

best, the most the State has planned to do on Business 50 would be occasional milling and thin layers of top-coating. This will allow for total re-construction of the deteriorated road.”

“One of my goals and that of the Council has been to figure out doing this project without increasing property taxes. We will be able to do that through the use of Tax Increment Financing revenues already being paid, primarily by commercial and industrial entities, as part of their property tax.”

As a separate project while the road is replaced, the City plans to upgrade its utilities under and adjacent to the road in the form of modernized water & sewer lines and new street lights. This cost will be paid by the City’s three utilities through bonds issued last month. As has been previously noted, the water & sewer lines under Business 50 for the most part are 70 or 80 years old, and sooner or later would need replaced anyway. This gives the City the opportunity to upgrade the infrastructure and have a new sound, modern roadway for drivers, businesses, industry, residents and pedestrians that will last for decades into the future. “As high-ranking officials of INDOT have told me more than once,” Wellman concluded, “Business 50 is a low-priority highway and will never return to being high-priority, as they feel it no longer is needed in the State’s highway transportation system.”

---

For further information, contact Mayor Joe Wellman at 812/254-5575.