



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Indiana highway funding to drop by nearly 25% in next budget cycle, officials say

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INDIANAPOLIS — Money available for state highway and bridge projects will fall by nearly a quarter during the next budget cycle when cash from the lease of the Indiana Toll Road all but runs out, transportation officials said Wednesday. In 2014 and 2015, highway funding will return to what Indiana Department of Transportation officials called “historic funding levels,” which means the state will have the same sources of cash as it did before outgoing Gov. Mitch Daniels leased the toll road for \$3.8 billion under his Major Moves program. Those revenue streams will total about \$3.1 billion during the two-year cycle, including revenue from state and federal gasoline taxes. In the current budget cycle — which ends June 30 — the state has had more than \$4 billion to spend on road and bridge projects. But the traditional revenue streams for highways are also threatened, INDOT Commissioner Michael Cline told the State Budget Committee, which is considering spending requests for the next two years. Although drivers are traveling roughly the same number of miles across the state’s highways, they are purchasing less gas and therefore paying less in gas taxes. That will reduce the amount of money available to fix existing roads and match federal revenue available for new highways, Cline said. “Those revenues are needed and we’re going to be challenged” to find them, he said. [Indiana highway funding to drop by nearly 25% in next budget cycle, officials say | The Courier-Journal | courier-journal.com](#) Also, [Outlook ominous for Indiana transportation funding : Elections , INDOT facing road-upkeep cash crunch, seeks tax hikes | The Journal Gazette](#)

Fort Wayne officials, council member find common ground on traffic plans

The News-Sentinel
11/28/12

Fort Wayne transportation officials say they agree in spirit with a City Council resolution that urges a gentler approach to traffic planning, but state guidelines limit them from enacting some of the changes. Councilman John Shoaff, D-at large, has introduced a resolution that would urge city traffic planners to use the “context-sensitive” approach – one that seeks lots of community input and tries to minimize historic and environmental impact – or risk failure to get funding from council. Shoaff has been critical of the upcoming project to widen and straighten State Boulevard just west of Clinton Street. Fort Wayne Public Works Director Bob Kennedy said city planners try to use the approach as much as possible but must adhere to the Indiana Department of Transportation's design manual because INDOT distributes federal highway money. “We always follow the (context-sensitive) process as much as we can,” Kennedy said. “There's only certain things we can follow, and some things, we just can't.” For example, city Engineer Shan Gunawardena said, some neighborhood residents would like for the State Boulevard project to include a tree-lined median. But INDOT forbids the placement of fixed objects within 10 feet of

any travel lane. City officials have proposed several amendments to Shoaff's resolution, stating that traffic planners would follow the context-sensitive approach except when it goes against state guidelines and could jeopardize federal funding. [Fort Wayne officials, council member find common ground on traffic plans - News-Sentinel.com](#)

Illiana Expressway will need NIRPC approval

NWI Times
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About a dozen South Lake County residents learned Wednesday the Illiana Expressway will have to win the approval of local elected officials from Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties if it is to become reality.

The planned bistate, 50-mile toll road must be included in the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission's 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan, an action that would take a yes vote by its 53-member board, said NIRPC Transportation Planning Manager Bill Brown. "In the end, it's a decision of the local elected officials if the Illiana becomes part of our plan," Brown said Wednesday at a briefing conducted at the Cedar Lake Town Clubhouse. NIRPC's 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan was passed by the NIRPC board last year after three years of public input, discussion and debate. According to federal regulations, NIRPC would have to amend its 2040 plan for the Illiana Expressway to go forward. Indiana Department of Transportation officials had been expected to deliver a briefing on the Illiana Expressway at Wednesday's meeting, but INDOT officials canceled late last week. They now are expected to brief NIRPC at its regular meeting at 9 a.m. Dec. 13 at the planning group's Portage headquarters, said NIRPC Executive Director John Swanson. It appears NIRPC and INDOT are trying to avoid a replay of last year's standoff between the Bloomington/Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization and INDOT over the Interstate 69 extension. [Illiana Expressway will need NIRPC approval](#)

Daniels Optimistic About I-69 Completion

Inside INdiana Business
11/29/12

Governor Mitch Daniels says eventually completing I-69 between Bloomington and Indianapolis is a "when, not if question." He says the 67-mile stretch from Evansville to Crane, which opened last week, will pay "enormous dividends" in jobs and economic development. In a recent interview on Inside INdiana Business Television, Daniels says he considers the I-69 expansion along with other Major Moves infrastructure projects among his top accomplishments as governor. The project may have already led to some growth. Several southern Indiana economic development officials say the I-69 extension was a catalyst for a \$9 million expansion by Indianapolis-based MacAllister Machinery Co. The company plans to add more than 60 jobs in Daviess County. The state paid for the project with money from the lease of the Indiana Toll Road to a private consortium. The Indiana Department of Transportation says the project cost approximately \$300 million less than expected. [Daniels Optimistic About I-69 Completion - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

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