



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

November 11, 2014

State ends negotiations with Amtrak alternative

Lafayette Journal & Courier
Chris Morisse Vizza
11/10/14

The Indiana Department of Transportation has ended contract negotiations with Corridor Capital LLC to provide passenger rail cars, marketing and other services for the Hoosier State line between Indianapolis and Chicago, said INDOT spokesman Will Wingfield. Wingfield did not comment as to why negotiations were terminated. But he said the state is looking at its options to continue the service after the Jan. 31 expiration date on INDOT's contracts with Amtrak and the communities along the route. "INDOT is requesting pricing from Amtrak to continue as operator after January 31, minus certain elements of the existing service that Amtrak is providing, such as rolling stock, onboard services and marketing," Wingfield said. Amtrak is working with the state, but the clock is ticking, spokesman Marc Magliari said. "Amtrak submitted a contract renewal in April for the current service model and has offered to work with the state on other viable models used in other states," he said. "However, time is growing short to resolve many open questions for daily passenger rail service to continue from Feb. 1 and onward." The state, cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette along with Tippecanoe County and four other communities served by the 196-mile line have poured \$2.7 million into the line since Oct. 1, 2013, to keep it operating after Congress eliminated funding for Amtrak routes shorter than 750 miles. INDOT said its goal was to continue the service and find an independent contractor that could overcome constant delays, run trains at more convenient times, provide amenities such as Wi-Fi, attract more riders and operate the train more cost effectively than Amtrak.

<http://www.jconline.com/story/news/local/indiana/2014/11/08/indot-ends-amtrak-negotiations/18734111/>

Road from River Ridge to Port could cost \$5.5 million more

News and Tribune
Matt Koesters
11/6/14

JEFFERSONVILLE - The parties involved in funding the construction of a heavy haul corridor between the River Ridge Commerce Center and the Port of Indiana-Jeffersonville said that the project could cost much more than anticipated. River Ridge, Port of Indiana, the Indiana Department of Transportation, the city of Jeffersonville and Clark County have committed via interlocal agreement to build the corridor, which was originally estimated to cost about \$22.5 million. Representatives of the entities on the steering committee for the project learned at a meeting last month that Native American artifacts may have been discovered in the preferred right-of-way for the corridor, which could increase the cost of the project to as much as \$28

million, County Attorney Jake Elder stated Thursday at the regular meeting of the Clark County Commissioners. The steering committee looked at several options to keep the project moving forward, said Commissioners President Jack Coffman, the commissioners' representative on the committee. Several of the options would scale back things like the quality of materials used or the width of the roadway being constructed to drive the cost back down, Coffman said. Otherwise, the entities in the interlocal agreement may be forced to increase their financial commitments. "Maybe it's not the Cadillac, maybe it's a Chevy," Elder said, "which is still a good, quality car." INDOT has already committed \$11.25 million to the project. Commissioner John Perkins suggested that INDOT might increase its commitment if it considers the heavy haul corridor a high priority. The steering committee will next meet Dec. 1 to discuss the financial aspects of the project further, Coffman said. As no quorum of any unit of government will be present at the meeting, it is not required to be open to the public, he said. Road from River Ridge to Port could cost \$5.5 million more - News and Tribune: Clark County

www.buildindianacouncil.org