



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

**November 8, 2016**

### **Illiana continues on slow road through courts**

NWI Times  
Andres Steele  
11/8/16

The Illiana Expressway's lingering presence continued this week with a court ruling affirming that federal approval of the project was based on a flawed and invalid environmental study. But the decision by Judge Charles Norgle of the U.S. District Court of Northern Illinois leaves open the opportunity for the Indiana and Illinois departments of transportation to revise their environmental studies and continue pursuing the project. The lawsuit was brought by the environmental groups Openlands, Midewin Heritage Association and Sierra Club. They asked the court to declare the Federal Highway Administration's approval of the Illiana project's Tier 2 environmental impact statement to be in violation of federal law. Approval of the Tier 2 EIS is the final step allowing a project to move forward. But Norgle dismissed the case as moot, because the Tier 2 study was based on a Tier 1 study a federal court found to be flawed last year. In that separate Tier 1 case, Judge Jorge Alonso ruled that the environmental assessment did not adequately consider the implications of not building the Illiana. Such a "no build" alternative is required by the National Environmental Protection Act. [http://www.nwitimes.com/business/transportation/illiana-continues-on-slow-road-through-courts/article\\_923a1809-2932-5f8e-9aca-77c11ceec162.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/business/transportation/illiana-continues-on-slow-road-through-courts/article_923a1809-2932-5f8e-9aca-77c11ceec162.html)

### **Muncie officials told state about county's error, jeopardizing \$1M**

The Star Press  
Keith Roysdon  
11/4/16

MUNCIE, Ind. — After Delaware County won \$1 million in state funding to repair local roads, Muncie city officials alerted the state to a mistake in the county's plan, jeopardizing the funding. But Indiana Department of Transportation officials didn't take back the county's funding because they had also missed the mistake, INDOT told The Star Press on Friday. Mayor Dennis Tyler initially said Friday that the allegation that the city had raised issues with the county's \$980,000 award in state funds, was "absolutely not true." Delaware County Commissioner Shannon Henry told The Star Press that he had been told that "officials from the city of Muncie had called and complained about the county receiving the money," adding, "I'm not sure why the city would do this other than to cast a negative shadow on our county government at election time. Obviously the city is embarrassed about their failure to apply for the grant." <http://www.thestarpress.com/story/news/local/2016/11/04/city-told-state-countys-error-jeopardizing-1m/93281514/>

---

[www.buildindianacouncil.org](http://www.buildindianacouncil.org)