



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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WSBT Fact Finder: One year later ... Are St. Joseph County bridges still safe?

WSBT

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ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, Ind. — Michigan Street Bridge has been under scrutiny since cracks were found in the structure last year. Construction to fix the bridge is well under way. Now, WSBT's Fact Finder team takes a closer look at other bridges in St. Joseph County. What are their conditions and how safe are they? This is a story WSBT first began looking into last year and found 17 bridges were deemed "structurally deficient." Of those 17 deficient bridges, the state is responsible for seven; the county for 10. A year later, little progress has been made because getting money to fix or replace bridges is basically non-existent. Cases In Point: Construction on the Mishawaka Avenue Bridge finished up last year just after it made a national bridge deficiency list. "It's so convenient," said Kathy Kehrer. "It's the best thing they could have done was update this bridge." The paint still looks fresh. The railings represent antique porcelain. This bridge is a beauty. "I lived here 15-20 years ago when the old bridge was here," Kehrer said. "This is a much bigger and better bridge." Crews expanded the sidewalks, replaced railings and added a tunnel. [WSBT Fact Finder: One year later ... Are St. Joseph County bridges still safe? - wsbt.com](http://www.wsbt.com)

Local officials call for RBA's end

NWI Times

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Local officials at Thursday's meeting of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission said it may be time to put an end to the Northwest Indiana Regional Bus Authority. "We found out all we did is pay salaries for people that failed," said Chet Dobis, a governor's appointee to NIRPC. NIRPC Executive Director John Swanson explained although RBA bus operations ended with the folding of the easygo Lake Transit system last month, the organization is still authorized under state legislation and may continue to meet. "If everyone is saying 'is the RBA in or out,' well, if it's not going to be funded we should probably rescind the legislation," said Shawn Pettit, a NIRPC member and Merrillville Town Council president. The RBA board and its committees continue to meet regularly. At its June meeting, it authorized two-month contract extensions with Executive Director Tim Brown and Program Manager Ken Dallmeyer to wind down operations. The RBA was formed by state statute in 2005 as a successor to the Regional Transportation Authority, which had similar responsibilities. But the RBA did not operate bus transit until it took over Hammond Transit in 2010. Currently, the RBA has three funding requests to consider, according to Brown. The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority has requested the RBA put up \$100,000 to fund a paratransit service for people with disabilities in the former easygo Lake Transit territory. [Local officials call for RBA's end](#) Also, [Officials rap RBA, director denies claims of failure - Post-Tribune](#)

INDOT: I-69 Extension Should Open By Year's End

WBIW

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It is hard to put the absolute size of the I-69 project into words, but if one steps on the new White River Bridge, the interstate that is the largest continuous highway project in the nation start to take shape. Nate Smith of the Washington Times-Herald reports that nowhere is it more evident than on the East Fork of the White River, where a bridge stands that only a year ago did not exist. The bridge has as many as 40 workers, thousands of hours and millions of dollars in concrete and labor in its creation. A bridge that will have concrete across its entire span in two weeks, engineers say. And, a looming deadline above it from on high. A deadline that says this bridge and the interstate it spans has to have cars on it by the end of 2012. State Department of Transportation officials said last week they will meet it. "Every contractor has recommitted to us that their portion of I-69 is going to be done by the end of 2012," INDOT Press Representative Cher Elliott said. "Of course there have been bumps along the way with weather, materials, equipment. Every project has issues or concerns, every construction project. "There has been times weather has put a contractor behind where they wanted to be, but on the flip side weather has allowed to get ahead where they wanted to be." Presently, construction on I-69's Sections 2 and 3 in Gibson, Pike and Daviess counties, is anywhere from 50 to 75 percent complete, Elliott said. Most of Section 3, which bisects Daviess County down the center to a very large interchange at U.S.231 and the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Crane, is 60 to 75 percent complete. [WBIW.com](http://www.wbiw.com) - 1340 AM, Bedford, Indiana

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