



## **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

### **Infrastructure Media Summary**

**July 3, 2012**

#### **Valpo to have another Indiana 49 road construction project**

Post Tribune  
6/29/12

VALPARAISO — Come July, the city will have another construction project happening along Indiana 49. This time, it will be south of U.S. 30, and like the planned Vale Park Road overpass started a month ago, it should not have a great impact on traffic. A traffic signal will go in where Bertholet Road and Barley Road connect to Indiana 49. These roads lead to the Porter County Sheriff's Department and jail on the east and the new North Coast Distributing facility on the west side. On Thursday, the Board of Works and Safety awarded the contract for the project to low bidder Midwest Electric at a cost of \$120,857. City Engineer Tim Burkman said after pre-construction meetings are held, the company has 60 days to complete the work.

[Valpo to have another Indiana 49 road construction project - Aurora Beacon News](#)

#### **COMMUNITY COMMENT: Excitement surrounding I-69 seems to stop at state line**

Evansville Courier & Press  
6/29/12

Anyone who has traveled through Kentucky the past few years may have noticed that various Chambers of Commerce throughout Western Kentucky are almost giddy over the prospects of Interstate 69 coming to the Commonwealth. The I-69 signs are already up on the fine parkways that Kentuckians have been blessed with for many years. But in my opinion, this enthusiasm for routing I-69 through Western Kentucky is not shared by Hoosiers who have gone all out to get the highway finished from Evansville to Indianapolis. I get the feeling that once that part of the interstate project is finished, Hoosiers could care less about its completion south of the river. Major Moves funds from the lease of the Northern Indiana turnpike have helped the Indianapolis to Evansville section, but won't have enough left for any other part of the interstate. For one thing, there is the matter of a costly new bridge that would have to be built between Evansville and Henderson County, and it appears that Kentucky has already prioritized the building of a couple of new bridges over the river at Louisville.

[COMMUNITY COMMENT: Excitement surrounding I-69 seems to stop at state line » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

#### **Most Indiana lawmakers support highway funding bill**

Indianapolis Star  
6/29/12

WASHINGTON -- Indiana would not lose federal funding because of its privatized toll road, under the final version of a 27-month, \$120 billion highway bill that Congress approved Friday. All of

Indiana's lawmakers except Sen. Dan Coats voted for the bill which would keep states' funding the same for the first year and increase it slightly for inflation the second year. A spokesman for the Indiana Department of Transportation said an initial review indicates that, while the bill isn't perfect, it's good for Indiana and its infrastructure. "Overall this bill provides to INDOT and local governments both programmatic reform and an increased level of certainty," said INDOT chief of staff Troy Woodruff. Coats had several objections to the bill, including language that was included by House and Senate negotiators to expedite a study and plan to prevent Asian carp and other invasive species from entering the Great Lakes.

[Most Indiana lawmakers support highway funding bill | Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

### **Congress passes student loans, highway jobs bill**

Post-Tribune  
6/29/12

WASHINGTON — Congress emphatically approved legislation Friday preserving jobs on transportation projects from coast to coast and avoiding interest rate increases on new loans to millions of college students, giving lawmakers campaign-season bragging rights on what may be their biggest economic achievement before the November elections. The bill enables just over \$100 billion to be spent on highway, mass transit and other transportation programs over the next two years, projects that would have expired Saturday without congressional action. It also ends a bare-knuckle political battle over student loans that raged since spring, a proxy fight over which party was best helping voters muddle through the economic downturn.

[Congress passes student loans, highway jobs bill - Aurora Beacon News](#)

### **Another vote for action on bridge**

Evansville Courier & Press  
6/30/12

Every once in a while I read something in the paper that I'd like to add an exclamation mark to. That was the case last Sunday when a guest column appeared concerning Interstate 69. The point was: Now's the time to get moving on a new I-69 bridge between Henderson and Evansville. We're not talking about moving dirt or even making drawings, but creating the bi-state commission that needs to be set up before anything else can happen. Let's get it done. The piece was written by Jeff Mulzer, chairman of Hoosier Voices for I-69, and Brad Schneider, president of our local chamber of commerce and a member of the Chamber Leadership Initiatives for Northwest Kentucky, what's known as C-LINK. They pointed out the steady progress being made in Indiana, where construction of a new I-69 is getting closer to Bloomington and plans are being made to upgrade existing routes on to Indianapolis. On our side of the river, existing parkways are also being upgraded to interstate standards.

[Another vote for action on bridge » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

### **LEGISLATIVE NOTEBOOK: Indiana benefits from revised federal transportation bill**

Evansville Courier & Press  
7/1/12

INDIANAPOLIS —Indiana's delegation praised the new 27-month transportation funding bill that Congress approved Friday, and for good reason: They secured changes that got the state an extra \$42 million per year. U.S. Rep. Larry Bucshon, the Republican from Indiana's 8th District, was a member of the conference committee that hashed out the deal on a measure that combined transportation funding with a flood insurance overhaul and an extension of subsidized student loans. He advocated a funding formula that would not penalize Indiana and other states that had leased some of their miles of highway — as the Senate's version would have done — by not giving the state funding for those miles.

Meanwhile, others, including U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly, a Democrat, and U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita, a Republican, pushed those changes from the outside.

[LEGISLATIVE NOTEBOOK: Indiana benefits from revised federal transportation bill » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

### **\$20 million grant means TARC buses may help reduce impact of bridge tolls for needy**

The Courier-Journal

7/1/12

Kentucky and Indiana will provide \$20 million to help increase public bus service in the Louisville area to help ease the unequal impact of bridge tolls on minority and low-income residents. Federal officials ordered the investment last month after a study found that placing tolls of \$1 or more on two new Ohio River bridges would be roughly twice as burdensome on minorities and the poor. A survey of more than 500 Louisville-area households in five counties found that, based on their incomes, the cost of each river crossing — including tolls and vehicle expenses — would jump 21 percent to \$8.16 for residents from high-poverty areas such as those mostly clustered in western Louisville and pockets of Southern Indiana.

[\\$20 million grant means TARC buses may help reduce impact of bridge tolls for needy | The Courier-Journal | courier-journal.com](#)

### **Cass County wins \$2.2 million for road project**

Pharos-Tribune

7/3/12

LOGANSPOUT — Cass County has been awarded \$2.2 million to rebuild a portion of 400 South, commissioners learned at their meeting Monday. Highway Superintendent Jeff Smith said the grant awarded by the Indiana Department of Transportation would help with the expected increase in traffic when the Hoosier Heartland project is completed. “It’s very exciting,” Smith said of INDOT granting the county all of the money it sought. “That’s always good news. That tells me that INDOT has faith in this project and they believe it is a viable project, and we do, too.” The first phase of the project includes rebuilding 400 South from Ind. 25 to Clymers, which is just over a half mile. The resurfacing, widening and addition of shoulders to the road will address the likely travel route to nearby businesses such as The Andersons and ADM.

[Cass County wins \\$2.2 million for road project » Local News » Pharos-Tribune](#)

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