



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

December 5, 2013

NIRPC policy committee OKs Illiana plan

Post-Tribune
Carole Carlson
12/4/13

PORTAGE — By an 18-8 vote with one abstention, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission's Transportation Policy Committee agreed to add the Illiana Tollway to its 2040 master plan. The future of the project in Indiana will now be voted on by the full NIRPC board at its Dec. 12 meeting. If the NIRPC board votes it down, the project would be stopped. The meeting will take place at Woodland Park. The Indiana Department of Transportation wants NIRPC to add the 47-mile bistate Illiana to its 2040 master plan. The committee listened to nearly two hours of public comment Tuesday. Jim Pinkerton, spokesman for the Indiana Department of Transportation, said the state's upfront costs for the road were estimated at about \$110 million, not the previously reported \$180 million. Jim Earl of INDOT said from 2018 to 2053, the net toll revenue would exceed the total project cost. <http://posttrib.suntimes.com/24147400-537/nirpc-policy-committee-oks-illiana-plan.html>

Nine-Span Bridge to Open Next Week

Inside INdiana Business
12/3/13

The new Nine Span Bridge is set to open next week in Hammond. The \$18 million project was completed a few weeks earlier than anticipated. Illinois-based Dunnet Bay Construction led the effort to demolish the old bridge and construct the replacement. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Nine Span Bridge on Indianapolis Blvd. (State Road 152) in Hammond. Indiana Lieutenant Governor Sue Ellspermann, Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott, East Chicago Mayor Anthony Copeland, INDOT, and local elected officials will unveil a historic marker commemorating the old Nine Span Bridge and cut the ribbon on the new Nine Span Bridge during the ceremony on December 9th, 2013 at 12:30 (CST). The new bridge is expected to open to traffic later that day. WHAT: Ribbon-cutting, unveiling of historic marker, and ceremonial first trip over the new Nine Span Bridge on Indianapolis Blvd. (SR 152). WHO: Indiana Lieutenant Governor Sue Ellspermann; Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott; East Chicago Mayor Anthony Copeland; INDOT LaPorte District Deputy Commissioner Robert Alderman and other elected officials. WHEN: Monday, December 9, 2013 at 12:30 p.m. CST. WHERE: The south side of the new Nine Span Bridge on Indianapolis Blvd. (SR 152) in Hammond, just north of Summer Street. [Nine-Span Bridge to Open Next Week - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

BRIAN HOWEY: Highways for Hoosier innovation

Kokomo Tribune

12/2/13

As of this past Tuesday, U.S. 31 took a further step of evolution as the new Major Moves-era Kokomo bypass opened, and for one bright shining moment, as the Elkhart Chamber's Kyle Hannon observed, turned into a brief traffic jam. Within the next two or three years — once freeway exchanges are finished between Lakeville and South Bend, and through Westfield and Carmel — the chief grumble prompter will be the left lane Larrys who never learned that “passing lane” concept in driver's ed. You can thank Purdue President Mitch Daniels and his current station high above his university's famed Road School for accelerating the U.S. 31 evolution. As governor, he was all about “asset management,” and he parlayed a \$3.8 billion lease of the Indiana East/West Toll Road into Major Moves, what he would describe as a “fully funded 10-year road plan.” Many folks along the toll road counties seethed over what they called the “selling” of that highway, even though their counties received millions of dollars to which the other 85 counties never had access. At one point in his first term, Daniels saw his approval rating plummet below 40 percent. But Daniels was a potential presidential candidate from the school of “good policy makes good politics.” He weathered his approval crisis, won re-election with 58 percent of the vote, and was rewarded when he revved up his Harley and took the first cruise on the new I-69 extension between Evansville and Crane. It was successor Gov. Mike Pence presiding over the U.S. 31 bypass opening. “This road is not a bypass,” Pence said. “This road is a freeway of opportunity for Kokomo and all of north central Indiana.” [BRIAN HOWEY: Highways for Hoosier innovation » Opinion » Kokomo Tribune; Kokomo, Indiana](#)

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