



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

August 4, 2015

City-wide motorcycle ride raises awareness for road workers in construction zones

WTHR

Naomi Pescovitz

8/2/15

Road construction is a dangerous job, and in the last decade more than a dozen workers have died in Indiana construction zones. Those zones can also be dangerous for everyday drivers, like the six people who lost their lives in Indiana construction zones in the past week and a half. On Sunday, a sea of motorcyclists drove from the Indianapolis Harley-Davidson on the south side, to the Moose Lodge in Noblesville, to get drivers thinking about the men and women who work on the roads. Though the hundreds of bikers work for competing contractors, there was no competition during Sunday's ride. They were all working toward the same goal. With bikes, music and sunshine, it felt like a summer celebration. The ride, however, was about remembrance and protection. "Motorists come in a work zone and are just not paying attention, they're on the phone, texting, tired," said Tim Harvey, Vice President of the Road Construction Awareness Corporation. Those decisions have left workers dead or injured, like a worker seriously hurt in a Carmel construction zone last month, near 116th and Meridian. "It's a sickening feeling. It's senseless," Harvey said. Road worker Dennis DeMoss knows the dangers of road construction because he does the job every day. He also knows that even one careless driver can change and take a life.

[City-wide motorcycle ride raises awareness for road workers in c - 13 WTHR Indianapolis](#)

All aboard! Passenger rail service from Indy to Chicago begins today

21Alive

Chris Smurr

8/2/15

Starting today, Hoosiers can now travel by railroad from Indianapolis to Chicago as the Indiana Department of Transportation signed a 2-year deal with Amtrak and Iowa Pacific Holdings. The deal will allow the rail service to operate four days per week with tickets ranging anywhere from \$24 to \$48 per person with potential discounts on each ticket. The contract signed by INDOT will allow the rail system to operate until June 30, 2017. The rail system will have amenities for passengers such as Wi-Fi, food service as well as dome-car seating. Tickets are now available at www.amtrak.com. Fort Wayne has been trying to get passenger rails up and running, however no deal has been reached to meet that goal as of yet.

[All aboard! Passenger rail service from Indy to Chicago begins today | 21Alive: News, Sports, Weather, Fort Wayne WPTA-TV, WISE-TV, and CW | Local](#)

Heavy haul road increase on Jeffersonville City Council agenda

News and Tribune
Elizabeth Beilman
7/31/15

The Jeffersonville City Council on Monday will vote on an amended interlocal agreement that increases the city's cost share for the heavy-haul road by \$750,000. The original agreement, signed by the city at the end of 2013, stipulates that Jeffersonville would contribute \$2.6 million toward the transportation corridor that will connect the Ports of Jeffersonville-Indiana to the River Ridge Commerce Center. The total construction cost for the project then was estimated at \$22 million, but now the project is estimated to cost \$33.4 million. If passed by the council, Jeffersonville's total share would increase to \$3.35 million. Other entities that will share the road's cost are River Ridge, the Ports, Clark County and the Indiana Department of Transportation. The Jeffersonville Redevelopment Commission approved the increase at its meeting Wednesday. [Heavy haul road increase on Jeffersonville City Council agenda - News and Tribune: Clark County](#)

Amtrak, state agreement on rail service pending

Journal & Courier
Chris Morisse Vizza
7/31/15

Indiana is likely within hours of completing a deal to continue the Hoosier State passenger rail service with Amtrak and private contractor Iowa Pacific Holdings. All that stands in the way is completion of a 1,200 foot segment of rail between CSX tracks and Iowa Pacific Holdings' maintenance facility in Beech Grove, Indiana, Department of Transportation spokesman Will Wingfield said. "We have separate contracts signed with Amtrak and Iowa Pacific Holdings contingent on completion of that track," he said. "We are cautiously optimistic." The track problem surfaced Tuesday when a switch had to be redesigned on a CSX line that provided access to Iowa Pacific Holdings' maintenance facility, he said. INDOT and Amtrak must confirm the track construction is completed before the service may transition to Iowa Pacific rail cars. As long as Iowa Pacific Holdings finishes building the track by Saturday evening, the Hoosier State should run as usual on Sunday, Wingfield said. The contingency doesn't affect Saturday service because Amtrak's three-day-a-week Cardinal runs the route then. The Cardinal, combined with the four-day-a-week Hoosier State, provide daily service between Chicago and Indianapolis. <http://www.iiconline.com/story/money/2015/07/31/amtrak-state-agreement-rail-service-pending/30960329/>

Construction bids for Boonville bypass to open in Sept.

Evansville Courier & Press
Shannon Hall
7/30/15

The much-anticipated Boonville bypass is making headway. For one thing, it now has a name: State Route 61 Boonville Bypass. In a little more than a month, contractors will be able to start placing bids for construction for the Boonville bypass. Local officials met with the Indiana Department of Transportation Thursday to discuss the progress on the bypass and to address any concerns. More than 50 years in the making, the four-mile bypass will allow access to Indiana 61 North without going through Boonville and its square. The bypass was first discussed to alleviate predicted coal truck traffic for the then under-construction Alcoa Warrick Operations plant. "You do have a nice quaint downtown, and I can understand why you wouldn't want the (coal) trucks (driving) through the town," INDOT Project Manager David Butts said. Construction should begin in 2016 for the north-south leg of the bypass, he said. "It's been a long time discussing this," Boonville Mayor Pam Hendrickson said. "There are numerous reasons (for the bypass). ... I'm just excited for our community because it will be an asset." Right now, INDOT is

doing dirt work, which will cost \$2.3 million, between Indiana 62 and Millersburg Road to prepare for the road construction. If a person wants to go north on Indiana 61, the bypass will begin at Indiana 62 across from Indiana 261. It will continue up to New Harmony Road. Once at the intersection, the bypass will continue east on New Harmony Road to Indiana 61.

[Construction bids for Boonville bypass to open in Sept. - Courier Press](#)

Bus terminal funding back on the table

The Herald Bulletin

Ken de la Bastide

7/30/15

The federal funds for a proposed new bus terminal in Anderson have been returned to the long-range budget for the Madison County Council of Governments. Earlier this year the city had lost \$3 million in federal funds that would have been used to help pay for the construction of a new bus terminal in downtown Anderson. Last year the Madison County Council of Governments (COG) asked the Indiana Department of Transportation to extend the deadline for the use of the funding until this July. Jerry Bridges, executive director of COG, said Wednesday the funding will be available in the state's 2017 fiscal year, which starts next July 1. "Originally the money was lost because the city hadn't selected a site for the bus terminal," he said. INDOT (Indiana Department of Transportation) allowed us to push the money back a year and not lose it. "That was a surprise," Bridges added. "The state change wasn't just for Anderson; the state gave the local planning organizations the option of moving projects out one year. Otherwise the money would have been lost." Bridges said the funds were lost earlier this year because the project could not be completed in one year. "Whoever is the next mayor has to determine a site," he said. "The federal government won't approve the funds until the city has selected a site."

[Bus terminal funding back on the table - Herald Bulletin: Local News](#)

\$14.5M in fed funds put Margaret Ave. rebuild on track

Tribune-Star

Howard Greninger

7/27/15

Terre Haute has secured more than \$14.5 million in federal funds for the next section of a widening and improvement project on Margaret Avenue from 14th to 25th streets. That includes a bridge over railroad tracks at 19th Street, a crossing at which there are frequent vehicular traffic backups as trains pass. The city's Board of Public Works and Safety on Monday approved contracts with the Indiana Department of Transportation that designate funding for the project. "This now secures the federal funds for the entire project and allows us to budget for this," said Larry Robbins, deputy city engineer. Some construction work on the 14th-25th reconstruction can begin in 2016, Robbins said, but the entire project will not be completed until the end of 2018. The city's cost for the Margaret Avenue work is expected to be in the range of \$2.5 million to \$3.5 million, Robbins said, which would be funded through the city's portion of the County Economic Development Income Tax, commonly called EDIT. The majority of the project will be paid for on an 80/20 split, with the federal government covering 80 percent of the costs. The project includes more than \$13.3 million for construction of the widened road and a bridge abutment at 19th Street. Of that funding, more than \$4.4 million is from a federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program, as the project will help move traffic over the railroad tracks, Robbins said. INDOT manages and distributes the federal funds for projects in the state.

[\\$14.5M in fed funds put Margaret Ave. rebuild on track - Terre Haute Tribune Star: Local News](#)

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