



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

October 10, 2013

Planning Officials Vote Against Expressway

Inside INdiana Business

10/10/13

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning has struck a blow to the effort to build a major toll road in Indiana and Illinois. Our partners at The Times of Northwest Indiana report the organization voted against including the Illiana Expressway proposal in its comprehensive regional plan. Despite the down vote by CMAP, the issue is not dead. A critical gathering of the Illinois city's Metropolitan Planning Organization is set for October 17. The Times reports a favorable vote that night would allow Illiana Expressway officials to apply for federal funding. If voted down, it could effectively kill the plan for the time being. In Indiana, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission's full board is set to decide in December if the proposal will be included in its 2040 comprehensive plan.

[Planning Officials Vote Against Expressway - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

Ohio River bridges court decision to be appealed

The Courier-Journal

10/10/13

The Coalition for the Advancement of Regional Transportation has filed a notice that it will appeal a federal judge's ruling dismissing its challenge of the Ohio River Bridges Project to the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. In July, U.S. District Judge John G. Heyburn II dismissed a lawsuit filed by the coalition, known as CART, against Kentucky, Indiana and the federal government over the \$2.6 billion bridges project. Heyburn ruled that the states and the Federal Highway Administration "reasonably exercised their discretion in making decisions about the project's scope, design and financing." The lawsuit originally was filed in 2009 by the Louisville conservation group River Fields and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which agreed to dismiss their portions of the suit earlier this year. CART, a public transit and cycling advocacy group, remained a plaintiff. CART claimed the states broke federal civil rights laws by discriminating against minorities when, among other things, they adopted a tolling plan that would disproportionately affect those residents — a claim Heyburn denied was discriminatory. The group also alleged violations of federal funding regulations and environmental law and argued that the project will endanger the region's air and water quality — all of which Heyburn rejected. CART President David Coyte said what will be included in the appeal, which doesn't have to be filed until next month, is still being determined. He said CART is "not exactly optimistic" about prevailing in the appeal, but "we think the seriousness of the case and the issues demand a response. ... We just felt it would be unethical not to challenge it."

[Ohio River bridges court decision to be appealed | The Courier-Journal | courier-journal.com](#)

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