



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

August 16, 2016

Questions, delays remain for I-69 project in central Indiana

Indianapolis Business Journal
8/16/16

State officials are continuing to finalize the route for the final leg of the Interstate 69 extension project in central Indiana while concerns remain over delays in completing work on another section. Residents and business owners gathered Monday at an Indianapolis school to ask questions about the state's process for buying land for the planned I-69 route following the current Indiana 37 corridor between Martinsville and Interstate 465. Those property owners won't know for several months what impact they'll see from the project as Indiana Department of Transportation spokesman Will Wingfield said its review of how much land is needed for the highway is set for completion next spring. Construction delays, meanwhile, on the 21-mile I-69 section being built between Bloomington and Martinsville prompted Fitch Ratings earlier this month to lower the \$244 million in bonds for that project to its "speculative" category. The Indiana Finance Authority selected I-69 Development Partners LLC as the private developer of that stretch, with the state paying \$80 million up front and making annual payments of \$21.8 million a year for 35 years, with possible adjustments for inflation. Work started in 2014 and was originally slated for completion by the end of 2016. Fitch said it believes the revised June 2017 completion date "will be challenging to meet" because the main contractor is about \$30 million behind in expected expenditures. Officials with the state highway department and the developer reassured Monroe County leaders during a meeting in Bloomington last week that the bond downgrade, while bad news for investors, is not expected to cause further delays to the project, The Bloomington Herald-Times reported. <http://www.ijb.com/articles/59983-questions-delays-remain-for-i-69-project-in-central-indiana>

Range Line closed for roundabout work

Indianapolis Star
Chris Sikich
8/15/16

Carmel — The bustling intersection of Range Line Road and Carmel Drive closed for about three months beginning Monday for construction of a new roundabout. The Indiana Department of Transportation received four bids Wednesday. The roundabout is estimated to cost \$2,075,523. Carmel has a federal grant for \$1,278,700 and will pay the remainder with proceeds from the bond package the City Council passed in January for transportation improvements. In addition to construction of the two-lane roundabout, work will include the relocation of utilities and the construction of curbs and sidewalks. Carmel paid \$2.5 million to buy the 1-acre Arby's lot for right of way. The intersection, which handles 22,000 vehicles daily, currently is controlled by a traffic signal. Access to businesses will remain open throughout the closure. Those who frequently drive through Carmel will have to grow accustomed to such closures. Carmel is moving forward with

\$229 million worth of locally funded work to build 32 roundabouts and other infrastructure improvements over the next three years. Work also is underway along 126th Street and along Hazel Dell Parkway, though both roads remain open. The roundabout at Range Line Road and Carmel Drive has been in the planning stages for years. While Carmel officials want to improve traffic flow, the roundabout also will ease access to a project gearing up at the intersection. In the next few weeks, developer Anderson Birkla plans to begin demolition of properties at the northwest corner of the intersection to make way for a \$60 million mixed-use development called the Proscenium. The project will include a 236,017-square-foot apartment complex with 224 units, 60,000 square feet of offices and 20,000 square feet of retail. The developer will build a parking structure with 449 spaces and a large community gathering space.
<http://www.indystar.com/story/news/local/hamilton-county/2016/08/11/range-line-close-roundabout-work/88473308/>

Train traffic, speeds to increase on Indiana railroad

WHIO
8/11/16

SEYMOUR, Ind. — Train traffic on a rail line between Louisville and Seymour will increase starting around Sept. 1. The current speed of trains on the line will increase incrementally over several weeks from a current maximum speed of 25 miles per hour to a speed limit of 49 miles per hour, The Courier-Journal (<http://cjkj.it/2aOhT4j>) reported. In turn, the number of trains will increase from three or four trains each day to around 10 each day. CSX Transportation officials said train length may also increase up to 14,000 feet long. Company spokeswoman Laura Phelps said in an email that the federal Surface Transportation Board approved an agreement between the Louisville & Indiana Railroad and CSX in 2015 that gives CSX a permanent easement to operate over the railroad's 106-mile corridor between Indianapolis and Louisville. "This is a critical route that improves CSX connectivity to Midwest markets and offers more efficiency and routing options for automotive and intermodal trains," Phelps said. "This agreement also enhances rail access for the Port of Indiana-Jeffersonville and increases efficient service for both LIRC and CSX customers." Phelps said CSX is spending about \$100 million for infrastructure improvements to support the increased train traffic over the rail line, including the installation of new track, upgrades to the rail bed structure and highway-rail grade crossing improvements. CSX and the Louisville & Indiana rail organization have conducted training with crews operating on the route and first responders in the communities along the line, according to Phelps. "Representatives from both railroads have provided, and will continue to provide, updates to community leaders as the project progresses." <http://www.whio.com/ap/ap/indiana/train-traffic-speeds-to-increase-on-indiana-railro/nsDnK/>

Nebo roundabout now ahead of schedule

The Star Press
Corey Ohlenkamp
8/11/16

YORKTOWN — Construction of the Nebo-Jackson roundabout is progressing well, according to Yorktown Town Manager Pete Olson. In fact, as of early this week, the project was ahead of schedule. Crews were letting soil settle and running tests before placing gravel on the roadway. The expected completion date is near the end of September. That's good news for drivers who have been taking detours around the intersection northwest of Muncie, and a shift from the project's start behind schedule. The earlier delays stemmed from utility lines being moved. Indiana Michigan Power had been delayed by longer-than-estimated tree trimming by the Indiana Department of Transportation, and several changes to the engineering plans set by the company slowed the rerouting of lines that would be compromised by the roundabout's construction. The project's end goal, which has been planned for several years, will hopefully address issues with traffic on the busy but still relatively rural roads. The \$1.35 million project is also being

constructed with the hopes of spurring economic growth in the area. Federal funds are covering 80 percent of the cost of the project. Delaware County, the city of Muncie and town of Yorktown are splitting the remaining 20 percent of the cost.

<http://www.thestarpress.com/story/news/local/yorktown/2016/08/11/nebo-roundabout-now-ahead-schedule/88477006/>

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