



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

May 9, 2013

Valpo eager to try new federal funds swap law

NWI Times

5/8/13

VALPARAISO | The city could be one of the first to try to take advantage of a new state law that allows it to trade federal funds for state dollars to reduce costs and speed up projects. Mike Jabo, of DLZ consultants, outlined the potential of the law for the city's Redevelopment Commission on Wednesday. A lot of questions remain unanswered because the Indiana Department of Transportation still has to set up the guidelines for trading the funds, and the state might not have any money for trading in some years, Jabo said. The law states communities can swap federal Surface Transportation Program grants for state dollars at no less than 75 cents on the dollar. Although that will mean having less money for the community to spend, not having to do a project under federal rules could result in enough savings to make it worthwhile. Jabo said several states have similar laws. In Kansas, communities can trade federal funds granted for a specific project and use the state money for any transportation project they want. The Indiana law restricts the communities to using the state money only on the project for which the federal grant was intended. How INDOT will decide who gets the money is one question not yet answered. Jabo said it could be done on a competitive bidding process in which the community willing to take the lowest trade would get the highest priority. It also might be based on projects the state considers a top priority, such as bridges. Stuart Summers, the commission's executive director, said the city is ready to be at the front of the line to try to trade the \$3.12 million it is eligible to receive for the reconstruction of Silhavy Road from LaPorte Avenue to Evans Avenue "as soon as the time is right." [Valpo eager to try new federal funds swap law](#)

Pence signs two-year Indiana budget

NWI Politics

5/8/13

INDIANAPOLIS | Republican Gov. Mike Pence on Wednesday signed into law Indiana's \$30 billion, two-year state budget that keeps spending increases below the inflation rate and provides Hoosiers more than a billion dollars in tax cuts. "This is a jobs budget, and it signals that Indiana is open for business," Pence said. "By preserving Indiana's strong fiscal position, increasing funding for schools and roads, and giving Hoosiers \$600 million a year in tax relief, this budget will encourage investment in Indiana." Transportation funding will grow \$210 million a year by dedicating 1 percent of state sales tax revenue and all gas tax proceeds to roads. An additional \$200 million a year is set aside in a Major Moves 2020 fund to spend on future large-scale road projects. http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/pence-signs-two-year-indiana-budget/article_5ef8966c-108d-53c1-a85c-46d5605c96d6.html

A steady hand at state government's wheel

South Bend Tribune

5/9/13

As the General Assembly began its work last November, as Speaker of the House, I pledged a renewed spirit of bipartisanship with legislators working together to solve our state's most pressing challenges. As this year's legislative session concludes, representatives from throughout the state -- Republican and Democrat -- have joined together to address those issues at the forefront of Hoosier minds: maintaining our state's fiscal integrity, spurring job creation and expanding education opportunities for every Hoosier family. The two -year budget approved maintains strong fiscal reserves, prioritizes public education and road funding, maintains our state's position as the fiscal envy of the nation and returns an historic tax cut to virtually every Hoosier. [A steady hand at state government's wheel - southbendtribune.com](http://www.southbendtribune.com)

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