



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **January 16, 2014**

#### **Contract issued for U.S. 31/Ind. 28 work**

Kokomo Tribune  
1/16/14

A San Francisco-based engineering firm has been selected to lay the ground work for a new interchange at Ind. 28 and U.S. 31 in Tipton County, Indiana Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann announced Wednesday. URS Corp. will provide environmental, design, utility coordination and land acquisition services for the estimated \$17-million project, which is scheduled to begin construction in 2015. Indiana Department of Transportation officials expect to hold a public meeting for the project later this year. In February 2013, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence and Chrysler Group executives announced plans to assemble transmissions at the former Getrag facility in Tipton County. The nearly 800,000-square-foot site is scheduled to be operational by the end of 2014. The new U.S. 31 and Ind. 28 interchange will accommodate the increased commuter and truck traffic while advancing the U.S. 31 Coalition's efforts to remove stoplights on the highway between Indianapolis and South Bend. INDOT spokesman Will Wingfield said URS will be working on "parallel tracks" to get all of the pre-construction work completed in time to bid out the construction contract next year. [Contract issued for U.S. 31/Ind. 28 work » Local News » Kokomo Tribune: Kokomo, Indiana](#)

#### **Funding road construction and repairs could mean higher gas prices**

TheStatehouseFile.com  
Olivia Covington  
1/15/14

INDIANAPOLIS – Hoosiers could soon see a rise in gas prices in an effort to generate more funding for state infrastructure. House Bill 1104, which was presented to the House Roads and Transportation Committee on Wednesday, would require the Indiana Department of Transportation to hire an outside company to conduct a study on ways to increase funds for building and repairing Indiana roads. The bill specifies that the study would look at increasing the state excise gas tax as a method to generate funds. Kevin Brinegar, president of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, said the rise of fuel-efficient and electric-powered cars has resulted in a decrease in revenue from gasoline and diesel fuels over the past 10 years. "The cost of maintaining and creating new roads has certainly not gone down or stayed level, so our purchasing power has been eroded substantially," Brinegar said. Raising the gas tax could help to supplement the loss of revenue from gasoline and diesel fuels. The study would also look at charging a flat per-vehicle rate for Indiana drivers as a method of raising money. Rep. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso, who authored the bill, said the average Hoosier already pays roughly \$100 a year to use Indiana roads.

"They pay that much for their cell phone a month and probably twice that much for their cable

TV,” Soliday said. “The problem is they don’t know that that is what value they get out of the tax dollars they paid for road funding.” INDOT Legislative Director Nick Barbknecht said the department has an existing relationship with Purdue University. If the bill is passed, Barbknecht said INDOT is considering hiring Purdue to conduct the study. Soliday said he thinks the study is essential to helping the state maintain its status as the Crossroads of Indiana. “We have folks talking about – including our governor – about being the best infrastructure in the Midwest,” Soliday said. “We want to do that.” Soliday was reluctant to estimate the cost of the study, but finally said it could be around \$2-3 million. But, he said INDOT’s commissioner assured him the department has enough money to fund the study. “That’s one of the least of my worries,” Soliday said. Soliday said his goal is to have 92 percent of Indiana roads in fair or better condition. The study would be completed in two years. The bill passed out of the committee unanimously and now moves to the full House for consideration.

[Funding road construction and repairs could mean higher gas prices - TheStatehouseFile.com](#)

### **6 bid teams want to build Illiana Expressway in Indiana**

NWI Times

Keith Benman

1/14/14

The five bid teams that responded to Illinois’ request for qualifications for building the Illiana Expressway have told Indiana they want to do the same on the Hoosier side of the border. In addition, a consortium led by Isolux Infrastructure Netherlands B.V. has thrown its hat in the ring for the 12-mile portion of the expressway in Indiana only. The six teams responded Friday to a request for qualifications to design, build and operate the expressway issued in November by the Indiana Finance Authority and Indiana Department of Transportation. “The IFA and INDOT are honored to see interest from such qualified and experienced companies,” Indiana Public Finance Director Kendra York said. IFA and INDOT will develop a shortlist from among the six to invite to respond to a request for proposals. It is anticipated responses will be submitted during the summer. Both states hope to conclude a deal by fall. In all, more than 50 companies ranging from construction to engineering to toll road management firms teamed with the various investment houses to put in bids Friday. The Illiana Expressway would run 47 miles from Interstate 65 just northeast of Lowell to Interstate 55, near Wilmington, Ill. It has a projected cost of \$1.3 billion. It will be operated as a toll road. INDOT and the Illinois Department of Transportation want the winning investment team to defray the \$1.3 billion cost of the expressway by providing some of the upfront money needed to get construction underway. In exchange the investors would get a cut of tolls.

[http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/lowell/bid-teams-want-to-build-illiana-expressway-in-indiana/article\\_2426948f-9ce6-5f1c-a4f7-3b1763261e26.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/lowell/bid-teams-want-to-build-illiana-expressway-in-indiana/article_2426948f-9ce6-5f1c-a4f7-3b1763261e26.html)

### **Grand Cal bridge repair plan moves forward**

NWI Times

Rob Earnshaw

1/14/14

PORTAGE | The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission's Transportation Policy Committee on Tuesday approved a request to allocate funds to repair a bridge on Kennedy Avenue over the Grand Calumet River in East Chicago. The Lake County Board of Commissioners submitted a request to NIRPC that funds currently programmed in the Transportation Improvement Program for the reconstruction of Colfax Street, from Main Street (53rd Avenue) to 45th Avenue in Griffith be reallocated to the bridge. A latest inspection report and previous underwater inspection indicates the substructure has an estimated remaining life of eight years and a structural rating of poor, according to a letter to NIRPC from the Lake County board. The estimated cost of the project \$2.25 million versus an estimated replacement cost in excess of \$5 million. According to its letter the Board of Commissioners are proposing a “pile

sleeve system” that would replace a structural steel jacket around the existing piles and rehabilitate the substructure in place rather than replacement of the entire structure. The remainder of the bridge would be rehabilitated in conjunction with substructure. The funds for the Colfax Street Reconstruction were \$3.5 million. Those will be transferred to the bridge repair (\$2.25 million) and for phase three of the 45th Avenue reconstruction (\$1.25 million). The amendment will now move for approval in front of the full NIRPC commission.

[Grand Cal bridge repair plan moves forward](#)

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