



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **October 3, 2013**

#### **Illiana Expressway votes approaching fast**

NWI Times  
Keith Benman  
10/2/13

A meeting Friday in Chicago kicks off what could be a wild, two-month ride for the Illiana Expressway. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's transportation committee is expected to take a vote for or against the Illiana Expressway at its 9:30 a.m. monthly meeting Friday at the Willis Tower, with its recommendation passed on to the full CMAP board for a vote Oct. 9. A similar process is kicking into gear at the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, which expects to open a public comment period on the Illiana Expressway on Oct. 14. The Portage-based agency also will host four public comment meetings during that period. The vote of both organizations is critical to the expressway getting built. Each agency's approval is needed to make federal funds available for the project in their respective states. The Illiana Expressway in its entirety would be one of the largest public infrastructure projects undertaken in the region since the building of the U.S. interstate highway system more than 50 years ago, according to NIRPC planner Mitch Barloga. It is planned as a 47-mile toll road running from Interstate 65 just northeast of Lowell to Interstate 55 near Wilmington, Ill. "There are many strong views on this facility, as you would expect," Barloga said. "NIRPC wants to make sure the public understands there is still adequate time for comment and feedback and that their views will be heard."

[Illiana Expressway votes approaching fast](#)

#### **Party set for Hoosier Heartland Corridor completion; backers ready to see results of work**

News-Sentinel  
Chris Morrise Vizza  
10/2/13

The gears are in motion for a multicounty celebration when the ribbon is cut next month on the final segment of the Hoosier Heartland Corridor. The section between Delphi and Logansport is the last link in the effort to build a four-lane, 200-mile limited access highway from Interstate 65 in Lafayette to Interstate 69 in Fort Wayne. The road extends from Fort Wayne to the Port of Toledo, Ohio, dubbed the Fort to Port highway. From concept to completion, the project spanned four decades, according to a U.S. Department of Transportation report, and a Greater Lafayette Commerce recap of the Hoosier Heartland Industrial Corridor Association 2009 annual meeting. The journey began in the 1970s, when two businessmen from Wabash envisioned an industrial corridor that would open the path for economic development in hard-to-reach communities across the Wabash Valley. The new route basically parallels the old two-lane Indiana 25 from Lafayette to Logansport, and widened the lanes of U.S. 24 from Logansport to Fort Wayne. The Oct. 23 celebration in Logansport is expected to draw many of the government and business leaders who

worked to build support and win funding for the project. Gov. Mike Pence is scheduled to attend, said Weatherwax, but former Gov. Mitch Daniels will be out of state on business related to his job as president of Purdue University. "We invited (former) Gov. Daniels to attend because Major Moves was a major help in getting our highway finished," Weatherwax said of Daniels' initiative to lease the Indiana toll road and use the proceeds to fund significant highway projects. "Overall, the cost of this project is well over \$400 million. If it hadn't been for major moves, we wouldn't have the Hoosier Heartland Corridor."

[Party set for Hoosier Heartland Corridor completion; backers ready to see results of work - News-Sentinel.com](#)

### **Indiana, Amtrak continue Hoosier State line talks**

Post-Tribune  
Rick Callahan  
10/2/13

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A spokesman for Indiana's transportation agency says the state is making progress negotiating a short-term agreement with Amtrak to keep a passenger line between Indianapolis and Chicago running until a comprehensive deal is reached. The Hoosier State line's \$3.1 million in annual federal funding ended Tuesday as part of legislation Congress passed in 2008. The four-days-a-week line will grind to a halt if Indiana and Amtrak and the communities it serves can't reach a funding agreement by Oct. 15. Indiana Department of Transportation spokesman Will Wingfield said Wednesday the parties' negotiations are "moving forward productively." He says most of the communities where the Hoosier State makes stops are willing to financially support the line. He says the agency's goal is boosting ridership while minimizing state support for the line.

[Indiana, Amtrak continue Hoosier State line talks - Post-Tribune](#)

### **ELKHART COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: C.R. 4 bridge work approved**

The Goshen News  
John Kline  
10/1/13

GOSHEN — The C.R. 4 bridge over Christiana Creek will get a significant makeover. Elkhart County Commissioners Monday voted to approve a contract with the Indiana Department of Transportation for work on Bridge 127 at a total cost of approximately \$1,049,152. "This involves federal funds through INDOT, and they will pay up to 80 percent of the eligible cost," said County Administrator Tom Byers of the contract. "So then the county will be responsible for paying the remaining 20 percent." According to Byers, the contract involves the complete replacement of Bridge 127. As of Monday, a completion date for the replacement work had been set for at or before June 30, 2014.

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