



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

April 3, 2014

Construction projects ramp up across Indy

The Indy Channel
Chance Walser
4/2/14

INDIANAPOLIS - The road construction season is underway and crews are working on multiple projects throughout the city to improve road conditions for drivers. Last week, Gov. Mike Pence signed a bill that will give INDOT access to hundreds of millions of dollars. The money will be used to widen I-65 from Southport Road to Franklin. "The idea is to continue to expand I-65 south of Indianapolis to help some of the commuting patterns, to help with some of the truck traffic that comes through that area, but basically to improve safety and improve congestion," Wingfield said. INDOT officials said they are hoping to bid contracts for the I-65 widening work later in the year.
[Construction projects ramp up across Indy - TheIndyChannel.com](http://TheIndyChannel.com)

\$30 million roadwork plan OK'd

The Journal Gazette
Dan Stockman
4/2/14

FORT WAYNE – A regional transportation body amended plans Tuesday to allow for an unexpected, \$30 million project to widen Lafayette Center Road from the General Motors Assembly plant to Roanoke. The state funding was announced March 19, and while local officials have long pushed for the project, the cost of rebuilding the 3.7 miles of road made it seem unlikely. But local legislators and economic development officials kept pushing for it, and the General Assembly approved the funding. Dan Avery, executive director of the Northeast Indiana Regional Coordinating Council, said it was the regional support that made the difference, noting that Huntington County officials pushed as hard or harder for the project. When complete, the road will essentially form an extension of Interstate 469, connecting it to U.S. 24 in Roanoke. That will make a highway corridor from Toledo to Fort Wayne to Huntington, Wabash and west to I-65 at Lafayette. Officials said design work is expected to begin this year, with design and right-of-way purchases completed next year. Construction, expected to cost about \$23 million, is scheduled to be bid in December 2015 and begin in the spring of 2016.

[\\$30 million roadwork plan OK'd | The Journal Gazette](#)

INDOT official learns there are many state road problems in downtown Bloomfield

Greene County Daily World
Nick Schneider
4/2/14

A representative from the Indiana Department of Transportation came to the Bloomfield Town Council meeting Wednesday night seeking some feedback on a proposed plan to widen the turning radius and modernize the automatic traffic lights at a busy downtown intersection. However, what the INDOT official received was a plea from council members to fix the existing roadway on State Road 54 and State Road 157 before the intersection upgrade is done. Brandi Jittjumnongk, Communications Director for INDOT's Vincennes District office, informed the council that the modernization project to upgrade the intersection of State Road 54/U.S. 231 and State Road 157N is not included in the 2014 round of funding. The project will increase the turning radius going east on State Road 54 from U.S. 231 and turning south off of State Road 54 onto U.S. 231 to make it easier for large trucks to navigate the right turns. Also included will be modernized stop lights that will be on tethered cables. "We want some input from the town of Bloomfield," she opened her presentation saying "This is the start of a conversation." She pointed out that the town will lose some parking spaces on the north side of the courthouse square near the east intersection. Council President Doug Frye was quick to chime in to comments calling for the very rough and crumbling State Road 54 to be fixed ahead of the intersection widening project. "We wish you would have done it (the intersection project) before you (INDOT) turned I-69 loose. It's created a tremendous problem in town with all of the trucks coming into town," Frye stated. He continued, "While you are doing that (widening the intersection), you really need to fix the road. The road through town is falling apart."

[Greene County Daily World: Local News: INDOT official learns there are many state road problems in downtown Bloomfield \(04/02/14\)](#)

INDOT Seeks Competition For Amtrak Rail Line

Indiana Public Media

Gretchen Frazee

4/2/14

The Indiana Department of Transportation is allowing companies to compete for the passenger rail service from Indianapolis to Chicago. Congress cut off \$3 million in funding for the Hoosier State line last year, prompting INDOT and cities along the line to step in with a promise to subsidize the line for at least another year. Now, INDOT is looking for other long-term options. Amtrak operates the line now, but the state is asking other companies to submit proposals for how they would run part or all of the line. "We're opening this up to competition so that we can make sure taxpayers are getting the best value for their dollars and the service is being operated at the lowest possible cost," INDOT spokesman Will Wingfield says. An Amtrak spokesman says officials there are aware of INDOT's plans but they have no comment. The Hoosier State line has the fewest riders of any Amtrak line with less than 37,000 rides last year. Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski says he and other stakeholders have met with Amtrak on several occasions to discuss improvements. "But we don't have the luxury of saying 'Well we'll give you guys the whole year or the whole 14 months and boy we hope you got it improved and if you don't we're done without exploring any other opportunities,'" he says.

[INDOT Seeks Competition For Amtrak Rail Line | News - Indiana Public Media](#)

Crews Getting Set For Bridge 'Slide'

Inside INdiana Business

4/1/14

MADISON, Ind. and MILTON, Ken. - Preparation work continues for the slide of the Milton-Madison Bridge, which is tentatively scheduled to begin Sunday morning, April 6. Rain expected later this week could force a delay if it impacts the ability of construction crews to complete final preparations for the slide. Once the bridge is moved onto its permanent piers, it will take approximately a week to complete inspections, road connections to the bridge and other work, which means the bridge will remain closed until mid-April. Additional restraints are being installed and the sliding harnesses modified as part of the prep work. This additional work follows a four-

step process: The measures are designed off site, the designs are reviewed by the states, the materials are fabricated and/or delivered to the site, and finally, they are installed by bridge crews. Each of the four steps has its own timeline, and one must be completed before the next. "We're working diligently and carefully to move the bridge and get it reopened safely and in a timely manner," said Kevin Hetrick, project manager for the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT).

[Crews Getting Set For Bridge 'Slide' - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

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