

Governor Mike Pence
HEA 1002 Bill Signing
Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

While I'm here today, it is my great privilege to sign House Enrolled Act 1002, which addresses road funding for the Crossroads of America. Here in Indiana, we understand that roads mean jobs.

Last year, during the 2013 legislative session, the Major Moves 2020 Trust Fund was established, and \$200 million each year was transferred from the State's general fund. These dollars go toward what I like to refer to as "taking care of what we have" and "finishing what we started." And so the Indiana Department of Transportation invests approximately \$750 million each year on bridge pavement preservation and working toward completing I-69, the Ohio River Bridges Project, and U.S. 31. These projects will consume the existing traditional funding for the foreseeable future.

That's why, in December, I said my administration would be working with the Indiana General Assembly to make \$400 million available for the next era of highway expansion so that Indiana can build upon our reputation as the Crossroads of America.

And today, I'll sign legislation to do just that.

The need is now.

The Indiana Department of Transportation has identified at least 20 specific areas on our interstates that require expansion for motorist safety and to improve the ability to move freight with the substantial number of trucks that use our interstates.

- Specifically, INDOT has targeted six heavily-traveled corridors along I-65 and the preexisting I-69 in different portions of the state. I-65 segments in Lake County are being advanced in concert with the Illiana Corridor.
- Most work will occur within existing right of way, allowing the work to proceed quickly. Design-build contracts will be competitively bid later this year. This allows the design and construction to happen consecutively, rather than in sequence, speeding the construction timeline.

- In most cases, two new travel lanes – one in each direction – will be built in the 60-foot-wide grassy median with a median barrier for safety. In some locations ramp lanes will be built along the outside of existing travel lanes.

Under HEA 1002, \$200 million will go toward projects immediately, and the state may invest another \$200 million after December's revenue forecasts and Budget Committee review. It's estimated that this legislation will support 9,800 jobs and will expand the state's lane capacity on major highways in Indiana, enhancing Indiana's position as the Crossroads of America.

Our infrastructure makes Indiana a national transportation hub and a global distribution powerhouse, and it is one of the reasons Indiana continues to be recognized as a great place to do business.

This legislation will create road projects now. It will also:

- Improve travel times and reliability
 - Enhance the ability for trucks on the interstates to move goods in and through Indiana
 - Strengthen the state's economic competitiveness and quality of life
- Improve traffic safety through modernized design
 - Reduce crash-related lane closures
- Invest funds more quickly
 - Keeps industry in high motion, supporting construction jobs
 - Prevents rising construction prices from eroding our purchasing power
- Advance long-term goals to expand heavily traveled interstates

I offer my gratitude to members of our Indiana General Assembly who recognized the value in investing in Indiana's infrastructure including: bill author Rep. Timothy Brown; co-authors Representatives Ed Soliday who joins us today, Jeffrey Thompson, Bob Cherry, Gregory Porter, Sheila Klinker; and Senate Sponsor Luke Kenley.

And I thank all who are here today who have supported our efforts in keeping this pledge to invest in the next era of major highway projects in Indiana.