



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Coast Guard approves I-69 Ohio River crossing bridge options

Courier & Press
Mark Wilson
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EVANSVILLE, Ind. - The United States Coast Guard has given its preliminary approval for various bridge options being considered for the I-69 Ohio River between Indiana and Kentucky. Those could include both single span or twin span configurations, said Dan Prevost, lead environmental consultant for the I-69 crossing project. Coast Guard approval for both bridge options gives the bi-state team steering the project more flexibility for what type of bridge it can build as work continues on narrowing down a final corridor for the interstate crossing, said Mindy Peterson, spokeswoman for the group. In turn, that flexibility could potentially lead to savings in construction costs. I-69 Ohio River Crossing is a collaboration of the Indiana Department of Transportation and Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. The navigation clearance study done for the Coast Guard this summer is one of many technical studies and reports that will make up the draft environmental impact statement for the I-69 crossing. While it may appear not much has been done since the last round of public hearings on the I-69 crossing in July, Prevost said more than 20 technical studies are underway for the environmental impact statement. The voluminous report is expected to be published in fall 2018, Peterson said, and will include evaluations of the ecological and economic impacts of the three routes being considered. The studies include everything from wetland and wildlife habitat surveys to historic property surveys, as well as evaluation of the existing U.S. 41 bridges, traffic modeling, noise and visual impacts and potential effects on low income and minority populations in the three corridors. The draft environmental impact statement also will include the steering group's recommended corridor route for the crossing, Peterson said. Once it is finished, there will be more public hearings leading to a final environmental impact statement and record of decision.

<http://www.courierpress.com/story/news/local/2017/12/12/coast-guard-approves-69-ohio-river-crossing-bridge-options/945618001/>

BSU students assist with road-funding research

The Courier Times
Kevin Green
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SPICELAND - Town officials are better prepared to apply for Community Crossings grant dollars from the State of Indiana thanks to the efforts of a group of students from Ball State University. Town council vice president Pam Stigall is a faculty member at BSU and, as part of a class assignment, had a group of students put together a five-year plan for repairing and maintaining the streets of this Henry County community. The students explained their first step was to travel all of the town's 19.7 miles of paved roadways and assign each a rating based on its condition. A

repair and maintenance plan was then based on those road rating numbers. The next step was to investigate the costs associated with milling and resurfacing each street, which the students estimated would cost approximately \$1 million over five years to do all streets. That cost jumps to roughly \$5 million when curb and sidewalk repair numbers are included. Both the road ratings and a plan for repair and maintenance are requirements of the state's Community Crossings grant process. Community Crossings is a partnership between INDOT and Hoosier communities, both urban and rural, to invest in infrastructure projects that catalyze economic development, create jobs, and strengthen local transportation networks, according to the Indiana Department of Transportation website "They have done a smash job on a ton of research," Stigall said, while praising the students for their hard work and a job well done. Stigall explained that all students in the Family and Consumer Sciences program at BSU are required to undertake a project that involves working with people outside the college community. "We are individuals, families and people. That's who we serve and that's who we help," she said, adding that this project allowed the students to hone their research skills while working on a project that also involved putting together a mock grant application, which Stigall said is increasingly important in today's world. <http://www.thecouriertimes.com/news/news.php?ID=1455>

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