



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

January 24, 2012

Porter County Commissioners vote for changes to development rules

Chesterton Tribune

1/19/12

In another matter, Thompson said the county needs to check that county venues are compliant with the guidelines set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Northwest Indiana Regional Plan Commission has informed government units the Federal Highway Department will withhold federal funding on roadways and bridges from those who fail to comply by the end of this year.

The commissioners on Tuesday put together a team of various county employees from the plan commission, highway department and GIS department to see that the proper compliance is carried out.

[Porter County Commissioners vote for changes to development rules](#)

Matthew Tully: Democracy will weather storm over 'right to work'

Indianapolis Star

1/20/12

It was a few minutes after 9 a.m., the announced time for the Indiana House of Representatives to convene Thursday. Obviously, nobody who has been following politics this year was shocked -- even a little -- to learn that legislating was not going on there. "What's going on?" I asked Rep. Jerry Torr, R-Carmel, as I approached the chamber. "Nothing," he said. "Absolutely nothing." Then he pointed to the far side of the House floor, the side where Democrats are assigned to sit but where they have done very little of that or anything else of late. Another day. Another boycott. He spoke of the many other bills -- covering issues such as a smoking ban, mass transit and sex trafficking -- that are being held up by the impasse. Well, one reporter asked, why not just set aside the union bill for now and pass those bills? "We can't have a system where it's simply the loudest that prevail," he said, adding later: "That is not what democracy is about." [Matthew Tully: Democracy will weather storm over 'right to work' | The Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#) Also, [A message to Indiana House Democrats | The Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

Mass transit plan faces likely defeat, bill sponsor says

Indiana Business Journal

1/20/12

Indiana Rep. Jeff Espich said his bill backing a central Indiana mass-transit plan faces almost certain defeat in the House Ways and Means Committee, and he is still mulling whether or not to bring it to a vote. Espich, R-Uniondale, who is chairman of the committee, said Friday morning

that he knows of only two legislators—himself and Rep. Peggy Welch, D-Bloomington—who would vote yes on House Bill 1073, which would OK voter referendums in Marion and Hamilton counties for the purpose of raising taxes to fund an expanded bus and train system. The committee has 25 legislators. “No one else has suggested to me that they have any interest, not only in co-sponsoring it, but even in voting for it,” Espich said. “I am hard-pressed to bring it up and see it get soundly defeated.” Espich authored the bill based on the mass-transit plan created by the Central Indiana Transit Task Force. It has the backing of many central Indiana business leaders, including the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce. [Mass transit plan faces likely defeat, bill sponsor says | 2012-01-20 | Indianapolis Business Journal | IBJ.com](#)

Purdue Receives Transportation Funding

Inside Indiana Business

1/20/12

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. - The NEXTRANS Center at Purdue University has been awarded a \$3.5 million research grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to advance research and education programs that address the nation's critical transportation challenges. Purdue will lead a consortium of eight other Midwest universities in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, including the private Martin University in Indianapolis. Research will focus on issues such as technology-enabled solutions; asset management and resource allocation; data-driven analysis; transportation linkage to energy security, environment and climate change; policy and institutions; and economic revitalization and global competitiveness. "Through an integrated interdisciplinary outlook, NEXTRANS is developing solutions that leverage limited resources to address multiple goals in the transportation and logistics contexts, while preparing students for the future transportation workforce," said Srinivas Peeta, director of NEXTRANS and a Purdue civil engineering professor. "In addition to seeking holistic transportation solutions, we will explore the linkage of transportation to energy security, environmental sustainability and climate change." [Purdue Receives Transportation Funding - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

JOHN KRULL: GOP wins game of transit chicken

Evansville Courier & Press

1/21/12

INDIANAPOLIS — The chair of the Ways and Means Committee in the Indiana House of Representatives played a game of chicken the other day. In the process, Rep. Jeff Espich, R-Uniondale, may have created an opening for reshaping the political dialogue in Indiana. The issue was the mass transit system many people in central Indiana want. The system has a big price tag — \$1.3 billion — but many of the movers and shakers in Indianapolis and the eight counties surrounding Marion County see it as essential to the region's growth. "Everyone is afraid of the tax increase," Espich said in a story written by Krista Chittum. "I'm the only one who's supportive of the tax increase and I haven't found anybody else that is." Translation: If you Democrats think I'm going to be the only one assuming the political risk of calling for a tax increase, you're crazier than Charlie Sheen. [JOHN KRULL: GOP wins game of transit chicken » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

Input sought on economic impact study for Ohio River Bridges Project

Courier-Journal

1/23/12

Indiana officials have scheduled a meeting next week to seek public input on what to include in an economic impact study for the Ohio River Bridges Project. The meeting is to begin at 6 p.m. Feb. 2 at the Sheraton Hotel, 700 West Riverside Drive in Jeffersonville, Ind. The public also can comment on plans for a feasibility study that would evaluate using a public-private partnership for

a bridge completing Interstate 265 at Utica. The Indiana Finance Authority intends to commission both studies. The expected completion date may be known later this week, said Jim McGoff, the finance authority's general counsel.

Indiana law requires the studies before seeking proposal for toll road projects. The eastern bridge would be tolled, according to project plans. [Input sought on economic impact study for Ohio River Bridges Project | The Courier-Journal | courier-journal.com](#)

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