



## **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

### **Infrastructure Media Summary**

**March 5, 2013**

#### **Ohio River Bridges minority participation questioned at hearing**

Marcus Green  
The Courier-Journal  
3/1/13

FRANKFORT, KY. — Two speakers raised concerns about minority business participation in the Ohio River Bridges Project during a public hearing Friday. Eric Green, an Indianapolis investment banker, said a diversity plan he drafted for the project at the request of the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus in 2011 wasn't commented on or adopted. The plan, he said, detailed the role of disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned businesses in all parts of the project. It was submitted to the Louisville and Southern Indiana Bridges Authority and the Indiana Finance Authority, he said. Green said there has been "very little" participation by those businesses, especially relating to financing bonds for Indiana's portion of the project — a bridge linking Utica, Ind., and Prospect, Ky. "It's really disconcerting to have this project, this financing, be announced with a team in place and not have been considered," said Green, vice president of Backstrom McCarley Berry & Co. Friday's meeting followed a similar hearing held in February in Indianapolis, part of the Indiana Finance Authority's federal requirement before issuing up to \$775 million in tax-exempt bonds for the bridge, Kendra York, Indiana's finance director, said in a phone interview Thursday. York and officials from the Indiana Department of Transportation and WVB East End Partners, a 24-member group of companies chosen to finance, build, operate and maintain the crossing, did not attend Friday's hearing. Public comments will be given to the finance agency's board, hearing officer Cindy Herron said. [Ohio River Bridges minority participation questioned at hearing | The Courier-Journal | courier-journal.com](#)

#### **MLK bridge wins state, national awards**

The Journal Gazette  
3/5/13

Fort Wayne, Ind. — The City of Fort Wayne's Traffic Engineering Department and local design firm DLZ Indiana, LLC, will receive state and national recognition for outstanding work on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Bridge. Over the next week, the City will receive two honors, an award for Engineering Excellence and another for Achievement in the design of an Urban Bridge. On Tuesday, March 5, the Indiana Partnership for Transportation Quality will award the City with the Achievement Award for an Urban Bridge. The award recognizes the teamwork that involved multiple agencies, innovation in the bridge design that has made a significant contribution to the City's downtown and sets a standard for future projects, and citizen involvement in working with the design team and City engineers on the memorial aspects and characteristics of the bridge. Today's award presentation will occur in West Lafayette at the annual Purdue Road School conference. Next week, on Monday, March 11, the American Council of Engineering Companies will honor City Engineers and DLZ with the Engineering Excellence Merit Award. The award acknowledges distinguishing engineering design features on the bridge, including the soaring 50-

foot arch, sculptural etchings and plaques with quotes from Dr. King; the connection to Headwaters Park and the Rivergreenway; the safer pedestrian access that separates sidewalks from traffic and adds seating; and the spectacular color-changing lights. The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Bridge was dedicated on June 4, 2012. More than 2,000 residents turned out for the dedication ceremony. The bridge has quickly become an iconic landmark and gateway into the downtown. [MLK bridge wins state, national awards | The Journal Gazette](#)

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