



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

May 1, 2012

Officials expect economic boon from Indiana 2/I-65 interchange upgrade

Post-Tribune
4/26/12

LOWELL — It may have taken 15 years but work is finally under way on \$10.3 million in improvements to Indiana 2 at the Interstate 65 interchange. Gov. Mitch Daniels was on hand Thursday for the official groundbreaking on the project and tout the Major Moves initiative that made possible the work, which has been on the table since 1997. Mark Maassel, president and CEO of the Northwest Indiana Forum, attended the groundbreaking and said infrastructure improvements such as this are essential to economic development through the entire I-65 corridor from Chicago to Indianapolis. "We have to have a strong, clear, competitive advantage," Maassel said, referring to the need to attract the logistics and manufacturing jobs that would create good-paying jobs in the corridor. He said he remembers when the interchange at U.S. 30 and I-65 went in, and the development since has been dramatic. [Officials expect economic boon from Indiana 2/I-65 interchange upgrade - Post-Tribune](#) Also, [Northwest Indiana Road Project Moves Forward - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

How eliminating the gas tax affects you

WTHI
4/27/12

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (WTHI) - Imagine filling up your gas tank without a gas tax. It's an idea proposed by Democratic Governor hopeful John Gregg. But how would that tax cut affect the state budget and Hoosiers? The first thing Hoosiers need to understand is that taking away the gas sales tax doesn't lower the price of gas per gallon significantly, but experts say it can save a fair amount over the course of a year. John Gregg's proposal would be the first permanent gas tax cut in Indiana and he estimates that it would add between 200 and 500 dollars into Hoosier pockets. But, if the gas tax is taken out, it would remove 540 million dollars from the state's general fund. Local legislator Clyde Kersey told News 10 they have to replace this money in the state's budget. He says Gregg's plan calls for an annual budget performance audit to cut redundant or duplicate programs. They speculate that they could raise around 600 million dollars from an audit; but do have a back up plan. [How eliminating the gas tax affects you](#) Also, [John Gregg's gas tax plan has a history | The Courier-Journal | courier-journal.com](#), [One-sided tax equations | The Journal Gazette](#)

Local residents call to stop downtown bridge construction

News and Tribune
4/27/12

JEFFERSONVILLE — Local residents acknowledged the benefit the east-end bridge will provide to the region for the planned Ohio River Bridges Project, but called to stop the construction and the use of tolls on the planned downtown bridge. The Indiana Department of Transportation and the Indiana Finance Authority held a public hearing Thursday night to present and collect comments on an economic impact study released April 16. The economic impact and preliminary feasibility study are required by Indiana statute in order to enter into a public-private agreement, which the state identified as its preferred financing structure for the project. The study was completed by the Boston-based Economic Development Research Group, which reported that the region would add on average 17,796 jobs annually, result in \$27.3 billion in personal income and \$78 billion in economic output for the region. Similar to the first public comment hearing on Indiana's financing plan, the turnout was minimal. More than a dozen members of the public attended the meeting, and of those attending, only seven spoke. But resoundingly, for those who did offer public comments, the message was the same. [Local residents call to stop downtown bridge construction » Clark County » News and Tribune](#)

University Parkway project wrapping up

Evansville Courier & Press

4/29/12

The final phase of the University Parkway project is expected to be finished this week, about two months earlier than the previously-projected and nearly six months earlier than the contract's deadline. "They're just well ahead of schedule," said County Engineer John Stoll about workers for Cynthiana, Ind.-based Blankenberger Brothers, Inc. "They got ahead of schedule by putting extra manpower out there and having good weather to get to this point." The 1.6-mile stretch between Marx and Diamond Avenue cost about \$8.73 million, Stoll said. The current phase is about the same distance as the third phase, but it costs \$8.7 million because it's slightly longer and it required bridge work, Stoll said. Combined, the final two phases cost about \$15 million, and in 2009 local officials received a \$12 million Indiana Department of Transportation grant toward them. The other 20 percent was funded by local revenue sources, including gasoline taxes.

[University Parkway project wrapping up » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

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