



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **August 7, 2012**

#### **Sales tax returns for roads total 0 – 84 miles in county chipped**

Decatur Daily Democrat  
8/2/12

The Adams County Highway Department finished applying chip-n-seal to county roads last week, according to Superintendent Mark Mitchel. Mitchel told the Adams County Commissioners Monday the department covered approximately 83 miles of roadway this year. "That's the most we've done in a long time," said Mitchel. "Some of those roads haven't been done for nine or ten years." Chairman Doug Bauman stated that commissioners and mayors of larger cities in northeast Indiana meet once a month as a type of caucus to discuss various happenings in the state. During a recent meeting, Bauman said the issue of road and street reimbursement that counties receive from the state came up. Bauman said that Indiana's tax on gasoline is 57.3 cents per gallon, with 18.4 cents going to the federal government, Indiana receiving 18 cents, and the rest being a seven percent sales tax. None of the revenue generated by sales tax, approximately \$550 million yearly based on \$3 per gallon fuel, comes back to roads or streets, Bauman said. "The concern that caucus members have at this point in time," said Bauman, "is that there's \$144 million out of the state gas tax that's diverted from our roads and bridges to the State Police, IDEM, (Indiana Department of Environmental Management) and the BMV (Bureau of Motor Vehicles)." Bauman said members of the caucus are "trying to strongly recommend that our Legislatures find \$144 million out of sales tax or somewhere else, and let that distribution of \$144 million come back to our roads and streets." Whether or not this will happen remains to be seen, but Bauman said the first step is in raising the question, adding that "we'll keep working on them." [Sales tax returns for roads total 0 – 84 miles in county chipped | Decatur Daily Democrat](#)

#### **Feds: 11% Of Indiana Bridges Structurally Deficient**

WRTV Indianapolis  
8/2/12

INDIANAPOLIS -- Figures kept by the Federal Highway Administration show that 11 percent of Indiana bridges were considered structurally deficient in 2006 -- a figure similar to that of other states. 6News sought the figures after a steel-deck truss bridge collapsed in Minnesota. The Indiana Department of Transportation spokeswoman Megan Tsai said structurally deficient does not mean unsafe, but rather that "there's an issue in the future that needs to be addressed with the bridge." "The most important thing to remember is that Indiana would never allow the public to drive on a bridge that we consider to be unsafe," Tsai told 6News' Dan Spehler. Nationwide, about 12 percent of the nation's bridges were either structurally deficient in 2006, the FHA said. The FHA also said 22.1 percent of Indiana bridges were structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. The national average is 27 percent. According to the FHA, "structurally deficient" means a bridge has a reduced load-carrying capacity and significant elements with deteriorated conditions. "Functionally obsolete" means geometrics of the bridge do

not meet current design standards. [Feds: 11% Of Indiana Bridges Structurally Deficient - Indiana News Story - WRTV Indianapolis](#)

### **District 16 Senate Candidates Debate \$2B State Surplus**

Indiana's NewsCenter

8/6/12

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (Indiana's NewsCenter) - The race for the Statehouse is heating up as the candidates for Indiana Senate District 16 weigh in on the state's \$2B budget surplus. Incumbent Republican State Senator, President Pro Tem David Long, says the surplus is the result of strict fiscal discipline and should remain a safety net in case the economy takes a turn for the worse. Long's Democratic opponent, naval veteran Tom Keen, says he would like to see the money invested in local infrastructure over the course of several years. Keen says improving roads, bridges, and sewer systems creates jobs and attracts businesses to the area. By offering cities and towns low-interest loans, Keen says Hoosiers would benefit from future dividends and get more for their money right now. "This is the best time to use it, when contractors are hungry for work," Keen says. "They're looking for work today and we can get a 10 to 20% discount as they reduce their margins. We get more bang for our buck. It's just common sense." Long points out that counties already receive funding dedicated to infrastructure improvement. Keen, however, says that there is such a long list of needed improvements that sitting on a massive surplus now could mean more expensive repairs in the future. [District 16 Senate Candidates Debate \\$2B State Surplus | Indiana's NewsCenter: News, Sports, Weather, Fort Wayne WPTA-TV, WISE-TV, CW, and MyFOX | Local](#)

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