



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Effort to repeal old I-69 route law moves to full Senate for consideration

Evansville Courier & Press
Chelsea Schneider
4/7/15

INDIANAPOLIS — An effort to remove a nearly decade-old state law that bars the Interstate 69 extension from entering a suburban Indianapolis township is now headed to the full Senate for consideration. A Senate committee passed the proposal, 5-3, on Tuesday amid Perry Township business owners and school officials sharing concerns about the road following Indiana 37 north into Indianapolis. The proposal doesn't make a recommendation on the route for the sixth and final section of the project that will take I-69 from Martinsville north to Indianapolis. But it does seek to remove a restriction placed into state law in 2006 that prohibits the road from entering Perry Township, which is just north of Johnson County. Proponents say all routes should have an even playing field as state and federal highway officials determine the location for the sixth section. Opponents say business decisions were made based off the law — facilitated by a group of state lawmakers whose districts cover portions of Perry Township and Marion County — and that the law needs to be honored. State Sen. Carlin Yoder, who chairs the Senate Homeland Security and Transportation Committee, said the proposal was difficult for him to consider, arguing the General Assembly shouldn't have placed the restriction into law in the first place. Yoder, a Middlebury Republican, and the bill's author, state Rep. John Price, pointed to a section of the Indiana Constitution that bars the General Assembly from passing local or special laws regarding the location of highways. "Because we did horrible policy in 2006, we are left to deal with it," Yoder said.

[I-69 bill moves to full Senate for consideration - Courier Press](#)

INDOT Northwest Open House detailing four year transportation plan

Chesterton Tribune
4/7/15

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is hosting regional open houses around the state to collect input on its draft four-year transportation plan, otherwise known as the STIP (statewide transportation improvement program). The INDOT District Office in LaPorte will be holding an open house on Thursday, April 9 from 3 to 6 p.m. at 315 East Boyd Blvd. The public is welcome to inspect planned projects and improvements that will enhance safety, mobility and economic growth while protecting the environment. The open house is an opportunity to meet with INDOT staff in an informal setting where discussion and conversation are welcome. INDOT officials will be available to address questions and solicit input on a variety of programs including planning, project selection, multimodal, highway safety, economic opportunity, local projects, public involvement and district operations. To use federal funds, a transportation project must be listed or amended into the statewide transportation improvement program. INDOT's draft STIP

lists all transportation projects considered regionally significant or planned for federal funds from July 2015 through June 2019. The document anticipates the funds available for various transportation modes, including highways, transit and trails. INDOT develops the STIP in cooperation with metropolitan planning organizations, which produce their own local transportation improvement programs. INDOT reviews and incorporates the metropolitan TIPs into the statewide document by reference.

http://www.chestertontribune.com/Northwest%20Indiana/indot_northwest_open_house_detail.htm

Panel clears way for I-69 path along Ind. 37

Indianapolis Star

John Tuohy

4/7/15

Despite objections from Southside business owners, an Indiana Senate panel advanced a proposal Tuesday for I-69 to run through Perry Township along the Ind. 37 corridor. The Homeland Security and Transportation Committee approved House Bill 1036 by a 5-3 vote. The bill could move to the Senate floor for amendments as early as Wednesday, before a final Senate vote. The proposal, introduced by state Rep. John Price, R-Greenwood, would replace legislation passed eight years ago that forbid the superhighway from going through Perry Township. "This merely removes the barrier that we couldn't consider the corridor as an option," Price said. "It allows the experts in INDOT (the Indiana Department of Transportation) to determine the best route, rather than the legislature." Proponents of the proposal, including chambers of commerce across the state, testified that they were not pushing to pick Ind. 37 as the route, just to make it available should INDOT choose it. "This is about leveling the playing field," said Liz Irwin, executive director of Hoosier Voices for I-69. "I-69 is a national and international trade corridor. This is not about the interest of one municipality or even one state." The stretch of highway under dispute is the last leg of the 142-mile I-69 extension.

[Panel clears way for I-69 path along Ind. 37](#)

Railroad on Track For Future Growth

Inside INdiana Business

Andy Ober

4/6/15

A privately-held, 500-mile railroad in Indiana is preparing for new leadership and looking to build on decades of growth. Indiana Rail Road Co. founder and Chief Executive Officer Tom Hoback purchased the line in 1986 after it had been shut down for serious safety violations. The Indianapolis-based company has grown into one of the largest railroads in the country, and carries cargo ranging from energy-related products to Nike Inc. (NYSE: NKE) merchandise to hubs including Chicago and Louisville. Hoback, who is retiring in June, discussed the railroad's growth on this weekend's edition of Inside INdiana Business Television. The company was founded with fewer than 20 employees. It now has a full-time staff of 200. Hoback says nearly \$200 million in infrastructure improvements since 1986 has the railroad in the best physical condition it has ever been. He says the company has seen around 12 percent annual growth each year for nearly 30 decades.

[Railroad on Track For Future Growth - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)