



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

July 18, 2013

Passenger-rail line to Chicago would cost \$1.3 billion

Rick Rouan
The Columbus Dispatch
7/17/13

A plan to create high-speed passenger rail service between Chicago and Columbus is picking up steam, but organizers say the \$1.3 billion project still isn't funded and is years away. The Northeast Indiana Passenger Rail Association recently released a feasibility study saying the 300-mile system could create 26,800 full-time jobs and \$700 million in household income along the corridor. Railcars would travel 110 mph to 130 mph, getting travelers from Columbus to Chicago in less than four hours, according to the study. Once complete, the system could be handed off to a private operator. "There's economic benefit, given the amount of business activity that occurs between Columbus and Chicago," said Vince Papsidero, Columbus' planning administrator. "This actually could be profitable." Columbus would anchor the railway to the east with proposed stops Downtown and near Port Columbus. Stops also are planned in Marysville, Kenton and Lima. Current proposals have the project being completed in 2020, but it still needs \$1.3 billion to pay for construction and equipment. Fred Lanahan, the president of the Northeast Indiana Passenger Rail Association board, said, "When you're talking major infrastructure expenditure in terms of millions (of dollars), then probably the only players in that process would be the railroads." Lanahan's organization, a state nonprofit group in Indiana, spearheaded the \$100,000 study. He said proponents are trying to raise the \$2 million needed for an environmental study before asking the federal government to help pay for an engineering plan that could cost as much as \$10 million. Lanahan said the project could be completed in 2017 if all goes well. "We're talking about an alternative form of travel service that's going to alleviate the need for adding highway construction," he said. [Passenger-rail line to Chicago would cost \\$1.3 billion | The Columbus Dispatch](#)

Replacement Ford Road bridge could open next fall

Rod Rose
The Lebanon Reporter
7/17/13

A new Ford Road bridge over Eagle Creek in Zionsville could be open as soon as October next year. Butler Fairman & Seufert Engineers were awarded a \$245,000 contract to design the bridge, pending final review of the document by Boone County Attorney Bob Clutter. The company was chosen from six engineering firms interviewed by the Boone County Commissioners on July 1. Replacement of the current Ford Road bridge, built in 1921, has been proposed since 1995. A plan to replace it with an 80-year old steel bridge declared surplus by the state highway department was stopped last year, after the Boone County Council on July 11, 2012, pulled funding for the plan. That decision indirectly contributed to the loss of \$2.5 million in

federal and state matching funds, when the Indiana Department of Transportation declared the project was one of hundreds statewide that had taken too long to begin. On Jan. 25, the county council voted 4-1 to commit \$500,000 to the bridge project, in what proved to be a futile effort to keep the federal funding. That amount would have been 20 percent of the estimated cost, representing the matching funds that the county would have to provide if federal assistance was used for the bridge. Construction of the \$1.87 million new bridge is scheduled to begin on April 21, with completion in five to six months, BF&S representatives told the commissioners on July 1, according to their minutes.

[Replacement Ford Road bridge could open next fall » Local News » Lebanon Reporter](#)

Board approves contract for Central Avenue paving

Joyce Russell
Portage News
7/17/13

PORTAGE | The Utility Services Board on Wednesday approved a contract to repave and complete drainage work on Central Avenue between Hamstrom and McCool roads. Rieth-Riley Construction of Gary was the lowest bidder at \$479,836. The only other bid was from Walsh & Kelly of Griffith for \$565,084. "Our objective is to move very quickly," said City Engineer John Hannon, adding "we hope to get the paving done before the school buses roll." The project will include grinding present pavement from the stretch of roadway and repaving. It will also include some drainage work, including replacing a storm sewer along McCool Road, some drainage work near the Indiana Toll Road overpass and some sidewalk and curb repair. Hannon said the city still has a federal grant in the works that would reconstruct a portion of Central Avenue, but it could take five to 10 years before that work can be done. [Board approves contract for Central Avenue paving : Portage News](#)

Canton seeks input on 12th Street bridge, road project

Canton Repository
7/16/13

CANTON — The city is asking property owners and other residents who will be affected by the 12th Street bridge and roadway construction project to attend a public meeting Wednesday. The project is estimated to cost more than \$6.56 million. The project will extend from the I-77 interchange at 13th Street NW, east along 13th and 12th streets to a railroad crossing at Monument Road. The city will replace bridges along the west branch of the Nimishillen Creek, reconstruct the road, curbs and sidewalks, and realign the Stadium Park walking track and West Branch bike trail. The streetscape project will include paving bricks, trees and ornamental lighting. Work will begin in the summer of 2015 and take a year to complete. During construction, portions of 12th Street, some park entrances, the trail and track will be closed. The public meeting will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 17 at the Canton Garden Center in Stadium Park, 1615 Park Drive NW, Canton. It will include the city's project partners, the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority, the Ohio Department of Transportation, Akron Metro Transit, Stark Parks and the Stark County Engineer. [Canton seeks input on 12th Street bridge, road project - Canton, OH - CantonRep.com](#)