



## **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

### **Infrastructure Media Summary**

**June 28, 2012**

#### **Error money paving roads, felling trees**

The Journal Gazette

6/27/12

FORT WAYNE – Fort Wayne has now officially set aside its money to pave streets and remove dead trees. Specifically, the council approved \$3.5 million in county-option income taxes for road work and \$1.5 million in county economic development income taxes for ash trees – providing a vital cash infusion for a strapped city budget. The nearly tripling of the city's road budget will allow many more residential street projects to be completed this year, and crews have already begun several. City officials previously said the money will allow the city to do about the same number of road projects as in 2011. [Error money paving roads, felling trees | The Journal Gazette](#)

#### **Congress Strikes Tentative Deal On Highway Bill, Sources Say**

WRTV Indianapolis

6/27/12

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- After months of difficult talks, bipartisan House and Senate negotiators reached a tentative deal on a giant transportation funding bill Wednesday, multiple sources tell CNN. A formal announcement is expected late Wednesday night after the last details are hammered out and the final language is drafted, they said. Congressional leaders said they hoped to attach the \$109 billion highway bill to a measure extending a rate cut on some student loans and legislation reauthorizing national flood insurance and pass them as one bill out of the House and Senate by Friday. Doing so would let Congress beat looming deadlines when these measures expire and also would allow lawmakers to escape town for their Fourth of July recess. [Congress Strikes Tentative Deal On Highway Bill, Sources Say - Politics News Story - WRTV Indianapolis](#) Also, [AP sources: Tentative deal on student loans, roads » Breaking News » The Herald Bulletin](#)

#### **EDITORIAL: Bloomington effort to halt I-69 project no longer realistic**

Evansville Courier & Press

6/27/12

Even though Interstate 69 from Evansville to Crane, Ind., will be completed by the end of this year, opponents of the highway project are still looking for ways to stop the construction and if you can believe it, some still want the route to be shifted over to U.S.41/I-70 via Terre Haute. The latter route was rejected years ago by then Democratic Gov. Frank O'Bannon, who chose the direct route to Indianapolis via Bloomington as the best route. Of course, construction of the direct route is moving along. As Courier & Press staff writer Eric Bradner reminded readers on Sunday, motorists are driving already on a short stretch just north of Evansville, with construction expected

to be completed on links to Oakland City, Petersburg, Washington and Crane by the time Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels leaves office at the end of this year. The segment from Crane to Bloomington is expected to be opened sometime during 2014. It was Daniels who created the Major Moves initiative, leasing the Indiana Toll Road to a private concern for \$3.8 billion.

[EDITORIAL: Bloomington effort to halt I-69 project no longer realistic » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

### **Bus Service Funding Deadline Approaches**

Inside Indiana Business

6/28/12

A last minute effort to avoid a shutdown of a Northwest Indiana bus service appears to have failed. The Regional Development Authority has rejected a request from the Regional Bus Authority to continue funding through June 30, 2013. Unless an agreement is reached, the easygo Lake Transit system will shut down Saturday night. The shutdown of the Regional Bus Authority leaves many residents of Northwest Indiana without access to needed public transportation services. The lack of such services is not only a hardship to those left without rides, but also impedes efforts to improve the quality of life in, and bring economic development to, Northwest Indiana. The RDA continues to work with local, state and federal officials to secure a permanent, stable source of funds to provide mass transit to the region. [Bus Service Funding Deadline Approaches - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

### **Bucshon pleased as Congress strikes deal on state transportation funding**

Evansville Courier & Press

6/28/12

INDIANAPOLIS —Indiana is set to get extra flexibility to decide how to spend nearly \$1 billion per year in federal highway funding under a new 27-month transportation bill that could win congressional approval Friday. After lengthy negotiations, joint House-Senate conference committee that included freshman Republican U.S. Rep. Larry Bucshon of Newburgh hashed out the final details of a compromise bill late Wednesday night. If it's approved by both chambers, the effort will mean Congress has its first new transportation funding bill since 2005 – ahead of the June 30 deadline to stave off any interruptions in road-building projects that are currently underway. The bill freezes funding at current levels for the first year and then increases each state's share by 1 to 2 percent in the second year. It gives states new authority to focus money on major efforts such as the 142-mile Indianapolis-to-Evansville Interstate 69 extension. "While the bill is not perfect, it is much better than existing law and includes major victories for Indiana," Bucshon said. [Bucshon pleased as Congress strikes deal on state transportation funding » Evansville Courier & Press](#)