



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

March 29, 2012

Question over conflict of interest in I-69 vote lingers

Evansville Courier & Press

3/27/12

INDIANAPOLIS —A Bloomington-area official is asking a lawyer to review whether a member's potential conflict of interest is enough to overturn a board's vote to green-light the Interstate 69 extension. Mark Stoops, a member of the Bloomington/Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization who opposes the 142-mile Indianapolis-to-Evansville project, said he believes that group's Policy Committee's 7-6 vote was invalid. That's because one of the voters, Bill Williams, Monroe County's highway department director, has a son who works for a company that is building part of the interstate. Though he said Williams violated no state laws, Stoops' hope is that Mick Harrison, an attorney who has worked for I-69 opponents, will find federal conflict-of-interest regulations that would require Williams to recuse himself. That would turn the 7-6 vote for I-69's approval into a 6-6 tie, and force a new vote. "I don't think there's any question that I'm interested in stopping I-69," Stoops said. "It's a big deal here, and it's not something that I think we can bypass regulations and ignore the consequences of that." [Question over conflict of interest in I-69 vote lingers » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

U.S. expects to approve environmental statement for Bridges Project 'soon'

Courier-Journal

3/28/12

The Federal Highway Administration expects to approve a new environmental review of the plan to add two bridges across the Ohio River and rebuild the Spaghetti Junction interchange. The approval is expected "soon," according to a letter that Victor Mendez, the Highway Administration's top official, sent to U.S. Reps. John Yarmuth, D-Louisville, and Republican Todd Young, who represents Southern Indiana. The letter, dated Tuesday, was provided by Yarmuth's office. The Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement was triggered after Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels and Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer proposed cost-cutting changes to the project, including rebuilding Spaghetti Junction in its current location instead of closer to Butchertown; and the addition of tolls to help pay for it. [U.S. expects to approve environmental statement for Bridges Project 'soon' | The Courier-Journal | courier-journal.com](#)

Louisville bridges financing plan assumes future Sherman Minton tolls

Courier-Journal

3/29/12

State Transportation Secretary Mike Hancock said that in creating financial plans for the bridges

project, Kentucky and Indiana officials concluded that tolls are all but certain on the span that will replace the Sherman Minton. That span is not part of the bridges project, which proposes tolls on new spans downtown and in the East End. "As we've looked ahead, we feel there's a very small likelihood that 20 years from now we'd be building the Sherman Minton without tolls," he said. "We just think that's a very small likelihood." [Louisville bridges financing plan assumes future Sherman Minton tolls | The Courier-Journal | courier-journal.com](#)

Countdown to passage of a highway bill

The Washington Post

3/29/12

Senate Democrats tapped a well-worn gimmick Wednesday--a countdown clock-- to pressure the House to vote on a transportation measure before current federal transportation funding expires March 31. Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Mark Begich (D-Alaska) unveiled the latest iteration of the clock at a news conference. Democrats in both chambers want the House to vote on the two-year, \$109 billion transportation bill approved by the Senate. But House Republicans — facing pressure from tea party-aligned members — have failed at least three times in the last few days to bring the funding measure to a full vote. The House is expected to pass a 90-day extension temporary extension of federal transportation funding Thursday, aides to Republican lawmakers say. [Countdown to passage of a highway bill - 2chambers - The Washington Post](#) Also, [Senate Democrats Unveil a Countdown Clock – Claiming Threat of Government 'Transportation Shutdown' - ABC News](#)

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