



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

July 31, 2012

Time to use all Indiana fuel taxes for roads

Brazil Times

7/29/12

INDIANAPOLIS -- Recent media reports about the difficulties facing state and local officials in adequately maintaining Indiana's system of roads and bridges have hit the mark. Tough choices must be made to reverse the trend of decreasing revenues in the face of increasing costs. The facts are clear. Revenues received by counties from the state's fuel taxes have declined to levels not seen since 2000, while costs have continued to climb. Revenue options available to counties and other local units are in some cases already fully utilized and in other cases limited in their impact. While the state has been able to fund a healthy construction and maintenance program, financed through the lenses of the toll road, local governments have not seen similar cash infusions. Fuel tax revenues are down because, due to higher fuel prices and more fuel-efficient vehicles, consumption is down. Local excise taxes are collected in 46 out of 92 counties and are based on vehicle registrations, which have also declined as auto purchases have slowed. Counties could also use some income tax dollars but those have similarly declined with the recession and are under increased demands for other parts of the budget. Here are the sobering statistics for my area of the state. [Brazil Times: Op/Ed Column: Time to use all Indiana fuel taxes for roads \(07/29/12\)](#)

EDITORIAL: Interstate 69 clears another speed bump on its way to Crane

Evansville Courier & Press

7/29/12

Interstate 69 construction on the stretch between Evansville and Crane cleared another speed bump put down by highway opponents on Wednesday and raced on at a remarkable pace toward completion by the end of the year. The Indiana Department of Transportation has said in recent days that it expects the 65-mile section between Evansville and the Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center south of Bloomington to be opened to traffic late this year. That would be just before Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels completes his second and final term in office. Daniels is the man who created a privatization plan for a Northern Indiana toll road (Major Moves) as a way of paying for a significant section of I-69 and then approved the accelerated construction schedule now being utilized. Contractors gained additional help from this summer's drought; the lack of rain gave workers more construction days. However, INDOT spokeswoman Cher Elliott says one concern about the accelerated work is that the lack of rain could cut down on water needed for the highway's concrete. Elliott's comments were taken from an Associated Press story and based on an interview with the Washington, Ind., Times-Herald. [EDITORIAL: Interstate 69 clears another speed bump on its way to Crane » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

COMMUNITY COMMENT: Tomes: New Harmony bridge is a priority

Evansville Courier & Press

7/31/12

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the citizens of Posey County, in particular those in New Harmony, and residents in White County, Ill., what developments have taken place since the July 7 meeting Rep. Wendy McNamara and I held locally to explain the status of the New Harmony Bridge. I have in my possession copies of two letters that were recently sent to all Posey and White County commissioners as well as Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Ann Schneider and White County board members. The first letter is from Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Chief of Staff Troy Woodruff offering \$10 million toward the building of a new bridge. This generous offer comes as a result of many months of work at the state level from Rep. McNamara and me working with INDOT officials on this issue. We fully understand the importance of that bridge to the communities of both Posey and White counties.

[COMMUNITY COMMENT: Tomes: New Harmony bridge is a priority » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

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