



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

March 14, 2013

I-65 makeover to start next month

NWI Times
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Interstate 65 will be reconstructed between U.S. 231 and Ind. 2 starting in April, in what could be a prelude to a larger project that would add third lanes to the expressway between U.S. 231 and U.S. 30. The reconstruction work between U.S. 231 and Ind. 2 was one of several Indiana Department of Transportation projects reported on at Tuesday's meeting of a Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission committee at Michigan City City Hall. An update also was given on the proposed Illiana Expressway. "We are really trying to get the local community input," said INDOT spokesman Jim Pinkerton. "And we will be working closely with NIRPC staff." The six-mile stretch of I-65 to be reconstructed this summer is where the primary Indiana junction is planned for the Illiana Expressway. The planned expressway would start at Interstate 65 just south of 153rd Avenue and run approximately due west between Lowell and Cedar Lake, pass south of the site of a proposed airport at Peotone and on to Interstate 55 in Illinois. The Illiana Expressway also appears to be one factor driving the addition of third lanes to I-65 north of U.S. 231, as feasibility studies have shown the Illiana Expressway would significantly increase traffic on the north-south expressway. INDOT already has asked NIRPC to do the preparatory work for the third lane project, including doing air quality studies, said NIRPC Transportation Planning Manager Bill Brown. It could be let for bid sometime in the next two years. [I-65 makeover to start next month](#)

Greenwood residents get look at mass transit plan

Indianapolis Star
3/13/13

A plan to expand the mass transit system in Central Indiana could be a big help to suburban riders such as Gabe Naile. The 20-year-old lives in Greenwood and rides IndyGo daily to get to jobs in Downtown Indianapolis — she delivers sandwiches for Jimmy John's and pours coffee at Starbucks. "I use a bike as my main mode of transportation," Naile said, shortly after parking her bike on a rack mounted in front of a bus and climbing aboard. "I have two jobs, and the only way to get to them is to use the bus." The suburbs have a lot to gain under the proposed 10-year, \$1.3 billion mass transit plan working its way through the Indiana legislature. About \$600 million would be funded by the federal government. Riders would see more buses and fewer transfers, including a new rapid transit line linking Carmel, Indianapolis' largest northern suburb, with Greenwood, its largest southern suburb. Residents can learn more about the transit plan at 6:30 p.m. today at Greenwood City Hall. More than 334,000 riders a year take IndyGo's Route 31 bus from Greenwood to Downtown. Another 368,000 a year take the bus from Downtown to Castleton. More than 538,000 ride the bus to Park 100 on the Northwestside. The Indiana House approved a bill that lets voters in 10 Central Indiana counties decide if they'll support up to a 0.3

percent tax to fund the mass transit expansion. [Greenwood residents get look at mass transit plan | Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

State looking at what U.S. 6 needs now that Porter hospital's open

Post-Tribune

3/13/13

VALPARAISO — When the Porter County Board of Commissioners recently passed a resolution asking the Indiana Department of Transportation to do a traffic study on U.S. 6 near Porter Regional Hospital, the state agency was already ahead of the game. The commissioners passed the resolution at their meeting last week, noting the volume of traffic by the hospital, which opened in late August at U.S. 6 and Indiana 49, has increased significantly in the ensuing months. Board of Commissioners President John Evans, R-North, said U.S. 6 is four lanes by the hospital, but is two lanes west of the facility. Commissioners would like to see the road widened west of the hospital to better accommodate ambulance traffic. The INDOT LaPorte District Traffic Department was already doing a study of U.S. 6 in the area before commissioners passed the resolution, said Matt Deitchely, the district's media relations director. The study will likely continue for the next month or so. "We typically do a study like this a few months after a major development on a state road, like this new hospital," Deitchely said, adding in the meantime, "we are requiring any future developments along this stretch of U.S. 6 to be able to accommodate any potential future expansions of the road." U.S. 6 was widened to four lanes in a 3.2-mile stretch between Union Street in Hobart and Scottsdale Road in Portage four years ago. The \$32 million project was paid for through the state's Major Moves project. [State looking at what U.S. 6 needs now that Porter hospital's open - Post-Tribune](#)

U.S. 31 Project in Hamilton County Moves Ahead

Network Indiana

3/13/13

Hamilton County residents heard more information Tuesday night about updates to U.S. 31 in Hamilton County. The Indiana Department of Transportation recently awarded a 58-million dollar contract for construction on the road between 146th Street and 169th Street. INDOT Spokesperson Nathan Riggs says the project will upgrade U.S. 31 in Hamilton County "to a federal standard freeway style type of highway, which will be a limited access highway, basically between Interstate 465 and State Road 38." Riggs says new ramps will connect 146th Street to the north with Greyhound Pass and 151st Street with a "split-diamond" interchange. A new freeway exit at 161st Street will contain roundabouts controlling cross traffic. Riggs says INDOT plans to eventually connect U.S. 31 with other existing and planned roads. "We are looking at the individual area of Hamilton County," he says, "but this corridor project, it's a big project but it's really part of something even bigger. We're really helping carry U.S. 31 across the northern half of the state with projects in Kokomo and South Bend also." The highway will remain two lanes in each direction during peak travel times, with traffic shifts designed to help expedite construction. Riggs says INDOT hopes to award additional construction contracts by the end of this year and have the corridor open to traffic by the end of 2015. [U.S. 31 Project in Hamilton County Moves Ahead | News - Indiana Public Media](#)

Roadwork, roundabouts delay I-69 interchange

The Journal-Gazette

3/14/13

Allen County highway officials said this week they plan to close the intersections at Auburn and Diebold roads consecutively for 90 days each so the roundabouts can be completed. That's six months of closures. The area has been under construction since the Indiana Department of

Transportation began rebuilding the bridge and creating an interchange with Interstate 69. That project, which includes roundabouts at each end of the bridge for the off ramps and on ramps, is expected to be completed this summer. Allen County, meanwhile, is building roundabouts to the east and west, at the intersections of Diebold and Auburn roads, respectively. In an effort to get them finished this summer, county Highway Department Director Bill Hartman said, they will close one intersection entirely for 90 days and then the other. Officials want all the work finished this summer so that next year work can begin on rebuilding the I-69 interchange with Indiana 1/Dupont Road. In the meantime, city of Fort Wayne officials are using the roundabout construction as a chance to upgrade a water main in the area. City Utilities' Andrew Schipper told the Board of Public Works on Wednesday that the construction plans in the area kept conflicting with the 12-inch water main that supplies water to the east side of I-69. [Roadwork, roundabouts delay I-69 interchange | The Journal Gazette](#)

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