



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

March 8, 2012

Two New Bridges On The Way For U.S. 31 Project

Fox 28
3/6/12

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has awarded a Major Moves contract to construct two new bridges on the south side of South Bend, one on Jackson Road over U.S. 31 and a second on Fellows Street over U.S. 20. Rieth Riley Construction of South Bend was awarded the \$13.1 million contract. Bids will open soon for two additional U.S. 31 projects. The Kern Road Interchange project in St. Joseph County, along with the U.S. 6 Interchange and new lane alignment between 4A Road and 2B Road project in Marshall County, will open to bids by this Summer. Sixteen projects are already underway or completed along the new U.S. 31 corridor. Approximately 15 miles of the 20-mile corridor will be constructed on new terrain. Once complete, U.S. 31 will be a freeway between Plymouth and South Bend, with access only at interchanges. The entire corridor is expected to be opened to traffic by the end of 2014. The goal of the project is to reduce congestion and improve safety and mobility along the route. This project is part of the larger Major Moves initiative to upgrade the route to freeway standards and cut a half hour off travel time between Indianapolis and South Bend. [Two New Bridges On The Way For U.S. 31 Project - Fox 28: South Bend, Elkhart IN News, Weather, Sports](#)

Highway bill hits Senate detour

The Journal Gazette
3/7/12

Indiana would receive \$280 million more in federal money for highway improvements under a bill that stalled Tuesday in the U.S. Senate. Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., has sponsored an amendment to base the highway funding formula entirely on each state's share of federal gasoline tax payments. Under that scenario, Indiana would receive 2.71 percent of total gas tax revenue, Coats says, rather than the 2.35 percent contained in the Senate's surface transportation legislation. Coats has estimated his plan would distribute \$2.14 billion to Indiana, compared with \$1.86 billion under the original bill. Funding formulas have typically taken into account the expanse, congestion and age of highways in each state as well as gas tax payments, with Indiana and other "donor" states paying more in taxes than they get back in revenue. [Highway bill hits Senate detour | The Journal Gazette](#)

Matthew Tully: Political pros promote bipartisan approach to Indianapolis' vital issues

Indianapolis Star
3/7/12

One helped run a former Democratic mayoral administration; the other spent two years helping to lead the current Republican mayor's team. Now Michael O'Connor and Paul Okeson are on the outside, no longer top staffers in the City-County Building. But both remain influential players in their respective parties and, in a refreshing political development, they have teamed up in an attempt to prevent partisan politics from further polluting the air in Marion County. So I was happy to hear about the project created by O'Connor, a former deputy mayor and chief of staff to Democratic Mayor Bart Peterson, and Okeson, the former chief of staff to Republican Mayor Greg Ballard. Without criticizing local politicians -- I'll take care of that -- the two hope to build a bipartisan team that can help keep partisanship out of the discussions on key city issues: education, transit and poverty, for starters. [Matthew Tully: Political pros promote bipartisan approach to Indianapolis' vital issues | The Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

Lawmakers question bridges toll plan

The Courier-Journal

3/7/12

FRANKFORT, KY. — House and Senate lawmakers on Wednesday pressed for more information about tolls that would help pay for the Ohio River Bridges Project, including how long the fees will need to be collected and who will have the authority to raise or lower them. Lawmakers must approve Gov. Steve Beshear's recommendation to commit an additional \$300 million in state highway funds — \$50 million a year for six years — to keep the \$2.6 billion project on track for completing construction of two new bridges in 2018. Legislators are expected to take up the governor's road plan next week. Senate President David Williams said questions loom about the extent of lawmakers' authority over tolls, as there will surely be political pressure to lower them. That could derail the project's financing. [Lawmakers question bridges toll plan | The Courier-Journal | courier-journal.com](#)

\$63 million awarded for Heartland work

Pharos-Tribune

3/7/12

LOGANSPORT — The Hoosier Heartland Project continues to move forward, with crews Tuesday tearing down homes on Ind. 29 just south of Logansport and two state contracts totaling more than \$63 million being awarded. Walsh Construction of Crown Point will build two new segments of the highway on Ind. 25. One contract calls for the completion of nearly three miles between Ind. 218 and 400 West for \$22.7 million, according to an Indiana Department of Transportation press release. The other is three miles, between U.S. 421 and Ind. 218, for \$40.5 million, the release states. "The Hoosier Heartland project is moving along perfectly on schedule," said Matt Deitchley, spokesman for INDOT's LaPorte office. "It's still set to open to traffic by the end of 2013." [\\$63 million awarded for Heartland work » Local News » Pharos-Tribune](#)

Anderson eyes improvements to I-69 corridors

Indiana Business Journal

3/7/12

Improvements to two major corridors from Interstate 69 to downtown Anderson, reconfigurations of complicated interchanges, and changing one-way streets to two-way streets are among Mayor Kevin Smith's goals. And he is excited about what those improvements could mean for the city and downtown businesses. Smith said that the two main corridors to downtown — routes from I-69 exits 22 and 26 — need to be aesthetically pleasing and easy to navigate for visitors and potential investors. The mayor doesn't have a set timeline, design or price tag for most of the improvements, so those are projects his engineering department will be undertaking. The first corridor, which is the closest for people coming from Indianapolis and Hamilton County, goes

from Exit 22, follows Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and connects to Jackson Street through 17th Street. Jackson Street moves drivers into downtown [Anderson eyes improvements to I-69 corridors | 2012-03-07 | Indianapolis Business Journal | IBJ.com](#)

Daniels Aims to Accelerate U.S. 31 Construction

Inside Indiana Business

3/8/12

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – Governor Mitch Daniels today announced the state’s intent to speed up U.S. 31 Hamilton County construction using a public-private partnership strategy known as contractor financing. Under this proposed plan, the project would open to traffic by the end of 2015, three years earlier than expected. Speaking before the 2012 Road School Conference, the 100th such meeting to be held at Purdue University, Daniels said, “We’ve found a way to bring this project forward by three years for the people who have waited for so long for U.S. 31. It will be bid in one bundle, and be built less expensively and years sooner than would have otherwise been the case.” In May of 2011, Governor Daniels signed into law Senate Enrolled Act 473, which allows for expanded use of private capital for transportation improvements. Using this new law, INDOT intends to bundle remaining construction phases for U.S. 31 Hamilton County into one contract, taking advantage of current low construction and financing costs. INDOT would then repay the contractor over seven to 10 years using state and federal transportation resources. [Daniels Aims to Accelerate U.S. 31 Construction - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#) Also, [New plan for US 31 cuts costs, time...](#) , [Mitch Daniels U.S. 31: - fox59.com](#), [Major Moves: the New US 31 Hamilton County](#)

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