



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

November 26, 2013

Pence opens US 31 with ribbon cutting

WLFI

Alexandra Kruczek

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Governor Mike Pence officially opens the new U.S. 31 in Kokomo on Tuesday by holding a ribbon cutting. This new freeway welcomes Thanksgiving travelers by avoiding 15 stoplights. Gov. Pence joined Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight, Congressman Todd Rokita, the U.S. 31 Coalition, INDOT and other public officials to celebrate completion of the U.S. 31 freeway corridor in Kokomo. Following the ribbon cutting, the first cars traveled the new 13-mile highway. "Indiana is finishing what we started by upgrading three congested sections of U.S. 31, between Indianapolis and South Bend," Gov. Pence said. "Kokomo is known as 'The City of Firsts.' So, it is appropriate that U.S. 31 in Kokomo is the first new corridor to welcome through traffic, under budget and ahead of schedule, just in time for the Thanksgiving travel holiday." The \$155 million section allows through traffic to avoid 15 traffic signals and more than 130 access points on the pre-existing U.S. 31 through Kokomo, which is being renamed State Road 931. The four-lane, divided freeway extends just to the east of Kokomo and includes five interchanges, in addition to the State Road 931 junctions at either end. Earlier this month, Gov. Pence announced that all \$722 million in Major Moves construction contracts had been awarded between Indianapolis and South Bend. When the final Hamilton County section opens to traffic at the end of 2015, a total of 32 traffic signals will have been removed from the drive, saving a half hour of travel time. Earlier this year INDOT announced a separate project to build a new U.S. 31 interchange at State Road 28, near the 800,000 square-foot Chrysler Tipton Transmission Plant. Construction of the estimated \$17 million interchange is scheduled to begin in 2015. [Pence opens US 31 with ribbon cutting | WLFI - Kokomo, Indiana](#)

New 13-mile US 31 bypass of Kokomo to open

KPC News

11/25/13

Motorists driving through Indiana for Thanksgiving may cut a few minutes off their trip with the opening of the new U.S. 31 bypass around Kokomo. The Indiana Department of Transportation says the \$155 million, 13-mile freeway section will allow travelers to avoid 15 traffic lights through Kokomo. That old section of road will be renamed Indian 931. Gov. Mike Pence is scheduled to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new section of highway at noon Tuesday and then lead a caravan on the new road. A new 20-mile stretch of U.S. 31 south of South Bend is expected to open in about a year. Improvements also are being made to the highway through the northern Indianapolis suburbs of Carmel and Westfield.

[New 13-mile US 31 bypass of Kokomo to open - KPCNews: State](#)

New Nine-Span could be unwrapped before Christmas

NWI Times

Keith Benman

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The Indiana Department of Transportation plans to open the replacement bridge for the demolished Nine-Span Bridge in Hammond the week of Dec. 9, a few weeks ahead of schedule. Demolition of the old span that carries cars over the Gibson Yard rail facility on Indianapolis Boulevard began in January with construction of the new bridge following. "It's always nice to open something earlier than expected," said INDOT spokesman Matt Deitchley. "And that should be the case with this bridge." Dunnet Bay Construction, of Glendale Heights, Ill., had the \$18 million contract for demolishing the Nine Span Bridge and constructing the new one. Final tasks such as the installation of light poles are now taking place. The high profile of the nine sections of rusty steel truss spans that made up the former 1930s-era bridge was one of Hammond's most recognizable landmarks. The Nine-Span Bridge was rated as being in "poor" condition before it was closed for demolition, according to an inventory of bridge conditions kept by the Federal Highway Administration. It underwent major repairs eight years ago. In recent years, some heavy trucks were banned. The new bridge is strikingly different in appearance, with clean sweeping lines formed by its long concrete beams and parapets and a driving surface with no superstructure above. It has sidewalks on both sides. Deitchley said no name has been picked out for the new bridge, although it is likely people will continue to call it by the same name as the former bridge for some time. Indianapolis Boulevard at the Nine-Span Bridge was one of the busiest north-south routes in Hammond, according to INDOT traffic counts. It served as a gateway to East Chicago and a South Shore train station. One span of the former bridge was kept intact and is now stored away. INDOT is waiting for the right proposal from any organization that may want to use it. [New Nine-Span could be unwrapped before Christmas : Hammond News](#)

I-69 construction could carry into 2014

The Herald Bulletin

Zach Osowski

11/23/13

ANDERSON, Ind. — Slowdowns experienced by Madison County commuters using Interstate 69 near Interstate 465 could extend into next year. As part of the Operation Indy Commute project, crews are adding new lanes on I-69 to facilitate traffic flow in areas where I-69 meets I-465. This has led to slow traffic while crews shut down lanes to work on new ones. It's a problem Nathan Riggs, media relations director at the Indiana Department of Transportation's Greenfield office, said could continue into next year depending on weather. "Right now, we have lifted the hour restrictions on the construction," Riggs said. "We have yet to determine how far they will come on the contract." Before the restriction was lifted, the workers were permitted to work only at night. Now they can work around the clock if the weather is good. While this might get the construction done sooner, it has increased delays for drivers. Riggs said the contract stipulated the work continue until the end of the year. If they have enough good days for construction, the project could be done by then. If not, Riggs said the work would likely start back up again in the spring. Also in the short-term for INDOT are plans for a new I-69 exit at 106th Street that has been requested by Hamilton County and Fishers. Riggs said the proposed project, which is still in the initial planning and review stages, is estimated to cost \$25 million. Fishers promised \$8 million to the construction with Hamilton County agreeing to chip in \$2 million. If everything goes according to plan, construction could begin as early as 2015. [I-69 construction could carry into 2014 » Local Business » The Herald Bulletin](#)

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