



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **November 6, 2014**

#### **Common construction wage at risk next year**

Kokomo Perspective  
Pat Munsey  
11/6/14

Last winter, the Indiana General Assembly considered legislation that would eliminate the common construction wage in the state. The proposed bill didn't make it out of committee. However, local labor leaders in the construction trades are concerned that the bill will be resurrected in the 2015 session. If the common wage is eliminated, it will result in job loss and lower wages for local workers, according to Chet Fincher, business agent for the Carpenters Local 615. "We hope it doesn't happen," said Fincher. "The common construction wage is vital to the community. It keeps big government out of it and prevents them from messing with the wages. It keeps local guys on local projects. "But we're not dumb. We know there was a repeal last year that didn't go anywhere. That is an indicator that the politicians are looking at it. We're reaching out to anyone we can – educators, school boards, business owners – letting them know the common construction wage is good for Indiana." The common construction wage is set for a public works project by a committee of five appointees. Two of the members are appointed by the awarding agency. A third comes from the AFL-CIO, and a fourth is appointed by the Associated Builders and Contractors. The county commissioners appoint the fifth member. This committee reviews the wages and benefits offered in the community and in surrounding communities and sets them at a competitive level that reflects the economic conditions in the area. Chuck Griffin, business agent from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 873, shares Fincher's concern. He explained that eliminating the common wage would open the door for out-of-state contractors to take public works projects away from local contractors. "I'm afraid they will be successful in getting rid of the wage; that's our big fight now," said Griffin. "We're must elect representatives who will protect the common construction wage.

[Common construction wage at risk next year - Kokomo Perspective: Kp](#)

#### **New bridge is open on Old Highway 421**

Greensburg Daily News  
11/5/14

Decatur County Bridge No. 2 is open to the public as of Nov. 5, 2014 about 11:20 a.m. The bridge was built in 1935 making it nearly 80 years old, and with the increase in traffic, the new bridge construction was badly needed. The bridge had been closed to traffic July 7. Decatur County officials and State, County and Local officials attended the ribbon cutting. The infrastructure project is wide and strong and ready for traffic. Decatur County Commissioner Rick Nobbe welcomed those attending the ribbon cutting and introduced Decatur County Commissioner Jerome Buening who expressed appreciation to county residents for their patience while this project was being developed. TIF board member Mike Walker cited several for special recognition

for the many who made the new bridge possible. Decatur County Commissioner John Richards also thanked individuals and groups for their cooperation and time. Those who were cited for their contribution to the success of the project included: Honda Manufacturing of Indiana represented by Fred Payne and Rich Richardson, Indiana Department of Transportation, Supervisor Mark Mohr and others of the Decatur County Highway Department, Decatur County Redevelopment Commission, CHA, Design Company, United Consulting, Construction Inspection and Dave O'Mara, Contractor. The project also included reconstruction of the adjacent roadway to meet federal safety standards. The \$1,500,000 project included a complete removal of the nearly 80-year old bridge structure which was suffering from advanced structural deterioration and scour problems at the foundations. The project also included reconstruction of the adjacent roadway to meet federal safety standards. The Decatur County Redevelopment Commission approved using funding provided by Honda to pay the entire local match portion of this project.

[New bridge is open on Old Highway 421 - Greensburg Daily News: Local News](#)

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