



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

December 21, 2017

Old Salem Road expected to open by end of year

News and Tribune

April Rickert

12/20/17

UTICA - Construction on a road that will open up access between Utica and Interstate 265 is nearly complete, and is expected to open by the end of the year, officials say. Old Salem Road in Utica has been partially closed since May for improvements that will ready the road for expected extra traffic as a result of the Lewis and Clark Bridge, which connects Utica to Prospect, Ky. The road work, an Indiana Department of Transportation project totaling around \$3 million with a 20 percent match from Clark County, included widening the narrow country road to two 11-foot lanes. "If you've ever tried to travel that road, you'd understand," Sharon Wilson, part-time planner for the Town of Utica, said. "Basically it was almost impassible." The now 22-foot wide roadway is also surrounded in spots by shoulders and curves. "Now you can actually pass traffic on it," Clark County engineer Brian Dixon said. "Before you couldn't pass traffic in certain areas." Almost everything is in place, except for some landscaping that will be added in spring, but the official opening can't happen until the Clark County Commissioners vote on final approval at its next meeting, Dec. 28, which is expected to pass. "It's definitely going to [be] a lot safer road to get into Utica," Jack Coffman, president of the Clark County Commissioners, said. "And that ... will be the first road that will come off the east-end bridge." "We knew ... that road was not going to be suitable for all the traffic." Coffman said talks started with INDOT about two-to-three years ago, a necessary step with the bridge on its way. Dixon said INDOT approached the commissioners in 2012, with the project being approved in 2013. The county matched 20 percent of the roughly \$3 million total project, or \$400,000 in relinquishment account funds, which is a credited account with INDOT. The bridge opened in December 2016, and Coffman said the gap between that and the road's upcoming opening a year later were to get things in place - water and electrical utilities had to be moved, the design complete and INDOT had to acquire certain tracts of property and right of ways. http://www.newsandtribune.com/news/old-salem-road-expected-to-open-by-end-of-year/article_7da610ca-e5c8-11e7-91f0-4bfa3be73a94.html

www.buildindianacouncil.org