

BOC July 7, 2026

All 3 commissioners and legal counsel present. Started at 11:01, adjourned at 11:40.

. All items passed unanimously.

6 on line, including Oliver Davis and Steve Frances.

Baxmeyer announced at the start of the meeting that IPG will remove (from their agenda) consideration of the Continental Divide Trail this year, due to public outcry against it.

A. FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: Opening and Reading of Bids/Letters of Interest on:

B. REPORTS AND REQUESTS FROM:

COMMISSIONERS:

a) Approval of the Accounts Payable Docket

b) Approval of Appointments to the Onsite Wastewater Advisory Board: 3 members have 3-year terms expiring July 7: Adam DeVon (Building specialist), Tim Monaghan (soil scientist), and Jacob Osowski (septic specialist). No other nominations; all 3 were reapproved.

c) Approval of Appointments to the Water Resources Advisory Board: 2 members have terms expiring August 29, 2026: Adam DeVon and Tim Monaghan. Both were reappointed.

IPG:

a) Approval of the Bid Award Recommendation for Project M-92601 for Milling of Various Roads/Subdivisions: Reith Riley was awarded the Bid for \$168,647, the lowest bidder.

b) Approval of Interlocal Agreement with City of South Bend Board of Public Works for the Colfax Avenue Bridge over the St. Joseph River Reconstruction Project. Design will cost \$467,545 Construction cost est \$2,713,700 and inspection cost est \$93,500. The City of South Bend will reimburse the County for the costs associated with the City-requested improvements. The County will pay about \$4.3 Million, the City will pay about \$3.3 Million.

c) Approval of Supplemental Agreement No. 1 with DLZ Indiana for the Colfax Avenue Bridge No. 215 Project: This agreement increases the total contract fee by \$657,545 to total \$1,458,785. to coordinate the bridge work with the City's Colfax Streetscape project with revised bridge and roadway design, additional surveying costs and construction-phase services and observation.

d) Approval of Contract R-42200 with INDOT for Final Inspection Completion of Des. No. 1900448 Cleveland and Beech Road Roundabout: Construction was completed 11/24/2025 and INDOT inspected and passed the construction on 4/17/26, with final inspection on May 12th.

e) Approval of Consent Agenda: The Pasadena Avenue Neighborhood Block party may proceed on August 22, 2026.

C. OLD BUSINESS: None

D. NEW BUSINESS: None

E: PUBLIC COMMENTS: (THREE MINUTE LIMIT)

Brent Burkus, owner/operator Farms. There is a groundswell of support against the SEA 468, the Continental Divide Trail. This whole project was conceived in deceit. The stakeholders are the people, not the designers. The funding has never been clear. Don't let a retooled project come back.

Derek Dieter: thank you for coming to the meeting yesterday about the SEA 468, for \$40 Million cost and why the Pokagon Casino was mentioned as a stakeholder. (It's because the Pokagon Band gave the state \$40 million in order to expand the casino! SEA 480 uses this money given to the state).

Mark Warner gave Shawn Peterson \$50,000 to proceed with SEA 468 planning..

Steve Sass: Thank you for attending yesterday's meeting in North Liberty. Local folks don't want a trail linking their town to the city of South Bend. We can do good conservation work with proper planning.

Dan Caruso: Thank you for being at the meeting. I am also asking INDOT to hit pause on the diverging diamond intersection in New Carlisle. There are people looking at the GM property that MIGHT

bring in more employees. Just because the funding has been approved doesn't mean that the need for the diverging diamond is needed. Amazon employs only about 20 people.

Oliver Davis: Thank you for taking the time to listen. The key thing is that people were not aware. SEA 468 has not been discussed in the Common Council. Include community people in this discussion! Take the time to listen, THEN plan.

Steve Frances: The Midwest Trail Initiative has falsehoods being discussed here today. You are pulling this project off the table due to public outcry. This project HAS been advertised, with 4 meetings last summer, and a public survey. Read the planning document: it isn't going to be a land grab. There IS no trail route in the document as specified. Second, there has been plenty of time to air this, and several pieces of legislation have passed about it in the past 3 years. We have a wonderful opportunity for conservation and sustainable development with this legislation. The project's \$2 million is a lot of money to not use for conservation.

Morton: Rep. Jake Teshka made it very clear that he (Teshka) is leading the charge against this legislation and for a pause.

Frances: Teshka is switching his opinion due to this being an election year against an opponent for SEA 486; Teshka was originally FOR the project. Read the actual document thoroughly.

Oliver Davis: Jake Teshka should not be the one pausing this project. Shame on you, Mr. Frances, for implying that you are the only one who has read the project document. That was insulting!

Frances: —was not allowed to respond to Oliver Davis, who spoke without being recognized. The meeting was promptly ended.