



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

October 24, 2013

Bridges Dubbed 'Project of the Year'

Inside Indiana business
10/24/2013

An international trade group is recognizing the Indiana Department of Transportation for its work on a major infrastructure initiative. The International Right of Way Association has named INDOT's portion of the Ohio River Bridges Project its 2013 Project of the Year.

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/newsitem.asp?ID=61995>

Smith to Address Rail Summit

Inside Indiana Business
10/24/2013

The Indiana Secretary of Commerce will be one of the keynote speakers for The Rail Summit 2013 Friday in Chicago. Victor Smith will be among the participants focusing on the economic importance of short line railroads. Organizers also say it's a chance for the region's leaders to initiate business deals. They also hope to promote cooperative regional support for transportation issues, including funding for rail and related programs.

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/newsitem.asp?ID=62026>

Utica residents get a peek at bridge plans - Roundabouts, sound barriers among residents' main concerns

Jeffersonville News & Tribune
Braden Lammers
10/23/2013

UTICA — Southern Indiana residents got a peek on Tuesday at the bridge and highway that will soon land in their backyard. Officials with the Ohio River Bridges Project brought a host of renderings to the John Nobel Woods Utica Community Center, with new aesthetic enhancements and the most updated version of the plan for the east-end bridge. A call was made to enhance the aesthetics of the plans on the Indiana side of the bridges project after designs were initially revealed in April. An agreement was reached between the Indiana Department of Transportation and Jeffersonville to share the cost of aesthetic upgrades. The agreement splits the cost of the upgrades 80 percent to 20 percent, with the state covering the larger portion of the costs, up to \$8 million. When Jeffersonville's costs are added in, it totals nearly the same amount set aside in Kentucky for aesthetic upgrades — \$10 million.

<http://newsandtribune.com/local/x862189698/Utica-residents-get-a-peek-at-bridge-plans>

Hoosier Heartland Corridor officially open - Ribbon cutting ceremony in Logansport marks end of journey to improve access, safety

Journal and Courier
Chris Morisse Vizza
10/23/2013

Decades of lobbying, nine years of construction and millions of dollars culminated with a ribbon cutting Wednesday commemorating the completion of the Hoosier Heartland Corridor. Gov. Mike Pence, along with federal, state and regional leaders gathered to celebrate the realization of a long-term vision to build a four-lane, limited access highway from Lafayette to Fort Wayne. The ceremony at Logansport Ivy Tech Community College capped the opening of the final 35-mile segment of the 200-mile-long highway that runs on Indiana 25 and 24. It was a bipartisan victory party consisting of Republican and Democratic state legislators, former 4th District Congressman Steve Buyer, mayors and county council members who persevered to see the project through. The celebrants, including Democratic state Rep. Sheila Klinker, agreed the road would not have been completed without funding from former Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels' Major Moves initiative to lease the Indiana toll road and use the proceeds for transportation projects. <http://www.jconline.com/article/20131023/NEWS02/310230029/Hoosier-Heartland-Corridor-officially-open>

Pave the way for better road funding

NWI Times
Doug Ross
10/23/2013

State Rep. Ed Soliday should be commended for looking at a pilot program to explore alternative ways to fund road construction in Indiana. The existing gas tax just isn't generating enough revenue. Among the reasons gas tax collections are down are improved fuel efficiency, people are driving less and the increased use of alternative fuels that aren't taxed. Soliday, R-Valparaiso, has proposed a pilot program in which volunteer motorists would be exempt from the gas tax in exchange for paying a fee for every mile they drive. A similar program was authorized this year in Oregon. Participating motorists there would pay 1.5 cents per mile instead of the 30-cent tax per gallon of gasoline. If that per-mile rate were used in Indiana, a driver who puts 12,000 miles a year on a car that gets 20 miles per gallon would pay \$180 in mileage fees instead of \$108 for gas tax, at 18 cents per gallon. Soliday's plan calls for the Indiana Department of Transportation to use volunteers to test different technologies and methods for assessing a per-mile charge and to report back to the General Assembly in two years. http://www.nwitimes.com/news/opinion/editorial/editorial-pave-the-way-for-better-road-funding/article_bc88e5e4-225f-594c-9614-814d7f4e7c4a.html

It takes two: NIRPC next to consider Illiana

Post-Tribune
Matt Mikus
10/22/2013

The Illiana Expressway got a green light from Chicago's Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee last week in an 11-8 vote. The next potential bump in the road for the \$1.3 billion project comes in early December, when Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission has a vote. The expressway, intended to be a toll road, would link Interstate 55 near Wilmington, Ill. to Interstate 65 near Lowell. The plan is to establish a public-private partnership to build and operate the tollway, with toll revenue paying off the debt. Both states are looking to start accepting requests from businesses looking to operate and build the tollway. Final bids to work on the Illiana won't go out until after it's been approved by the Federal Highway Administration.

Illinois Department of Transportation spokesperson Jae Miller believes the project will receive federal approval early next year. Governors from both states have voiced support for the new tollway, citing economic development and job creation.

<http://posttrib.suntimes.com/news/porter/23275689-418/it-takes-two-nirpc-next-to-consider-illiana.html>

Pence names members to state's new blue ribbon infrastructure panel

NWI Times

10/22/2013

Indianapolis | Gov. Mike Pence today named appointees to a Blue Ribbon Panel to plan the next generation of transportation infrastructure in Indiana. The panel, which was articulated in Pence's Roadmap for Indiana, will review projects related to all four modes of transportation: water, air, road and rail. Among local appointees is Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, Pete Georgeon, with ArcelorMittal USA Flat Carbon, and Andrew Fox, Chicago South Shore & South Bend Railroad. Based on the metrics they will develop, the panel will identify a list of priority projects over the next 10 years. In the long term, the group will explore and monitor innovations in transportation infrastructure to keep Indiana on the cutting edge.

http://www.nwitimes.com/business/local/pence-names-members-to-state-s-new-blue-ribbon-infrastructure/article_635e32ab-ea1a-5e6e-8128-68cfdae1c106.html

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