



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

April 24, 2012

Northwestern Indiana mayor expects to soon have plan for toll bridge to replace closed span

The Republic
4/20/12

EAST CHICAGO, Ind. — A northwestern Indiana mayor is expecting to have a firm proposal within a couple of weeks on a private investment group's plans for building a toll bridge to replace a highway span that was shut down for safety reasons more than two years ago. East Chicago Mayor Anthony Copeland said lawyers for the investment group were drawing up letters of intent and a development plan on rebuilding the Cline Avenue bridge for the city's consideration. "They wanted to get everything together at the state level because if the state didn't give them the green light, we couldn't even consider those plans," Copeland told The Times of Munster for a story Friday State officials turned to the toll bridge idea because of the estimated cost of at least \$150 million to replace the 1.2-mile bridge on the route to East Chicago's Ameristar Casino and steel mills along Lake Michigan. The bridge over the Indiana Harbor and Ship Canal was closed in December 2009 after inspectors found structural damage from corrosion and much of it was demolished in February. [Northwestern Indiana mayor expects to soon have plan for toll bridge to replace closed span | The Republic](#)

EDITORIAL: Ground broken on Section 4 of I-69

Evansville Courier & Press
4/20/12

Ever so quietly, the Indiana Department of Transportation and Bloomington area supporters of Interstate 69 held a ground breaking ceremony on Tuesday for the highly controversial Section 4 of the Evansville-to-Indianapolis highway project. This is the section that opponents, some of them Bloomington government officials, fought stubbornly for months to keep from coming into Monroe County and Bloomington. And for a while they held an advantage, in that the state needed their approval to use federal funds on a 1.75-mile stretch of the highway in Monroe County. It was only after INDOT threatened to withhold transportation funds for other road projects that the Bloomington/Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization relented and gave its approval on a slim 7-6 margin. So, given the bitter struggle that has been waged in Bloomington — really for years — it wasn't all that much of a surprise that the opponents were not invited to the ground breaking on the 27-mile Section 4 which runs from near Crane in Greene County to Monroe County. Thomas Tokarski, president of Citizens for Appropriate Rural Roads, told the Bloomington Herald-Times that his group was not informed of the ceremony. [EDITORIAL: Ground broken on Section 4 of I-69 » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

Bridge Project Clears Major Hurdle

Inside Indiana Business
4/20/12

The Indiana Department of Transportation says the Federal Highway Administration has approved an environmental impact review for the Ohio River Bridges Project. Construction is set to begin before the end of the year. The Supplemental FEIS was required after Governors Steve Beshear of Kentucky and Mitch Daniels of Indiana, together with Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, agreed to modifications that cut the cost of the project by \$1.5 billion. Their leadership got the long-awaited project off the drawing board and on a path to construction, which is expected to begin before the end of the year. [Bridge Project Clears Major Hurdle - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#) Also, [Bridges project takes another step forward » Clark County » News and Tribune](#)

NASH: Fix the Bridge(s) Project
News and Tribune
4/20/12

NEW ALBANY — Over the last few weeks there have been a couple of more studies released concerning the Ohio River Bridges Project. They seem to paint a rosy picture of what life would be like after the bridges are built. I am sure the Bridges Authority members are patting each other on the back because it seems that they are finally getting their point across that it is imperative that we build these bridges, whatever the cost. After reading the highlights of each of these studies I still question the need for two new bridges and the use of tolls in order to pay for them. In fact, the report released this week commissioned by the Indiana Finance Authority claims that nearly 18,000 jobs will be created annually with an economic impact of nearly \$78 billion. Gov. Mitch Daniels is on record saying those who benefit should be the ones paying for the bridges. It seems a lot of people will be “benefiting” while those crossing the bridges will be paying for them. [NASH: Fix the Bridge\(s\) Project » Opinions » News and Tribune](#)

Outside services to gain bidders under proposal
The Journal Gazette
4/20/12

Fort Wayne contracts for many professional services on projects for which city employees do not have adequate expertise or manpower. These include engineering, legal, architectural, accounting and consulting services. The city will be contracting for millions of dollars of projects in the next several years, including \$250 million to comply with the EPA combined sewer separation mandate. The professional service contracts involved in these projects will be very expensive, and we need to be certain we are getting the best value for our tax dollars. Indiana state law requires competitive bidding for construction projects or purchase of commodities such as road salt. However, competitive bidding is not required for contracting of professional services and is even prohibited in some federal or state projects. Fort Wayne is not prohibited by Indiana state law if it wishes to use a competitive bidding process for professional contracting for Fort Wayne projects. [Outside services to gain bidders under proposal | The Journal Gazette](#)

Segment of Ind. 28 sinking into bog
The Star Press
4/22/12

GASTON -- Repairing a 400-foot section of Ind. 28 that is slowly sinking into a bog is expected to cost more than half a million dollars. This news will come as no surprise to many residents of the Gaston area, which was once home to two swamps that were of nature-preserve quality before being mined. During a recent meeting with local government representatives, Indiana Department

of Transportation officials reported that a section of the highway east of Delaware County Road 600-W, near Wes-Del Middle and High schools, is "basically sinking away." It will cost an estimated \$543,253 to excavate a deposit of dead plant material known as peat underneath the road and reconstruct it. Construction is tentatively scheduled for 2014, after completion of engineering and right of way acquisition. An INDOT official said the peat deposit could be 30 feet deep. [Segment of Ind. 28 sinking into bog | The Star Press | thestarpress.com](#)

INDOT kicks off work zone awareness week

WANE

4/23/12

LEBANON, Ind. – Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Chief Operations Officer Troy Woodruff today joined Indiana Department of Labor Commissioner Lori Torres to mark the ceremonial start of road construction season with National Work Zone Awareness Week, which runs April 23 through 27. Thanks to Governor Daniels' Major Moves program, more than \$1 billion in highway projects will begin construction in Indiana this year. Each day this week, INDOT's regional districts will highlight important work zone safety information on their Twitter and Facebook pages, including the top regional projects expected to impact traffic. Fourteen people were killed and nearly 500 were injured in Indiana highway work zones in 2011. Statistics show the top causes of work zone crashes are drivers following too closely or making improper lane changes. Last year, INDOT and the Indiana State Police launched a new police vehicle designed to look like the white pickups used by construction personnel. Because the vehicles blend into construction zones, the troopers driving them are twice as likely to identify Following Too Closely violations and eight times more likely to identify Failure to Signal Lane Change violations. [INDOT kicks off work zone awareness week](#)

INDOT to Update I-69 Project in Monroe County

Inside Indiana Business

4/23/12

The Indiana Department of Transportation will present the latest update to the I-69 extension project in Monroe County. A public meeting Tuesday will highlight road assignments for the section between Martinsville and Bloomington. BLOOMINGTON, Ind. – The public is invited to review preliminary road alignments and access alternatives for Section 5 of the federally approved I-69 corridor at a public information meeting on Tuesday, April 24 at 5:30 p.m. INDOT will present an updated Purpose and Need Statement and Screening of Alternatives Package. WHEN: 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 24

WHERE: Monroe County Fairgrounds Auditorium, 5700 W. Airport Road just west of the S.R. 45 and Airport Road intersection WHAT: Section 5 Public Information Meeting. INDOT encourages the general public to join project representatives to learn more about the I-69 Project. For additional information about this meeting and Section 5 feel free to visit the Section 5 project office located at 3802 Industrial Blvd., Bloomington, IN 47403. The office is open Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. The public is encouraged to visit, or call 812-355-1390. Additional information is also available on the project web site at www.i69indyevn.org. Please contact the Section 5 project office if you have special transit needs and we will do our best to accommodate you. [INDOT to Update I-69 Project in Monroe County - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

And then there were seven: Finalists chosen for both portions of the Ohio River Bridges Project

News and Tribune

4/23/12

SOUTHERN INDIANA — Indiana and Kentucky announced Monday their state's respective

transportation organizations had narrowed down a short-list of companies interested in building the Ohio River Bridges Project. Indiana has narrowed the list of potential partners for building the Ohio River Bridges Project's east-end crossing to four teams, from six. According to an Indiana Department of Transportation press release, four teams were chosen from those that responded to the statement-of-qualifications to design, construct, maintain and finance the east-end bridge along with the Indiana and Kentucky approaches. "This was a difficult winnowing process," said Indiana Public Finance Director Kendra York. "All six teams had impressive qualifications and experience, but after a very diligent review, we concluded that these four teams best met our criteria." [And then there were seven: Finalists chosen for both portions of the Ohio River Bridges Project » Clark County » News and Tribune](#)

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