



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Illiana planners reduce Indiana road closings to three

NWI Times
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Illiana Expressway planners have whittled down crossroad closures to just three in Indiana, after starting with a list of more than a half-dozen that would dead-end at the expressway. Sheffield Avenue, Marshall Street and Harrison Street are now the only three slated for closure, according to Steve Schilke, Illinois Department of Transportation project manager. Broadway Street and White Oak Avenue are the latest to be taken off the closure list. The move will leave nine local roads crossing the 10-mile stretch of the Illiana Expressway in Indiana by means of either overpasses or underpasses. The dead-ending of local roads was a key concern emergency responders brought to planners at meetings held over the past six months, Schilke said. Schilke, Indiana Department of Transportation officials and planners met for four hours with local officials Tuesday at Cedar Lake Ministries. Plans for three interchanges in Indiana continue to move ahead, with IDOT and INDOT posting options for interchange configurations at Tuesday's meeting. The Indiana interchanges are slated for Interstate 65, Ind. 55 and U.S. 41. Currently, the Illiana Expressway route would start at Interstate 65 just south of 153rd Avenue and run between Lowell and Cedar Lake before heading almost directly west to Wilmington, Ill., where it would join Interstate 55. Expressway interchanges and the closing of local roads are still among issues prompting the most concern from those living in the area, said West Creek Township Trustee Harold Mussman after Tuesday's meetings. His home and farmland are right next to the interchange planned at U.S. 41. [Illiana planners reduce Indiana road closings to three](#)

INDOT plans improvements to Indiana 61 this summer

Vincennes Sun Commercial
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The Indiana Department of Transportation held an open house for southwest Indiana motorists Tuesday to allow the public a say in upcoming road projects. The meeting, held at the Vincennes Sub-District office off of U.S. 41, featured an informal session during which INDOT officials were able to meet one-on-one with the public to address questions and concerns as well as solicit input on planning and programming. INDOT has published a draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program that lists regionally specific transportation projects that use federal funds from 2014 through 2017. Tuesday's meeting in Vincennes was the third in a series of six meetings that INDOT is hosting around Indiana, in each of the state's districts, said INDOT media relations director Cher Elliott. The Vincennes district, she said, has 16 counties total, including Knox. "This is a rather large area we cover in the Vincennes district," Elliott said. "But there aren't too many major projects we're looking at doing right now, there are several smaller projects, but nothing too big." The largest local project, she said, will involve Indiana 61 at the end of the month. "We'll have two sections of the road closed after school is complete," she said. "We'll start

on that the Tuesday after Memorial Day, and they'll have 60 calendar days to complete that. "Both contractors feel comfortable with that timeline, and we don't anticipate any issues with opening those sections before school starts back up in the fall," Elliott said. "One thing to note, though, is while one of the projects may start or finish before the other one, that stretch of road will not reopen until both sections are complete. "Vincennes

State dollars to aid counties' roadwork

Kokomo Tribune

5/1/13

After several years of watching the available dollars for road maintenance dwindle, local counties are thankful for the relief being provided by the state. The Indiana General Assembly in the approved 2014-15 fiscal year budget provided \$136 million to counties for roadwork. Howard County is slated to receive an additional \$755,167 in each of the next two years. "We will do more paving," Ted Cain, superintendent of the Howard County Highway Department, said Monday. "Hopefully we can get a few more miles done." The cost to pave a mile of county road surpasses \$60,000, he said. "It helps," Cain said of state funding for roads. "I'm surprised they haven't provided additional money before now. A few years ago we did get some additional funding, and we used those funds to get the roads in good shape." Cain said decisions on how exactly to spend the money will depend largely on the county's financial position at the end of the year. He said the impact of annexation by the city of Kokomo on county highway funds is unknown. "It will be used on the roads, that's where it belongs," he said. Some funds will be distributed after July 1 this year and the remainder over the next 18 months. Tipton County is expected to receive \$417,637 in each of the next two years. Highway Superintendent Bret Morris said the money will be used to maintain roads. "The biggest part will go into our chip and seal program," he said. "We'll get to things we haven't gotten to in the past." Morris said Tipton County might pave short sections of county roads. "I just hope they don't take money away in another area," he said. The Miami County Highway Department will receive an additional \$614,520 each year. Highway Superintendent Sam Waltz said the more than 35 percent increase is a huge boost for the county, which has struggled to keep up with road maintenance. He said if all the money was put toward sealing roads, the department could complete 90 miles each year. The county currently can afford just 30 miles of sealing a year. [State dollars to aid counties' roadwork » Local News » Kokomo Tribune; Kokomo, Indiana](#)

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