



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

September 29, 2011

Elkhart County pushes gas tax to repair roads and bridges

WNDU.com

9/27/11

It's no secret gas prices are always jumping. But what if the state or county raised the gas tax even more to improve roads and bridges? It's one idea Elkhart County is proposing to help out with a budget shortfall. Elkhart isn't necessarily the only county asking for more help considering other counties around the state want gas taxes to go up also. Right now Elkhart County is just looking ahead after a 6.7 million dollar budget shortfall that will only continue and let roads and bridge deteriorate. "We have been able to prioritize heavily travelled roads," says Elkhart County Commissioner Mike Yoder. "That's where we focus the dollars. But other county roads with 200 to 300 cars passing a day, those roads, those are in a serious state of repair." Currently Hoosiers already pay 18 cents per gallon in state gas taxes. The Elkhart County Highway Department examined their recent budget. They know they are short this year and are worried about the future. A proposed 7 cents gas tax per gallon could help balance the budget. [Elkhart County pushes gas tax to repair roads and bridges](#)

Bridge inspection likely to wrap up next week

News and Tribune

9/28/11

NEW ALBANY — So far, inspection hasn't yielded any more significant cracks, official says. Another set of federal, state and local officials took to the Sherman Minton Bridge on Wednesday to get a look at the Interstate 64 span that has been closed since Sept. 9. Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., said the inspection process that is taking place — following the discovery of a critical crack on a load-bearing support on the bridge — should be complete early next week. And following a briefing with Indiana transportation officials on the bridge that connects New Albany with Louisville, he added that the bridge may be opened sooner than expected. "I'm encouraged, [I] just have a sense, it won't take as long as we thought initially in order to get this repaired and back up and running," Coats said. [Bridge inspection likely to wrap up next week » Homepage » News and Tribune](#)

New Harmony, Ind., bridge rated 'deficient' | POLL

Evansville Courier and Press

9/28/11

NEW HARMONY, Ind. —The 80-year-old toll bridge connecting New Harmony with Southern Illinois needs more than \$8 million in repairs, and a way to pay for it. The bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places, and it is one farmers who work on both sides of the Wabash River

consider vital.

It's also dilapidated, according to recent inspections. The most recent inspection gave the bridge a rating of "structurally deficient" – the same rating given the Minneapolis bridge over the Mississippi River that collapsed in 2007 and the recently closed Sherman Minton Bridge near Louisville, Ky. That review found that while the New Harmony bridge's deck and substructure are in solid shape, its superstructure — the part below the deck that rests on piers and abutments — is in "serious condition." [New Harmony, Ind., bridge rated 'deficient' | POLL » Evansville Courier & Press](#) Also, [Bridge linking southwest Indiana with southeast Illinois is 'deficient,' needs \\$8M in repairs](#)

**New Albany's State Street closure may last until next week
Charlestown Road project tentatively awarded**

News and Tribune

9/28/11

NEW ALBANY — The closure of a portion of State Street could extend through early next week, depending on the weather. Last week, the New Albany Board of Public Works and Safety agreed to shut down State Street from Green Valley Road to the Children's Academy of New Albany beginning last Sunday through Thursday in order for the span to be repaved. City officials said the closure was necessary so the roadway could be resurfaced before Harvest Homecoming activities commence, as the festival's parade is on tap for Saturday and Booth Days begin next week. John Rosenbarger, director of public facilities projects for the city, said Tuesday the hope is that the work will be finished on schedule, but didn't rule out the possibility of the project continuing into "early next week." In other news, the commission tentatively awarded TSI Paving a contract for Charlestown Road improvements that will occur in the vicinity of Genung Drive. At \$273,610, TSI submitted the lowest of three bids for the project which Rosenbarger said will hopefully be completed by Thanksgiving. MAC Construction and Excel Excavating also proposed bids for the project. The engineer's estimate for the work — provided by the city-hired firm Jacobi, Toombs and Lanz — was \$260,000. [New Albany's State Street closure may last until next week » Recent Local News » News and Tribune](#)

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