



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

**January 26, 2012**

### **Wyndham speaks at Chamber meeting**

The Brazil Times

1/24/12

Residents may see an increase in taxes after a discussion during Tuesday's Clay County Chamber of Commerce luncheon in the Brazil Family Medicine building basement. City of Brazil Mayor Brian Wyndham discussed the possibility of imposing a wheel tax to help generate funds needed to improve road conditions. "A wheel tax is obviously an option," Wyndham said. "A wheel tax is not a fee per wheel, but per vehicle." He added proposed costs are estimated at approximately \$25 per vehicle. "So if you have two cars and a pick-up truck, it's \$75," Wyndham explained. "We are the only county in the area not imposing a wheel tax. The state legislators have given this tool to help towns raise money (to repair the roads.)" Wyndham added if the city applied for a grant but didn't impose a wheel tax, the state could make it more difficult to receive funding by saying the city hasn't used a tool the state already put in place.

"It's a bitter pill to swallow. No one likes taxes," Wyndham said. "Let's not do something that will barely maintain us. Let's maximize it and put 100 percent of the money toward road repair. It's inevitable."

[Brazil Times: Local News: Wyndham speaks at Chamber meeting \(01/24/12\)](#)

### **Sherman Minton expected to open by March 1 Indiana expects to pay some incentives to contractor**

News and Tribune

1/25/12

NEW ALBANY — The Sherman Minton Bridge is expected to be open by March 1. Transportation officials from Kentucky and Indiana said at a Wednesday press conference at the closed bridge that Louisville-based Hall Contracting is on track to complete its repairs to the Sherman Minton Bridge, which was shut down Sept. 9 after a critical crack was discovered in one of the support beams. "I'm very hopeful it will be open sooner than March 1," said Bob Zier, Indiana Department of Transportation Chief of Staff. Hall Contracting is on schedule with its 135-day repair timeline and has completed 62 percent of the work to repair the bridge, as of Friday, said INDOT Spokesman Will Wingfield. He added that 80 percent of the steel plating being used to reinforce the support beams running the length of the span have been installed. [Sherman Minton expected to open by March 1 » Homepage » News and Tribune](#)

### **'Right to work' rift threatens transit bill Democrats oppose language in measure over workers, unions**

The Indianapolis Star

1/25/12

The contentious "right to work" battle that has ground the Indiana House to a halt also is derailing legislation to boost mass transit in Central Indiana. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Jeff Espich is leaving language in the transit bill that Democrats see as a poison pill for workers. That could kill the legislation because Espich likely needs their votes to pass the bill out of committee by Friday's deadline. Democrats and transit advocates have three days to change Espich's mind, which seems unlikely. Ron Gifford, the transit task force's executive director, has been talking with lawmakers one-on-one for weeks about the merits of transit. He thinks the bill will need votes from Republicans and Democrats to move and acknowledged that the "right to work" language is an obstacle. ['Right to work' rift threatens transit bill | The Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#) Also, [Time's running out Make it simple, give voters a voice | The Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

### **Valpo, INDOT agree to U.S. 30 improvement plans**

NWI Times

1/25/12

VALPARAISO | Construction of improvements to the U.S. 30 corridor is expected to begin in 2013 under a \$20 million agreement announced Wednesday between Valparaiso and the Indiana Department of Transportation. In what the city said is "one of the largest intergovernmental partnerships the city has seen," Mayor Jon Costas announced Valparaiso will receive \$2 million in cash from INDOT and a pledge of \$18 million in federal funds. The funds will allow design work to begin this year for construction over the next couple of years. In addition, the agreement calls for the city to take over control of Ind. 130. Initially, it will be responsible for maintaining the road from U.S. 30 to Howe Street at the western city boundary. It will be extended in four-year increments to Froberg Road in 2016, to Tower Road in 2020 and to Ind. 149 in 2024. City Administrator Bill Oeding said, if Valparaiso annexes land in those areas sooner, it would take control at that time. Oeding said the city has no plans to annex at this time. [Valpo, INDOT agree to U.S. 30 improvement plans](#) Also, [Valpo to partner with INDOT for more than \\$18M in improvements on U.S. 30 - Post-Tribune](#)

### **INDOT Updates MPO Technical Committee On I-69**

Indiana Public Media

1/25/12

The Bloomington, Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization technical advisory committee held a meeting with Indiana Department of Transportation officials Wednesday. INDOT Program Manager Sandra Flum attended the MPO meeting to give an update on construction of sections one through four of I-69. She says Section four is on schedule, and the remaining contracts will go out for bid in July. MPO Technical Advisory Committee Chair Adrian Reid says one of the benefits of I-69 is it would be safer for motorists. "It's certainly more than just a local project it serves a pretty large region, and as an engineer that I can tell you that a limited access highway has all sorts of safety benefits over this sort of highway that 37 is now," he says. One challenge Flum says is choosing a design that best transfers traffic from I69 to state road 37. INDOT is looking at its options. INDOT officials say they're still hopeful the full MPO will accept its recommendation and include Interstate 69 in its long range transportation improvement plan. The two groups are scheduled to meet February 10th, but some members of the MPO say that meeting should be delayed until they get more information from the community and get answers to some of the questions they've been asking INDOT. [INDOT Updates MPO Technical Committee On I-69 | News - Indiana Public Media](#)

### **Feds could pay most of cost to link Gary airport, highways**

NWI Times  
1/25/12

INDIANAPOLIS | An Indiana House committee voted 11-0 Wednesday to access federal funds to build roads connecting the Gary/Chicago International Airport with nearby highways. House Bill 1307, sponsored by state Rep. Earl Harris, D-East Chicago, enables the Indiana Department of Transportation to use money from the state highway trust fund to build roads connecting highways to airports. Harris said the federal government will pay 95 percent of the cost of airport-connecting roads, but INDOT needs legislative approval to access that money and spend state highway funds for the remainder. The legislation, which applies statewide, now advances to the full House. [Feds could pay most of cost to link Gary airport, highways](#)

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