "That plan is there." The mayor passed up the opportunity to testify before a state senate committee weeks ago before the transit plan was put on the shelf but he had little choice this time. "We ask you to continue this journey," he said. "We think that mass transit for Central Indiana is so important for the continued economic development." No one at this meeting stood up to speak against the mass transit plan. Among those speaking for it was Westfield Mayor Andy Cook, another Republican, who argued that local officials will take the heat for the tax hike needed to pay for a mass transit system. "We're mostly talking about an enhanced bus system," said Cook, "a bus system that most cities of our size have and take for granted." In the end both mayors abandoned factual arguments to make emotional appeals. "If you miss the bigger picture about having a horrible mass transit system as we do and you don't think that affects talent not coming into the area, I'm sorry I have to disagree," said Ballard. [Ballard won't give up on mass transit](http://www.theindychannel.com/news/politics/indiana-lawmakers-wont-vote-on-bill-to-put-transit-referendum-before-voters) Also, <http://www.theindychannel.com/news/politics/indiana-lawmakers-wont-vote-on-bill-to-put-transit-referendum-before-voters>

INDOT To Hold Road Construction Open Houses Across State

Indiana Public Media

4/24/13

INDOT is getting residents up to speed on major road construction projects this season. The state is holding a series of open houses that began yesterday in Indianapolis with more open houses set across the entire state through May 14. Spokesman Will Wingfield says the state is in the midst of at least \$1 billion in road improvement projects statewide. Wingfield says major projects include the Ohio River Bridges project between Indiana and Louisville, Kentucky along the I-65 corridor, sections of the Hoosier Heartland between Delphi and Logansport, US 31 in Kokomo, I-69 between Bloomington and Crane Naval , and other portions of I-65, I-69 and I-70. [INDOT To Hold Road Construction Open Houses Across State | News - Indiana Public Media](#)

Erika D. Smith: National expert says Indianapolis is on right track, but vital element is missing

Indianapolis Star

4/25/13

These days, there's a lot of talk on what it takes to make a great city. In Indianapolis, there's a seemingly never-ending debate about whether or not we need mass transit — a debate that's still hung up in the Indiana Senate. And there's the ongoing debate about where and what we should invest in next: Improving the infrastructure in long-neglected neighborhoods? More housing projects for Downtown? Soccer and cricket "stadiums"? For perspective, I cornered Lee Fisher, president of CEOs for Cities, before he spoke this week in Downtown Indianapolis. The Ohio native and national expert in urbanist trends was in town to kick off the yearlong Velocity plan. Velocity, in case you forgot, is a strategic planning process led by Indianapolis Downtown Inc. to create a five-year vision for a broader, redefined swath of land called Downtown. Under consideration are ways to drive economic development, make better use of public spaces, improve transportation, increase housing options and add more cultural amenities. (Fisher, by the way, says he "loves" the plan because it calls for getting things done quickly, and because it involves the public, private and nonprofit sectors to accomplish those tasks.) Here's what he had to say about the larger issues of where Indianapolis has been, where it's going and where any major city must go if it wants to remain competitive in the years to come. [Erika D. Smith: National expert says Indianapolis is on right track, but vital element is missing | Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

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