



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **June 20, 2013**

#### **More Paving Dollars for IN Roads**

MTHI TV  
6/19/13

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (WTHI) - More money is coming to Indiana's deteriorating roadways thanks to a change made by state lawmakers. Each county in the state is set to rake in big bucks beginning next month. Drive in any county in the Valley and you'll come across some roadways in poor condition. That's why one lawmaker vowed to make infrastructure a priority, and why those who work on our roads are now very thankful to have the extra cash to make their jobs a little easier. Chip and seal. That's a typical job for the workers of the Vigo County Highway Department. However, property tax caps passed by state lawmakers cut local government monies, meaning projects like this are not as common as they used to be. In fact, rainy day funds once helped get county roads fixed until this year. "This year, there were no rainy day funds appropriated, so this money will come in handy," said Dan Bennett, the superintendent of the Vigo County Highway Department. "This money" he refers to is new monies coming to Vigo County from the state. The Indiana Association of Counties estimates Vigo County will receive about \$900,000 for both 2014 and 2015. State Representative Alan Morrison of Terre Haute campaigned on getting more monies for local roads. "As I criss-crossed the district from Vigo County to Fountain and Warren County, I saw roads that should not be in the shape that they are," said Morrison. Local governments receive state funding for roads from the Motor Vehicle Highway (MVH) account. In the past, other agencies such as State Police and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles received money from MVH. Not anymore. The change in funding will certainly give the county a shot in the arm for the next couple of years. The question now is: is this change in funding permanent? Morrison says the answer is "yes." "The way we crafted this and structured it, it is not just a temporary two-year budgetary item. It is a long-term sustainable project," said Morrison.

[More Paving Dollars for IN Roads | WTHITV.com](#)

#### **Communities fight traffic congestion by taking control of state highway**

FOX 59  
6/19/13

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—Officials with the Indiana Department of Transportation are in the final stages of talks to relinquish control of State Road 267 to Brownsburg, Avon, and Hendricks County, potentially opening the door for more road improvements at the local level. In Brownsburg, town officials call the idea a 'win-win' for traffic-weary drivers. "You've got more than 20,000 cars a day going down this stretch right here," said town Councilman Rob Kendall. "If somebody tries to go left or has to stop, it stops everything for blocks at a time." And that's exactly why town officials are hoping to get control of the highway from the state. "We don't control this road," said Kendall. "We don't make the decisions that go on it, so hopefully if we get that local control, we'll be able to say 'we hear you and we're going to make it happen.'" Kendall

and others are pushing for a plan that would widen SR 267 between 56th and Main streets, allowing for more lanes of traffic into downtown Brownsburg. But some residents who live along that stretch don't support the idea. "There's not a lot of room," said resident Michael Jones. "I feel like the road would be up here on my porch." Still, others are hoping the project gets the green light. "I think it's a great idea," said resident Ann Hathaway. "I think Brownsburg is very congested and it would really alleviate a lot of traffic issues." "Being able to expand and improve what could be a major commercial corridor is going to benefit everybody," said Kendall. "(It could) lower the tax rate and bring new businesses to Brownsburg. If we can obtain local control of this road, it's a win-win for everyone." Already, there are potential plans to put a new strip mall in along that stretch of road. An INDOT official told Fox59 the agency was in the "last stages" of talks to finalize the relinquishment of State Road 267. [Communities fight traffic congestion by taking control of state highway | Fox 59 News – fox59.com](#)

### **Report: Area bridges "structurally deficient"**

WANE

6/20/13

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (WANE) - A new report shows aging infrastructure across the United States is not improving. "Transportation for America" said one in nine bridges across the U.S. is "structurally deficient." And 260 million people make daily trips on some 67,000 bridges. Including dozens in northeast Indiana. Around Allen County, approximately 40 to 50 bridges (7-percent to 12-percent) are "structurally deficient." Meaning the bridges are not about to collapse, but are in constant need of maintenance and repairs, rebuilding, or replacement. The bridge on West Jefferson Boulevard north of Engle Road was built in 1930. Roughly 38,000 vehicles travel across the bridge every day. The report lists the bridge as "structurally deficient" The bridge is technically a culvert, but is still rated by the organization. West State Boulevard east of Westbrook Drive sees 20,000 vehicles per day and was built in 1927. Its "structurally deficient" rating is five out of ten. That rating was recently cited by city officials, who have initiated public discussion about reconfiguring that part of State Boulevard through the Brookview neighborhood. The Maumee River Bridge on Anthony Boulevard is slated for major repairs in 2013 and is rated "structurally deficient" by the T4A report. The Allen County Highway Department made temporary repairs last year and put a 12-ton load limit in place on the structure. Allen County is not the only area with aging bridges. Several areas around northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio also have bridge issues. Columbia City has ten "structurally deficient" bridges within ten miles of the city's center. Paulding, Ohio has 14 and Huntington and Decatur each have five.

[Report: Area bridges "structurally deficient"](#)

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