



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **March 13, 2012**

#### **UPDATE: Bloomington group greenlights I-69's construction**

Evansville Courier & Press

3/9/12

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. —The path to the Indianapolis-to-Evansville Interstate 69 extension's completion is much clearer after a panel here voted Friday to remove the procedural blockade it had placed in front of the project. The Bloomington/Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization voted 7-6 to place part of the 142-mile highway extension back in its transportation plans. Though it was the first of three such battles the Indiana Department of Transportation must win with the group, its chairman, Kent McDaniel, said he believes those that follow might not be as combative as this months-long saga. "Some people are going to oppose it forever, but I think there will be a lot less contention," he said. Friday's vote means that the state can use federal dollars to build a two-mile, \$25 million stretch at the tail end of the fourth leg of a six-section project. That means by the end of 2014, the highway should run from Evansville to State Road 37 in Bloomington. [UPDATE: Bloomington group greenlights I-69's construction » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

#### **Bridges' tolls may last long past 2058**

**Could do more than just repay construction debt**

Courier-Journal

3/12/12

Tolls of \$1 to \$10 per crossing will be used for far more than just paying for construction of two new bridges over the Ohio River, Kentucky and Indiana officials say. The millions of dollars in annual revenue the tolls are expected to generate will also pay for maintaining and repairing the new bridges for at least 40 years — and potentially fund the replacement of the Kennedy Bridge around 2050, Kentucky highway officials said. Some local lawmakers argue it's unfair to Louisville and Southern Indiana residents to pay those costs through tolls while federal highway funds that come from gasoline taxes are free to be spent elsewhere. [Bridges' tolls may last long past 2058 | The Courier-Journal | courier-journal.com](#)

#### **Indiana commissioner pushes to invalidate I-69 vote**

Evansville Courier & Press

3/13/12

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. —A Monroe County commissioner is pushing to invalidate a Bloomington planning panel's narrow vote that added a section of the Indianapolis-to-Evansville Interstate 69 extension to the group's local highway plan. The Herald-Times reports Mark Stoops alleges that last Friday's 7-6 vote by the policy committee of the Bloomington/Monroe County Metropolitan

Planning Organization is invalid because one member failed to disclose a conflict of interest. Stoops, who's a member of the MPO, says fellow member Bill Williams has a conflict of interest because he has a son who works for a subcontractor helping build the I-69 extension. Monroe County Attorney Dave Schilling disagrees. He says the county legal department has advised Williams, who's the county highway director, that it doesn't believe the situation represents a conflict of interest. [Indiana commissioner pushes to invalidate I-69 vote » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

### **Request-for-qualifications responses for bridges due April 19**

News and Tribune

3/13/12

The Indiana Finance Authority and the Indiana Department of Transportation released a request-for-qualifications to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the east-end portion of the Ohio River Bridges Project late Friday afternoon. Indiana is responsible for construction of the \$1.3 billion east-end portion of the bridges project and is seeking a public-private-partnership arrangement to finance and construct the bridge and the Indiana and Kentucky approaches. Interested bidders are required to submit their response to the request-for-qualification by 3 p.m. Monday, April 9. The request-for-qualification document is available at [www.in.gov/ifa/2331.htm](http://www.in.gov/ifa/2331.htm). [News and Tribune briefs for March 13, 2012 » Clark County » News and Tribune](#)

### **Senate ready to pass highway programs overhaul**

The Indianapolis Star

3/13/12

WASHINGTON (WTW) — The Senate is poised to pass an overhaul of highway and transit programs that gives states greater flexibility over how they spend federal aid, streamlines environmental regulations to get projects built faster and seeks to generate greater private investment in transportation projects. More than 20 amendments -- including proposals to allow states to charge tolls on interstate highways, provide tax credits for alternative energy and cars that run on natural gas, and permit more flights over the Grand Canyon and other national parks - are set to be decided Tuesday in an all-day marathon of voting. [Senate ready to pass highway programs overhaul | The Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

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