



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

September 7, 2017

Indiana Toll Road deal getting it right

South Bend Tribune

Kyle Hannon, Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce

9/6/17

ELKHART — It's time to appreciate what's going on with the Indiana Toll Road. A major \$300 million reconstruction project is mostly finished, using a local company. It will be completed ahead of schedule, below budget and at no cost to taxpayers. During a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao joined Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb to celebrate the completion of the Interstate 80/90 Push project that the Indiana Toll Road company says will make the road faster, smoother, safer and "future ready." Several state lawmakers were on hand along with employees from Rieth-Riley, who completed the work. We are always happy to have our state lawmakers on hand to celebrate projects that they enabled. We are always happy to have the governor visit our area to celebrate our region's role in the state's progress. As nice as that is, this ribbon-cutting was special because a presidential Cabinet member was on hand to cut the ribbon. In my 15 years of ribbon cuttings, I don't recall that happening before. The speed and cost of the project are due to something called a P3, which stands for public-private partnership. As Chao noted, the Interstate 80/90 Push was a perfect example of how a P3 works. In theory, the cooperation between government and the private sector will make projects more efficient. In reality, there are complications in steering a long-standing public service toward the private sector seeking to make a profit. Our area knows it better than other Hoosiers. We probably feel more ownership over the Indiana Toll Road than other communities feel about their roads.

http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/business/indiana-toll-road-deal-getting-it-right/article_8552cc97-0e33-521f-abfe-ffbfff878445.html

30 Months Of I-74 Construction Begins Today

WSCH 993 FM

Mike Perleberg

9/5/17

Penntown, Ind. – Two-and-a-half years of orange barrels begin appearing on Interstate 74 in southeastern Indiana Tuesday. The Indiana Department of Transportation and contractor Milestone kick off a \$61 million improvement project for I-74 in Ripley, Franklin and Decatur counties. Lane closures will be required as crews work this fall on interchanges at Penntown and New Point. Over the next couple years, crews will resurface much of I-74 through the three counties. New bridges will be built at Little Laughery Creek and Western Creek. Work is expected to end in 2020. The Penntown and New Point interchanges won't be the only road work witnessed by I-74 motorists this fall. Civil Coatings and Construction Inc. of Valparaiso is the state's contractor for overpass bridge painting projects. Enochsburg Road over I-74 in Franklin County will become a work zone on September 6. Painting on St. Peters Road over I-74 in

Dearborn County will begin on October 1. I-74 lane closures will be required for painting to start on October 26 on the I-74 bridges over Stout Road in Dearborn County. The road work is part of Governor Eric Holcomb's Next Level Roads Plan. It is being funded in part by a recent 10-cents per gallon increase in the state tax on gasoline. <http://eaglecountryonline.com/local-article/30-months-of-i-74-construction-begins-today/>

City pursues phase 2 of road work

The Republic
Matthew Kent
9/5/17

Columbus is pursuing its second round of street improvements this year as the city waits to hear about state grant funding. The city has submitted eight projects to the Indiana Department of Transportation as part of the state agency's Community Crossings grant program, said Dave Hayward, executive director of public works/city engineer. The program is a 50/50 program between INDOT and the city, requiring the city to provide its match through Local Option Income Taxes, or LOIT funds, wheel/surtax monies or rainy day funds, according to INDOT. The Columbus Board of Works received bids Tuesday from Dave O'Mara Contractor Inc. and Milestone Contractors, which were taken under advisement, for Phase 2 of the city's overlay program. Hayward said the city expects to hear back soon from INDOT about how much, if any, it could receive under the grant program, which could provide up to \$1 million in funding. Columbus City Council is being asked to appropriate \$1.5 million toward street improvements that includes \$743,000 in LOIT funds and an additional \$757,000 from the city's general fund to be used toward the city's overlay program. The bids from the contractors cover the first five projects that were submitted to INDOT, Hayward said. The city submitted \$1.2 million worth of projects to INDOT under the Community Crossings program in 2016 and was awarded about \$640,000 in funding, he said. http://www.therepublic.com/2017/09/06/city_pursues_phase_2_of_road_work/

www.buildindianacouncil.org