



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **October 22, 2013**

#### **Southbound I-69 exit ramp opens at 116th Street**

Indianapolis Star  
10/22/2013

The southbound Interstate-69 Exit 205 ramp to 116th Street opened today. After being closed since July 26, Milestone Contractors opened the exit with a configuration in which traffic passes under the new bridge carrying traffic from southbound Ind. 37 to I-69 and 116th Street. "Today's opening, it's kind of a snowball effect of improvements," said Nathan Riggs, spokesperson for Indiana Department of Transportation. "Every little step will make things a little better." The new configuration — an initiative of Operation Indy Commute — eliminates the former weaving traffic pattern in the southbound Exit 205 ramp system and is intended to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow, Riggs said. The new ramp system has two lanes exiting to 116th Street and two lanes continuing to southbound I-69. Southbound Ind. 37 remains restricted to a single lane south of 126th Street while contractors complete the \$18 million interchange improvement project by the end of this year.

[Southbound I-69 exit ramp opens at 116th Street | Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

#### **Highway department official arranges for additional bridge replacement money**

Winchester News Gazette  
Bill Richmond  
10/21/13

Assistant County Highway Department Director Kevin Slick Monday told the County Board of Commissioners he has arranged with state officials for the county to receive an additional \$700,000 in federal funds to replace a decaying bridge facing possible closure. Slick said the additional money, which the county was having difficulty finding in its budget, will help subsidize the \$1.4 million bridge replacement cost for county bridge 145 on County Road 400 South, between County Road 400 West and Indian Trail Road. He said the bridge now has a 3-ton weight limit which could be reduced by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) which would mean closure of the bridge as INDOT does not allow bridges to remain open with a weight limit of less than three tons. "Closure could be imminent if the repair process is not completed soon," Slick said. He said 157 vehicles per day currently use the bridge. Slick said INDOT wants the project to let for bids next spring.

[Winchester News-Gazette: Serving Winchester, Indiana > News > Highway department official arranges for additional bridge replacement money](#)

#### **Bridges of Howard County**

Kokomo Tribune  
Ken de la Bastide

10/20/13

Every day, motorists in Howard County cross bridges without giving much thought to whether the span is safe. Federal law requires an inspection of all the bridges every two years and the responsibility to maintain the structures falls on the Howard County Highway Department. Of the 133 bridges located throughout Howard County, only 10 are slated for replacement or major repair during the next few years, according to the most recent bridge inspection completed in 2012. All 10 bridges are at least 20 feet in length. A recent study by the Associated Press determined more than 85,000 of the nation's 607,000 bridges are in need of repair or replacement. Several states have implemented new taxes and fees to pay for bridge replacement or repairs; in Indiana the funds are raised at the county level. The collapse of the bridge in Minnesota in 2007 raised concerns about bridge safety and the need to improve the nation's infrastructure. "The bridge ratings were made more stringent following the Minnesota collapse," Ted Cain, superintendent of the Howard County Highway Department, said. "Consultants became concerned about liability issues."

[Bridges of Howard County » Local News » Kokomo Tribune; Kokomo, Indiana](#)

### **INDOT Announces Work On U.S. 50**

WCSI News/Talk 1010

10/20/13

The Indiana Department of Transportation recently awarded a \$588,513 pavement rehabilitation contract to Dave O'Mara Contractor of North Vernon. INDOT says the contract is for repair work on nearly 16 miles of U.S. Highway 50 in Jackson and Lawrence counties. The contract calls for O'Mara to begin extensive asphalt patching next summer. The work is scheduled to begin after July 1 and be completed before Oct. 15, 2014. INDOT officials say the project extends from State Road 446 in Lawrence County to the CSX rail crossing in Brownstown.

[NEWS/TALK 1010 WCSI Radio - WCSI Weather - Columbus Indiana](#)

### **Indiana, Kentucky Seek Funds For Bridge To Connect I-69**

Indiana Public Media

Sara Wittmeyer

10/18/2013

Officials in Kentucky and Indiana announced this week a new collaboration to help secure funding for a bridge that would connect the sections of Interstate 69 in Indiana and Kentucky. The collaboration, called Bridge Link, aims to lobby leaders in Washington and in-state capitols for funding, with the goal of completing the bridge in eight years. Construction of I-69 is continuing in Indiana, although not at quite the pace it was under Governor Mitch Daniels. The road is supposed to connect Michigan to Texas through eight states. Right now, it exists in pieces; only three states are actively working on building the road. The 27-mile stretch, from Crane Naval Center to just south of Bloomington, is expected to be complete by the end of next year. Even then, I-69 will exist in two disconnected pieces in Indiana. The road from Indianapolis north to Michigan opened in 1971. Governor Mitch Daniels celebrated the completion of the road from Evansville north to Crane about a year ago. Like Indiana, Kentucky has been moving full speed ahead on I-69 construction. However, they are not paving a new interstate, only updating existing roads to interstate standards, which costs much less money. The state has about 55 miles of the road finished. But leaders there now face the same problem as many of the road advocates in southwestern Indiana. A span across the Ohio River is estimated at \$1.2 billion, and where that money is going to come from is a big question. Some plans have called for Kentucky to put in two-thirds of the money and Indiana to pitch in the remaining one-third. Other ideas include public-private partnerships where investors would pay for some of the costs up front, or making the bridge a toll bridge.

[Indiana, Kentucky Seek Funds For Bridge To Connect I-69 | News - Indiana Public Media](#)

## **Salisbury Road construction starts next phase Tuesday**

Richmond Palladium-Item

Bill Engle

10/18/13

Salisbury Road in front of the Wayne County Fairgrounds will close Tuesday morning as workers begin the next phase of a complete road reconstruction that started in 2011. In this phase, the road will be closed and rebuilt from 1,000 feet north of North West L Street to just south of the old railroad bed, south of the fairgrounds. Repairs have been made from Industries Road to the North West L Street vicinity. Work slated to begin Tuesday will continue until winter conditions arrive. At that time a temporary patch will be placed on the road and it will be re-opened until work can begin again in the spring of 2014, said Greg Stiens, city director of engineering and public works. Then it will close again and the majority of paving work will be done in 2014. Stiens said the road is need of repair. "The road is basically falling apart," he said. "This project will help with traffic flow, turning movements and will generally make the road safer." The repairs will include complete road reconstruction, new turn lanes, curbs and gutters, and storm sewers. Dave O'Mara Contractor Inc. of North Vernon, Ind., and will be paid \$2.95 million for the work. Federal highway funds will pay 90 percent of that cost while the city will use Richmond Redevelopment Commission dollars for the other 10 percent, or \$295,795, Stiens said.

[Salisbury Road construction starts next phase Tuesday | Palladium-Item | pal-item.com](#)

## **New Albany City Council questions administration about projects**

Jeffersonville News and Tribune

Daniel Suddeath

10/18/13

NEW ALBANY — New Albany City Council members again pressed the administration on the progress of several infrastructure projects this week. The Mount Tabor Road, Slate Run Road and Captain Frank Road projects are in varying levels of design, but are still at the least being considered by the administration, David Duggins, director of economic development and redevelopment for the city, told the council during its Thursday meeting. The administration, along with engineers for the estimated \$3.9 million Mount Tabor Road project, is reviewing the design for the proposed improvements, Duggins said. The project, if completed, will be footed with 80 percent federal funding. Duggins said he met this week with engineers from Jacobi, Toombs and Lanz to discuss an "idea of design" for a sidewalk on at least one side of Captain Frank Road. Duggins said that with sidewalk projects, the biggest expense is typically right-of-way purchases. The preliminary ideas for adding sidewalks will be presented to the New Albany Redevelopment Commission soon, Duggins added. Talk about projects in other districts led Councilwoman Diane McCartin-Benedetti to ask Duggins about the status of the delayed Slate Run Road improvements. "We're looking at the scope of the project," Duggins said. "We're looking at maybe phasing it."

[New Albany City Council questions administration about projects » Floyd County » News and Tribune](#)

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