



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

September 19, 2013

Kadner: 'Forgotonia' may lose planned Illiana Expressway

Phil Kadner
Southtown Star
9/18/13

Dubbing the Southland "Forgotonia," state Rep. Al Riley (D-Olympia Fields) and a delegation of area legislators on Wednesday launched a battle to rescue the beleaguered Illiana Expressway project. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning — which oversees planning for the seven-county metro area and must approve the project under federal guidelines — recently posted on its website a staff analysis of the project. CMAP claims that the highway would cost much more than state projections suggest and would not aid the regional economy as much as expected. Riley said two states that "don't have a lot of things in common," Illinois and Indiana, have agreed that the planned tollway is needed and that political leaders throughout the Southland support the plan. Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann Schneider said IDOT's \$1.25 billion cost estimate is based on national standards, and she questioned the basis of CMAP's findings.

[Kadner: 'Forgotonia' may lose planned Illiana Expressway - Southtown Star](#)

Carmel stretch of U.S. 31 project set to begin Monday

Indianapolis Star
Dan McFeely
9/18/13

CARMEL — More than two years of intense highway construction along the busiest stretch of U.S. 31 from I-465 through Carmel kicks into gear next week. The Indiana Department of Transportation will begin working on parts of the I-465 ramp system this week and plans to close 136th Street, just west of the highway, on Monday in order to build a new roundabout. INDOT will spend \$141 million to flip stoplight intersections into roundabout interchanges from 136th Street south to I-465, with interchanges planned at 136th, 131st (Main), 116th and 106th streets. During much of that work, the state decided to shut down all four lanes of the highway between 136th and 116th streets in 2015 in order to get the work done faster and more safely. Meanwhile, work will continue north of Carmel at the major, single-point urban interchange planned at U.S. 31 and Ind. 32. The work is scheduled to be done by the end of 2015. The new 60-day closure at 136th Street will not affect access to St. Vincent Carmel Hospital on the east side of the highway. And there still will be access to the Godby anchored shopping center on northbound Rohrer Road. The new roundabout, to be built near Eglin Drive, will initially help move detoured traffic when the four-lane highway is shut down in 2015 for a future "hyperfix." Later, it will become part of a new interchange. Detoured traffic can use Illinois Street and Spring Mill Road to get around the closure. Signs will be posted. Farther south, work begins even sooner at I-465. At 9 p.m. today, contractors will close the left lane of eastbound I-465's exit ramp to U.S. 31 to place temporary pavement. The ramp lane will remain closed at the top of the ramp to allow contractors to begin

construction of a new flyover bridge. All turn lanes will remain open approaching the base of the ramp. And at 9 p.m. Friday, the right lane of eastbound I-465 will be restricted near that exit as contractors place a temporary barrier wall along the shoulder. The restriction is expected to end by 6 a.m. Saturday. INDOT says motorists should expect off-road daytime construction along U.S. 31 and at the I-465 interchange. But all work requiring restrictions on the highway and ramps will take place overnight for the safety of workers and motorists. [Carmel stretch of U.S. 31 project set to begin Monday | Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

INDOT writes letter for road detour

The Brazil Times

Ernest Rollins

9/18/13

The Clay County Commissioners accepted a letter of understanding from the Indiana Department of Transportation for an "unofficial detour." At a special meeting Wednesday, Clay County Commissioner Paul Sindera said there is a weight limit of 3 tons on a bridge just west of the State Road 59/State Road 46 intersection. There is an official detour established by INDOT as a result of the weight limit but a number of locals prefer to use county roads as an alternate route. "We all know that especially local people will not be taking (the official detour route)," Sindera said. "They would be using our local county highway roads." The unofficial detour route selected is County Road 250 W to Lower Bloomington Road to State Road 59. Clay County Auditor Mary Jo Alumbaugh said the benefit of the letter of understanding is, if there is any damage caused to county roads due to the increase in traffic, INDOT will reimburse the county for conducting repairs. [Brazil Times: Local News: INDOT writes letter for road detour \(09/18/13\)](#)

www.buildindianacouncil.org