



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

December 12, 2013

County council supports funds for Main Street project

Vincennes Sun-Commercial
Annie McMIndes
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The Knox County Highway Department will submit a letter of commitment, signed by the county council, to the Indiana Department of Transportation this week in an effort to secure funding for two upcoming major road projects. Highway superintendent Ron Cardinal, along with commissioner Larry Holscher and county attorney Dale Webster, requested Tuesday that council members sign the letter committing to financially supporting 20 percent of the multi-million dollar projects. Combined, the county is looking to support approximately \$6 million in infrastructure upgrades, while only paying around \$600,000, Cardinal said. "We're really looking at two very different projects here," Webster said. "The first is the Main Street Road project, where they're looking to widen the road out. That project would span from Ramsey Road to Henry Sievers Road and the county would work with the city of Vincennes. "That project is approximately \$5.5 million total, and we'd receive an 80 percent reimbursement if selected, leaving the county with a 20 percent share," he explained. "But through our discussions, the (city's Redevelopment Commission) has committed to sharing that cost, knocking the county share down to just 10 percent, or about \$500,000." Improvements to the 1.39 mile stretch of road, Cardinal added, would widen the road to three lanes, with a center turn lane, and add sidewalks and street lights to the north side of the road out past Clark Middle School. "The majority of the work we're looking at doing is on the school side, we won't be encroaching on the residential properties there, we've already spoken with the school, and they're highly supportive," he said. "It's going to increase the safety for the foot traffic, and we're all working together on it." Around 70 percent of Vincennes Community School Corp. students have regular contact with Main Street, increasing the priority for the project's expedience.

[County council supports funds for Main Street project - Vincennes Sun-Commercial: News](#)

Ellspermann cuts ribbon on North Vernon Bypass in Jennings County

News and Tribune
12/11/13

SOUTHERN INDIANA — Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann joined local officials, the Indiana Department of Transportation and the Indiana National Guard to officially cut the ribbon on 4.5 miles of new North Vernon Bypass in Jennings County which opened on Tuesday, according to a news release from INDOT. The two-lane, limited access highway is realigning U.S. 50 traffic north of the city, reducing congestion and improving safety for both trucks and passenger vehicles. The bypass is being built and opened to traffic in two phases, with the midpoint north of the city at State Road 3. The section opening today northwest of the city will be named State Road 750

temporarily until the entire bypass is completed and reconnected to U.S. 50. Drivers are urged to use caution where existing roads meet the new bypass. A new signal has been activated at the Ind. 7 intersection. All other intersections will open as one- or two-way stops with cross-traffic not stopping. This section of the North Vernon Bypass was built by Force Construction Co. and Milestone Contractors, both of Columbus, for a total of \$25 million. As part of the project, three bridges on the existing U.S. 50 west of the bypass are being rehabilitated.

[Ellspermann cuts ribbon on North Vernon Bypass in Jennings County » Clark County » News and Tribune](#)

City of Gary could hold the key to Illiana's passage

WBEZ

Michael Puente

12/11/13

Northwest Indiana officials will vote Thursday morning on a controversial highway that been on the drawing books for a century. But some are taking issue with the final vote and how it will be calculated. Some 53 elected officials from Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties will decide the two-state Illiana Tollway. They all sit on what is known as the Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, or NIPRC for short. NIPRC decides how federal funds will be allocated for local projects. Thursday's vote will determine whether NIPRC should include the Illiana Tollway in its 2040 long range comprehensive plan and if the Illiana should receive federal funding. NIPRC's counterpart in Illinois, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, did the same thing two months ago. It approved financing Illinois' \$1 billion portion of the highway. The 47-mile, \$1.5 billion tollway will run from I-55 near Wilmington, Illinois in Will County to I-65 near Lowell in Lake County, Indiana. Planners hope to pay for the project with private funding. Indiana's cost will be about \$300 million. The Illiana will actually be a joint project of the Illinois and Indiana departments of Transportation. Both agencies have worked together in hosting public forums on the matter since the summer. Proponents say the tollway will create thousands of construction jobs and provide an alternative east-west route to ease congestion on existing highways. Supporters include Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn and Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, as well as local trade unions. Opponents say the tollway is too far south to have any impact on traffic, will lead to urban sprawl, and destroy farmland, nature areas, and existing neighborhoods. Vocal opposition in recent days has grown louder.

[Pivotal vote on Illiana expressway could be decided by residents less affected by tollway | WBEZ 91.5 Chicago](#)