



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **June 18, 2015**

#### **Illiana Project Takes Another Hit**

Inside INdiana Business

Dan McGowan

6/17/15

A group of environmental organizations have won a key battle in an effort to halt the planned \$1.5 billion Illiana Expressway. U.S. District Court Judge Jorge Alonso has struck down a 2013 Federal Highway Administration approval of the 47-mile proposed tollway that would run between Interstate 65 in Indiana and Interstate 55 in Illinois. In his conclusion, Alonso wrote: "FHWA's approval of the Tier 1 final Environmental Impact Study and Record of Decision for the proposed new Illiana Expressway was arbitrary and capricious and in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act." It's been a rough several months for supporters of the project. In January, just one month after it received full backing from the FHWA, Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner called for a pause while all road construction projects would be reviewed. In response, the Indiana Department of Transportation announced in February it was suspending all work on the Illiana unless Illinois elected to proceed. Two weeks ago, Rauner declared the project "will not move forward at this time." Rauner is taking a stand against an unbalanced budget approved by the Illinois legislature. In 2010, former Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels and former Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed a memorandum of understanding and both touted the potential economic, traffic congestion and safety advantages of the roadway. Quinn said it would "open an era of bi-state collaboration and provide a crucial economic boost for both states." [Illiana Project Takes Another Hit - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

#### **Lafountain and Washington construction stalls, likely won't affect deadline**

Kokomo Tribune

George Myers

6/17/15

The Washington and Lafountain street reconstruction project has been put on hold pending asphalt design mix approval by state officials - a development city officials say shouldn't impact the project's deadline. The \$800,000 project - 90 percent of which is federally funded - discontinued construction roughly one month ago and will stay at a standstill until the project's contractor, E&B Paving, has received approval on its most recent design mix plan. That plan, which is for the project's intermediate layer of asphalt, has yet to be submitted to the Indiana Department of Transportation for approval, according to E&B Paving Vice President Larry Canterbury. "The design has not been sent in, but we are working on it now and it should be in ASAP," said Canterbury. "We are working with INDOT to get it done in a timely fashion." Even with the most recent setback, however, city officials expect the project to meet the July 15 "substantial completion" deadline - a date placed into the contract between state officials and E&B Paving employees. "There is not much work that needs to be done to open up that area,"

said Kokomo City Engineer Carey Stranahan. "Every item doesn't have to be completed to meet the deadline; it just needs to meet certain criteria. Even if it takes a few weeks to get approval, it should only take around a week to finish laying the asphalt. "People are most concerned about getting access to the Rural King drive and Lafountain Street, and in order to get them opened up we only need to install the asphalt we are currently waiting for approval on. We can open up traffic with just the intermediate mix." If the deadline is unexpectedly missed, Stranahan noted that the city would open up the area in mid-July by installing a ramp near the construction site. [Lafountain and Washington construction stalls, likely won't effect deadline - Kokomo Tribune: Local News](#)

### **SW Regional Logistics Council outlines high-priority transportation projects**

WFIE

Jordan Rowe

6/16/15

EVANSVILLE, IN (WFIE) - A new Ohio River bridge connecting Evansville and Henderson is just one of nine highly sought after transportation projects revealed Tuesday by the Southwest Regional Logistics Council. The council evaluates hundreds of projects every year and submits their recommendations for what should be done first. Five out of the nine top projects are located in southwestern Indiana. They include a \$265 million four-lane, full access freeway from Jasper and Huntingburg to I-69. Officials say \$145 million will be needed to design and build a new Ohio River bridge. However, funding for these projects continues to be called into question. "They pretty much have focused on the sales tax on gasoline being totally moved to just roads that's about \$600 million dollars a year, and ending diversions of any kind that are taken and used for other things in the highway gas tax," says David Holt of Conexus Indiana. The leaders who helped to compile the list will lobby legislators in the next session. [SW Regional Logistics Council outlines high-priority transportat - Tri-State News, Weather & Sports](#)

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