Obtaining Cooperation of Governmental Agencies for Transportation Development

Keith A. Klopfenstein
County Commissioner,
St. Joseph County

The State of Indiana is providing motorists a second-class highway system at state, county, and city levels as a result of inadequate financing of highway construction programs the past few decades.

A prime example is the highway extending from South Bend to our state capitol. It is an inexcusable stretch of piece-meal expressway construction.

One possible solution, would be to assure that all tax revenue collected from the sale of automobiles, automobile parts and accessories, and fuel by the state be used entirely for the construction and maintenance of a safe and modern network of roads throughout the state. I think the motorists have a right to expect that taxes they pay as a result of automobile ownership should be used to assure them better motoring.

The money presently being spent to encourage tourism would best be spent first to provide decent highways for those tourists who do visit our state. The efforts of the state to encourage new industry might also be enhanced if visiting industrialists would observe an accelerated program of modern highway construction throughout the state.

It might merit consideration to turn over all maintenance of state roads, other than toll roads and expressways, to city and county highway crews where the roads exist. This would help avoid such conditions as we see in South Bend, for example, where a state road passes the city highway department building—but contains numerous
chuckholes. The state highway department could then develop more comprehensive programs of major road construction and maintenance, as well as accelerated research and planning programs which are beyond the scope of city and county highway departments.