



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

June 6, 2013

Agreement in principle to upgrade Indiana bridge aesthetics

Braden Lammers
6/6/2013

JEFFERSONVILLE — The city of Jeffersonville is going to get the look it wants for the Ohio River Bridges Project, but it's going to cost them. An agreement was reached in principle between the Indiana Department of Transportation and the city to share in the cost of aesthetic upgrades to the both the downtown and east-end portions of the bridges project. The agreement splits the cost of the upgrades to overpasses, facades and fencing, among other elements, 80-20 percent between INDOT and Jeffersonville, respectively. Jeffersonville Redevelopment Director Rob Waiz raised concerns about the aesthetic plans on both the downtown and on the east-end portions of the project following an advisory committee meeting earlier this spring. Waiz subsequently presented the plans to the Jeffersonville Redevelopment Commission and asked for assistance in getting some upgrades made to the aesthetics on the Indiana side of the river.

<http://newsandtribune.com/local/x756637131/Agreement-in-principle-to-upgrade-Indiana-bridge-aesthetics>

County targets 24 roads for 2013 improvements

Warrick Publishing
Timothy W. Young
6/6/2013

Warrick County is set to spend \$730,382 on phase one of the 2013 road paving project. The paving list includes 24 roads, with the majority of the expense being paid out of the Economic Development Income Tax fund. Six of the roads will be paid out of Local Road and Street — \$665,666 from EDIT and \$64,716 from Local Road and Street County officials had hoped to have additional monies this year for more improvements, but a measure to increase the local wheel tax surtax from 7 percent to 10 percent was narrowly defeated by a 4-3 vote by the Warrick County Council on May 2. If approved, the Warrick County Commissioners would have been eligible for a \$2 million, 10-year, interest-free loan from the Indiana Department of Transportation. This would have been in addition to the additional \$200,000 to \$300,000 gained annually from increasing the surtax. Officials argued that the money garnered from the surtax increase would have more than been enough to pay for the state loan. As it stands now, Warrick County is set to lose \$120,433 in 2014 for road funding. In 2015, that figure jumps to \$210,688.

http://www.tristate-media.com/warrick/article_2cb09396-cde7-11e2-aeff-001a4bcf887a.html

20-year county transportation plan OK'd - Blueprint required for federal funds; Shoaff votes no

The Journal Gazette

Dan Stockman
6/5/2013

FORT WAYNE – Allen County now has a blueprint for the next two decades of transportation improvements. Urban Transportation Advisory Board members Tuesday approved the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council's 2035 Transportation Plan for the Fort Wayne-New Haven-Allen County Metropolitan Planning Area. The council is the regional transportation planning agency – required for the millions of dollars in federal transportation money that flows to local governments including New Haven, Allen County, Fort Wayne International Airport and Citilink. The area gets about \$20 million a year in federal funding, which requires a regional transportation plan to ensure projects make sense and are not in conflict. Democrat John Shoaff, at-large Fort Wayne city councilman and the Plan Commission's representative to the board, cast the lone "no" vote against the 2035 Transportation Plan. For months, Shoaff has said there is not enough coordination between land-use planners and transportation planners and that projects are approved without taking into account the impacts they have on neighborhoods and road maintenance budgets. He said he would like the City Council to approve each of the projects before it is added to the transportation plan.
<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20130605/LOCAL/306059959/1002/LOCAL>

NIRPC committee to discuss Illiana Expressway project
NWI Times
6/5/2013

PORTAGE | NRIPC's Transportation Policy Committee will meet Tuesday and discuss the Illiana Expressway project. The meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. at the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission/Northwest Indiana Forum Building, 6100 Southbort Road. The group will have a presentation about congestion management analysis process for the Illiana project. Action also is scheduled on Transportation Alternative Program project selection. TAP combines Safe Routes to Schools, Regional Transportation Plan and Transportation Enhancement projects. The agenda and materials will be posted on NIRPC's website on Friday.
http://www.nwitimes.com/business/local/nirpc-committee-to-discuss-illiana-expressway-project/article_b9f24f74-ff7e-537c-a13e-24b5b0eb23ee.html

Bethany Road up for debate today -Commissioners, citizen will discuss issues with road projects at today's meeting
News and Tribune
Matt Koesters
6/6/2013

Michelle Hoskins, of Charlestown, is not a fan of plans to widen Bethany Road. And she plans to let the Clark County Commissioners know about it today at their regular meeting. The Bethany Road project has been a subject of discussion between the commissioners and the administration of the city of Charlestown, which would like to see the road widened for safety reasons, said Commissioners President Jack Coffman. Coffman made clear that any plans to widen the road were strictly theoretical at this point, as preliminary engineering has not yet been performed. Hoskins said she believes that if executed, the plan to widen the road and add turning lanes will cause the road to become more heavily traveled by those looking for a quicker route between County Road 403 and Ind. 62. But Coffman said that's not the purpose of the project. Coffman said that the project will likely rely on federal dollars for funding, and he said the earliest federal dollars for Bethany Road would be available would be 2017. The county has about \$2 million in credits with the Indiana Department of Transportation, credits the county received in exchange for taking over 18 miles of roads and bridges from the state last year. Those credits can be used to cover the matching portion of grants for road projects funded through INDOT, but Commissioner

Rick Stephenson said he anticipates the county will use all of those credits up on other projects geared toward preparing for the Clark County approach of the east-end bridge, part of the Ohio River Bridges Project.

<http://newsandtribune.com/local/x1062697799/Bethany-Road-up-for-debate-today>

Jeffersonville's River Ridge board commits to up to half of road cost - It would serve Jeff industrial park

Jeffersonville Courier-Journal

Charlie White

6/5/2013

The River Ridge development board on Wednesday committed to pay up to half of the estimated \$12 million cost of building what officials call a vital new road for the growing industrial park in Jeffersonville. Jerry Acy, executive director of River Ridge Commerce Center, said the new road would connect Ind. 62 with the interchange that's being constructed at Old Salem Road near Utica, giving drivers a direct route through River Ridge to the eastern Interstate 265 bridge that's slated to be completed in late 2016. Acy told board members he's been meeting with "various funding sources" to try to find state or federal grant money for the project, which likely would require River Ridge to match between 20 and 50 percent of the total project cost. River Ridge's portion would likely come in the form of a bond sale, but Acy noted that the money may be able to be disbursed over a year or two as the road is constructed, which he's hopeful will coincide with the opening of the new bridge and interchange. The board unanimously voted to approve the matching road funds resolution for the new road, which Acy said has yet to be formally named.

<http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20130605/NEWS02/306050149/River-Ridge-road-Interstate-265-interchange>

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