



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

July 5, 2012

RDA throws out \$100,000 lifeline for paratransit

NWI Times

7/3/12

The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority on Tuesday voted to appropriate \$100,000 to keep paratransit services running for people with disabilities in the former easygo Lake Transit territory. The \$100,000 will leverage \$400,000 more in federal funds, which should be enough to keep the paratransit service running for one year in Hammond and nearby communities, RDA Executive Director Bill Hanna said. Before the 7-0 vote, the board made it plain it considered itself the "bank of last resort" for funding the service and held out hope other money could yet be found to pay for it. "This is yet another Band-Aid approach, buying us a year at a time," RDA member Harley Snyder said. "It's time people step forward and take responsibility and solve this once and for all." The emergency request for paratransit aid came from the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission and area transit providers. NIRPC will retain a taxi and van service, Triple A Express, to provide many of the rides.

[RDA throws out \\$100,000 lifeline for paratransit](#)

Indiana Benefits From Highway Bill

Indiana Public Media

7/3/12

President Barack Obama is expected to sign the much debated highway bill this week. It gives Indiana more money to cover projects like I-69 that are already on the state's agenda. Typically Indiana has been reimbursed 92 percent of the money it pays to the government in federal gas taxes. In 2014 that will change to 97 percent. 8th District Congressman Larry Bucshon helped negotiate the bill. He says he considers the change a success. "We've been able to get rid of some of the Washington D.C. Bureaucracy and let the states keep their money," Bucshon says. But what was left out of the bill could be just as important as what's in it. Indiana Department of Transportation spokesperson Will Wingfield says a provision that would have limited funding to states like Indiana that have privatized toll roads was eliminated from the final version of the bill. "That really made a big difference," he says. "That could have cost another 40 million dollars more per year." State transportation officials will decide how to spend the federal money. Most of it will be combined with state and local dollars to cover the cost of projects the state is already working on.

[Indiana Benefits From Highway Bill | News - Indiana Public Media](#)

Milton-Madison Bridge span lift completed

The Lane Report

7/5/12

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (July 5, 2012) — The “big lift” operation for the Milton-Madison Bridge Project has been completed, successfully placing the first span of the new bridge onto temporary piers. The lift is the first of several steps in the innovative replacement of the US 421 bridge, which connects Milton, Ky., and Madison, Ind. One of the more intricate parts of the lift, which concluded today, involved the crucial placement of two “sliding girders.” The 125-ton beams were positioned under the truss, supported by the temporary pier and specially designed concrete pedestals on the existing piers. The sliding girder beams will be used next year when the new 2,400-foot bridge “slides” from the temporary piers to the permanent piers, which are being rehabilitated and strengthened. The project’s second and final span lift is scheduled for later this summer. Moving at a rate of about 12 feet per hour, last week’s span lift took a total of seven hours to complete. The massive 600-foot segment was hoisted into place using special hydraulic “strand jacks” and bundled strands of steel cable. The span, roughly the size of two football fields, weighs 1,776 tons, or three and a half million pounds. The existing bridge remained open throughout the span lift operation.

[Milton-Madison Bridge span lift completed](#)

www.buildindianacouncil.org