



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

May 31, 2012

County transit system reinvents itself for riders

Middletown Journal

5/29/12

Public transportation creates a better quality of life, is a key element in driving development and is good for the environment, experts and local officials agree. But they also agree taxpayers don't won't to pay for it because it's pricey, not cost effective and not a necessity in a challenging economy. That's why the Butler County Regional Authority reinvented itself, said Carla Lakatos, executive director of Butler County Regional Transit Authority. The traditional model of big buses on city streets with a multitude of routes was not viable after three failed sales tax levies in the early 2000s and a shutdown of services. "At that time the board had to decide if they wanted to keep (bus service)," she said. Abolishing BCRTA due to no local match funds, meant millions in federal dollars for mass transportation would go to surrounding counties. After the board determined public transportation was important for the future of the county with two large cities separated by more than 10 miles and exploding growth near the Hamilton County border, Lakatos joined the team and helped remake the bus system. [County transit system reinvents itself for riders](#)

Indiana construction employment rate up 8 percent over past year

Evansville Courier & Press

5/29/12

Construction employment in Indiana increased 8 percent over the past year, a growth rate higher than in all but a handful of other states, according to a report from an industry group. Indiana added 9,400 construction jobs from April 2011 through last month. That ranked the state fourth in the nation, said the Associated General Contractors of America. "As public investments in infrastructure and other forms of construction continue to decline, construction employment is taking a hit in many parts of the country," Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist, said in a statement. "Even in places where construction employment is increasing, the figures would have been better if the public sector wasn't holding things back." Construction employment declined in 157 of the nation's 337 metropolitan areas, increased in 120 and stayed level in 60, according to a new analysis of federal employment data the group released Tuesday. [Indiana construction employment rate up 8 percent over past year » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

JOHN KRULL: Major Moves deal an error spurred by political cowardice

Evansville Courier & Press

5/31/12

INDIANAPOLIS — Perhaps it was fitting that news that the funds generated by Major Moves

have pretty much run out arrived right at the start of summer, the time when people starting hitting the road with ardor. Major Moves was Gov. Mitch Daniels' plan to repair and add to Indiana's sagging infrastructure of highways, roads and bridges. At its heart was the controversial decision to lease the Indiana Toll Road in the northern part of the state to a private firm for 75 years for more than \$3.8 billion. The state plowed that \$3.8 billion into roadwork on a large scale, but less than a decade into that 75-year lease, word comes that the money will be gone and we have lost control of the asset that is the toll road for the next three to four generations. I will admit that, from the start, I haven't been a big fan of leasing the toll road. [JOHN KRULL: Major Moves deal an error spurred by political cowardice » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

Contractors: Pass a bill already! - House conferee slams Boxer - Cantwell to push for DOT freight office - Internal poll shows Mica up 30 points

Politico

5/31/12

CONTRACTORS PLEA FOR TRANSPOR BILL: Once starry-eyed with dreams of vast policy changes and major program overhauls, contractors now just want a bill. In town for the 11th annual Transportation Construction Coalition fly-in, workers and business owners from across the infrastructure industry said, in short, they care less about wonky policy and more about getting a bill that simply offers funding for years — not weeks or months. T&I head John Mica, who appeared before the group at a packed hotel ballroom, took exactly one question (or really a comment) from the audience. A contractor said to Mica, “All we ask is you pass a bill.” “I can’t give away those principles for the sake of just passing something,” Mica replied. “I had a five-year bill, and we should have a five-year bill,” he continued, smacking the podium for emphasis. “It’s important for stability.” Pros can read the Burgess production: <http://politico.pro/LgZjJt> Seriously: “We’ve actually had members participate,” Mica said, acknowledging some criticism that’s been leveled at members attending meetings expected to be all staff. “What the hell did you send them here for if not to participate?!” [Contractors: Pass a bill already! - House conferee slams Boxer - Cantwell to push for DOT freight office - Internal poll shows Mica up 30 points - POLITICO Morning Transportation - POLITICO.com](#)

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