



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

December 20, 2012

Lawmakers Criticize Kasich's Turnpike Plan

FOX Youngstown
December 18, 2012

Last week, Ohio Gov. John Kasich announced his plan that makes some changes to the Ohio Turnpike, including raising tolls and leveraging the turnpike's revenue by issuing new bonds against future toll collections. The plan calls for 90 percent of funds generated to go toward projects in the northern part of Ohio. However, State Rep. Ron Gerberry, D-Austintown, said the plan is not fiscally responsible and could have consequences. "The Ohio Turnpike has a AA rating from Fitch. They said in October that if they levy more money against it, that rating probably won't stand," Gerberry said. Leveraging funds isn't the only concern. Some local and regional lawmakers are saying the plan is more like a tax hike because by raising tolls on the turnpike, which is largely located in the northern part of the state, it is essentially raising taxes on people living in that region. "To me, it seems like people up here are being double taxed. We're paying the gas tax and now we are going to pay extra tolls," said Cuyahoga County Executive Ed Fitzgerald. Every time someone fuels up at the pump, they pay a gas tax. Lawmakers said under the new plan, funds would be shifted, with gas tax money for projects in this region instead going toward projects in southern Ohio. "Now for the rest of the state, that may be a good deal, but for us, if our tolls go up, we are basically subsidizing the rest of the state with our tolls," Fitzgerald said. Under the Kasich plan, 90 percent of the toll money will be designated toward Northern Ohio, but Fitzgerald said losing the gas tax would equate to no benefit. "I wouldn't care if it was 90 percent or 100 percent. If you take money out of the back end from the gas tax, which is what's supposed to pay for road projects, you are right back where you started except that your tolls are higher," Fitzgerald said. Gerberry agreed. "We're already paying the gas tax and we should be getting our fair share of that gas tax," he said. Local lawmakers are calling the plan a quick fix and said the governor needs to come back to the table with a plan that benefits everyone. [Lawmakers Criticize Kasich's Turnpike Plan - The Valley's Only Local 10PM News - Fox Youngstown](#)

Officials: 'Pike plan unfair

Bonnie L. Hazen
Tribune Chronicle
December 19, 2012

NORTH JACKSON - Northern Ohio residents are in danger of paying toll money that will be used elsewhere, state officials say. Residents, autoworkers and state officials expressed their displeasure with Gov. John Kasich's proposal regarding the Ohio Turnpike on Tuesday during a meeting at the United Auto Workers Local 1714 hall. The proposal, revealed last week, involves issuing bonds backed by future tolls to pay for construction projects - 90 percent of which will be in northern Ohio. The plan would generate \$1.5 billion in new funds and up to \$1.5 billion from

matching local and federal funds. Kasich's proposal was in lieu of his former plan to sell or lease the turnpike to a private company. "It's a bad idea," said state Rep. Ronald Gerberry, D-Austintown. "The governor's proposition is taking bonding and increasing the indebtedness of the Ohio Turnpike ... taking taxes people are already paying on gas (to be) shelled out somewhere else. Nobody else is going to have to pay that tax," he said. "People in southern Ohio are going to get their infrastructure granted and paid by people who live in northern Ohio," echoed Sen. Joe Schiavoni, D-Boardman. "More and more people are going to realize that it's very unfair," he said. Several local residents also expressed concerns. One woman, whose husband used to work on the turnpike, said she has driven the 241-mile toll road to Cleveland for years.

[Officials: 'Pike plan unfair - TribToday.com - News, Sports, Jobs, Community Information - Tribune Chronicle - Warren, OH](#)

2012's heavy road work to continue in 2013

Kent Mallett
The Newark Advocate
December 19, 2012

NEWARK - This year will be remembered for road construction seemingly going on everywhere in the Newark-Heath area, but 2013 will be busy, too. Construction on Country Club Drive, Ohio 16 east of downtown and the Second Street Bridge inconvenienced motorists this year and will do so again in 2013. The bulk of the activity on most road projects will happen in the spring, but some work can be done during the winter months, according to Ohio Department of Transportation District 5. Drivers will not battle any road work on Country Club Drive during the winter and only limited work in the median on Ohio 16. Progress will be made this winter on the Second Street Bridge, which closed suddenly in May for safety reasons. In addition to the ongoing projects, motorists in 2013 also will dodge construction on South 30th Street, where the railroad crossing will be improved, and probably replacement of the West Church Street Bridge over Raccoon Creek near McDonald's. Country Club Drive proved to be a complicated project, beginning with property acquisition and including a water main break and residents upset about the removal of tall pine trees. [2012's heavy road work to continue in 2013 | The Newark Advocate | newarkadvocate.com](#)

Kasich's Turnpike plan: A PR symphony

Eric Lyttle
The Other Paper
December 20, 2012

No matter how you feel about Ohio Gov. John Kasich personally or politically, you have to admire his ability to pound home a message. Rarely had Kasich's star-maker machinery revved as high as it did last Thursday-the day Kasich announced his plan for the Ohio Turnpike. After nearly two years of speculation that Kasich would lease the turnpike to a private operator to generate some much-needed revenue for state highway improvements, the governor instead announced that he would retain public control of the 241-mile toll road and generate the necessary roadwork funds-to the tune of \$1.5 billion-by issuing bonds and raising turnpike tolls to help back them. Within minutes of Kasich's announcement, however, reporters' inboxes began to fill up with testimonials praising the plan. Between noon and 4 p.m., more than a dozen arrived. The first arrived at 12:37 p.m.-a five-paragraph statement from the Ohio Trucking Association that began, "Of all the possible scenarios regarding the future of the Ohio Turnpike that have been put forth in the past year, the Ohio Trucking Association (OTA) believes Governor Kasich has chosen the best one for all travelers in the state." In rapid succession, similar statements arrived from Portage County Auditor Janet Esposito (1:28 p.m.), Fulton County Recorder and Ohio Turnpike Commission Member Sandy Barber (1:30 p.m.) and Dan White, President, Norwalk Furniture at 1:37 p.m. At 2:53 p.m., however, the onslaught continued, beginning with a testimonial of praise from Glenn

M. Broska, the mayor of Streetsboro, a town of 12,000 along the turnpike north of Akron. Another followed at 3:19 p.m. from Phillip L. Parker, president of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. More emails followed, praising the plan to leverage turnpike pocket change into pavement patches: Don Robart, the mayor of Cuyahoga Falls (3:27 p.m.), Dave Gillock, the mayor of North Ridgeville (3:50 p.m.) and the Ohio Contractors Association (4:01 p.m.). [Kasich's Turnpike plan: A PR symphony - The Other Paper: News: ohio turnpike, john kasich, rob nichols, ohio democratic party, fahlgren mortine](#)

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