



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

July 9, 2013

Roundabouts gaining popularity in Johnson County

Indianapolis Star
Vic Ryckaert
7/7/2013

Carmel may be the roundabout capital of Central Indiana, but the new traffic pattern is quickly gaining popularity in Johnson County. Drivers already are using two roundabouts in unincorporated White River Township. Greenwood's first roundabout on a public street will open next year and the city hopes to build three more in the next few years. And Franklin is planning its first roundabout in hopes of boosting safety at a tricky three-street intersection near St. Andrew's Anglican Catholic Church. Greenwood is building the city's first roundabout as part of the \$9.4 million overhaul of Worthsville Road. The roundabout, at Worthsville and Sheek roads, is scheduled to be completed next year. Greenwood is seeking federal money to build future roundabouts at Main Street and Averitt Road, Honey Creek and Stones Crossing roads, and Smith Valley and Yorktown roads. Franklin is planning to build its first roundabout at the three-street intersection of Main Street, Oliver Avenue and Walnut Street. The roundabout, expected to start construction in 2014, is part of the city's \$3 million overhaul of Main Street. Carmel has 57 roundabouts and plans to build 34 more, far more than any other community in Central Indiana. Marion County has about a half-dozen roundabouts.

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013307070032>

Columbus-to-Chicago high-speed rail line is seen as big boost

The Columbus Dispatch
7/7/2013

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — A northeast Indiana group that supports a high-speed rail connection between Chicago and Columbus says a feasibility study shows that the service with stops in Fort Wayne and Warsaw could create more than 26,000 full-time jobs. The Journal Gazette of Fort Wayne reports that the Maryland consulting firm Transportation Economics & Management Systems Inc. estimates that \$700 million of additional household income would be generated each year across the 11-city corridor if the route, which is expected to cost \$1.6 billion, is built. The \$80,000 feasibility study was paid for with money raised by the Northeast Indiana Passenger Rail Association. The proposed system would operate 12 trains each way per day.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/insight/2013/07/07/1-columbus-line-is-seen-as-big-boost.html>

U.S. 231 realignment stirs property issues

Spencer County Journal
Stuart Cassidy

7/4/2013

ROCKPORT – With the opening of new U.S. 231, which rerouted an existing stretch of the road through the county and added more traffic lanes, the county is in line to accept the old road from the state highway department. However, county commissioners have several questions they want answered before they are comfortable in allowing that to take place. But according to the Indiana Department of Transportation, the state agency made the transition June 17, without the county's knowledge. In a letter dated May 30, INDOT claimed terms of a road-transfer memorandum agreement signed in September 2004 had been met by the state and said it was transferring the old segments of highway. That didn't match what commissioners thought should transpire since they said the state has not yet lived up to their end of the agreement. INDOT has been working to improve the old road and recently completed paving projects, which was part of the provision. But County Highway Superintendent Chuck Painter said the state had not resolved drainage issues that were identified several years ago and were part of the agreement. According to Painter, several areas north of Chrisney were problematic and a section of the road was flooded after recent storms. He said part of the issue stemmed from a large drainage pipe that was clogged. In addition to the flooding, the clog has also led to erosion of an embankment. County officials also took exception to the state's decision to transfer ownership of the road in one segment. According to County Engineer Tara Lloyd, a section south of Indiana 70 should have first been issued to the county to initiate the transaction.

<http://www.spencercountyjournal.com/content/us-231-realignment-stirs-property-issues>

Indiana's Interstates ranked 22nd nationally

Evansville Courier & Press

Eric Bradner

7/4/2013

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's rural interstates are in strong shape and the state's overall system ranks 22nd nationally, according to a study that analyzed the condition of each state's highways, the funding pumped into them and more. Indiana earned high marks for its fatality rates and its urban interstate congestion — ranking 10th in each category — according to the study by the Reason Foundation, a free-market organization based in Los Angeles. Indiana's weakest areas were related to spending. The state ranked 38th in overall spending on highways, although the study's authors said that number might be thrown off a bit as a result of former Gov. Mitch Daniels' "Major Moves" lease of a northern Indiana toll road. Indiana's \$3.8 billion "Major Moves" deal helped the state pay for its still-underway 142-mile I-69 extension, which is expected to reach from Evansville to Bloomington by the end of 2014 and eventually to Indianapolis. The state's General Assembly also made road funding a priority in its most recent budget, boosting funding for transportation by \$215 million over the two-year, \$30 billion spending plan and also setting aside \$400 million for long-range highway projects in a new "Major Moves 2020" plan. Those decisions came amid calls from local officials for as much as \$1 billion more in annual transportation spending. Municipal governments complained that budgetary constraints brought on by the economic downturn, combined with the state's property tax caps, gave them little ability to raise the revenue they needed on the local level.

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2013/jul/04/30pt-hed1-10-hed1-10-inches-p/>

County Commissioners review bids for roadwork

Goshen News

John Kline

7/2/2013

GOSHEN — Summer has arrived in Elkhart County, and that means many road maintenance and repair projects. The Elkhart County Board of Commissioners Monday accepted bids for the 2013 county road paving and maintenance program. Four companies submitted bids for the project,

with each bid broken up into five individual sections, or “groups,” in order to obtain better prices for the overall project due to the geographic locations of the roads. A total of 21 miles of roadway will be paved as part of the 2013 paving program. Once all bids were read and recorded, the commissioners voted to have the bids submitted to the county highway department staff for review. Once reviewed, the department will then return to the commissioners with a recommendation on which company should be chosen for the contract. County Highway Manager Jeff Taylor indicated that will likely occur within the next one to two weeks. The commissioners also accepted bids for the upcoming Simonton Street Bridge rehabilitation project. The three-month construction project will include replacement of the bridge’s beams and deck. The commissioners approved a \$550,000 expenditure for the project at their June 3 meeting, along with an additional \$10,000 for bridge inspection services. As with the paving program, the commissioners voted to have the bids submitted to the county highway department for review with a recommendation for a contract award to follow. Once a contract has been awarded, the bridge rehabilitation project is expected to begin in mid-July and conclude by late October or early November.

<http://goshennews.com/breakingnews/x1763648866/County-Commissioners-review-bids-for-roadwork#sthash.Bvj8cEDO.dpuf>

Clark County bridge projects moving forward

Jeffersonville News and Tribune

Matt Koesters

7/3/2013

JEFFERSONVILLE — The Clark County Commissioners approved an engineering contract to design a new bridge and a contract to repair another at their Wednesday meeting. The engineering contract awarded to Indianapolis-based USI Consultants is for the design of a new bridge on Wieseka Hill Road over Indian Creek. The contract is for a not-to-exceed amount of \$97,700. The cost of the work includes right-of-way acquisition, and that means the work could end up costing substantially less than the not-to-exceed amount, County Engineer Brian Dixon told the commissioners. The project was not bid out because the work will be done using entirely local funds, Dixon said. Dixon put the preliminary cost for construction of a new bridge at about \$200,000, but said that number could change after the engineering work is completed. The commissioners also approved a contract with Clarksville-based Gohmann Construction for repairs to Bridge No. 155, which connects Brown Station Way to Spring Street in New Albany and spans the Silver Creek. Gohmann’s bid for the work was \$147,215. The contract is subject to review by County Attorney Jake Elder before it can be finalized. Both contracts were passed unanimously by the commissioners.

<http://newsandtribune.com/local/x405445244/Clark-County-bridge-projects-moving-forward>

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