



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Illinois won't offer money for New Harmony bridge

Evansville Courier & Press

8/14/12

INDIANAPOLIS —Illinois will not help pay to build a new bridge across the Wabash River at New Harmony, Ind., the top Illinois transportation official has told Indiana officials. Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider made her state's position clear in a letter to Indiana lawmakers state Sen. Jim Tomes, R-Wadesville, and state Rep. Wendy McNamara, R-Mount Vernon. "When prioritizing which transportation needs would be best served given the funding available, our existing systems have to take precedence," she wrote, adding Illinois will "respectfully decline" to participate in financing a new bridge. It was a setback for those who hope to see a new bridge linking New Harmony to nearby White County, Ill., built after the current bridge — a tollway that has stood for 81 years — was shut down in May after an engineer said it no longer was strong enough to support even its own weight. The Indiana Department of Transportation has offered to contribute \$10 million toward the cost of construction of a new bridge. A private investment firm, New York-based National Standard Finance LLC, also has expressed interest in financing such a project. Still, it's not clear whether a bridge that could cost around \$25 million to build, and would need approaches on both sides of the Wabash River and would come with maintenance costs, can be financed without Illinois' involvement. [Illinois won't offer money for New Harmony bridge | POLL » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

INDOT unveils plans for \$15 million Newberry bridge project

Greene County Daily World

8/14/12

NEWBERRY ---- Indiana State Department of Transportation (INDOT) officials along with project designers unveiled preliminary plans Tuesday evening for the new \$15.5 million State Road 57 bridge over the west fork of the White River. About 40 residents attended a public hearing at the Newberry Masonic Lodge to hear about plans for the construction of the new bridge that is slated to begin in the spring of 2013. Hearing examiner Mary Wright explained the meeting was to receive comments from the public and to talk about the preliminary plans for one longer modern bridge to replace two aged truss-type bridges located north of Newberry which were built in 1940. "The comments will be evaluated before a final design decision is made," Wright said. The \$15.5 million estimated cost will cover the preliminary engineering plans, right-of-way acquisition and construction costs, Wright said. She called starting construction this coming spring "a pretty aggressive" schedule, but said INDOT officials are confident of the start date with an estimated two-year construction period. The new bridge over the White River, at 1,547 feet and six inches, will be more than 600 feet longer than the current 920-foot span. The new structure will have a total width of 35 feet. [Greene County Daily World: Local News: INDOT unveils plans for \\$15 million Newberry bridge project \(08/14/12\)](#)

Nine Span Bridge to be replaced next year

NWI Times

8/14/12

Bids on the long-delayed Nine Span Bridge replacement will be opened by the Indiana Department of Transportation on Oct. 11, with construction slated for completion by the end of 2013. Work on the bridge should start early next year and its design will allow for developments now under way at the Gibson Yard rail facility underneath, INDOT spokesman Jim Pinkerton said. INDOT originally slated construction to start in 2009 on a replacement for the Nine-Span Bridge. But the date was pushed back in order to revise the new bridge's design so it did not interfere with development in Gibson Yard, according to state officials at the time. At Tuesday's meeting of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, Pinkerton pointed out the Nine-Span Bridge project and another for repaving U.S. 30 between Taft Street (Ind. 55) and Lake Park Avenue (Ind. 51) as the major October bid openings for INDOT's LaPorte District. The Nine-Span Bridge is currently rated as being in "poor" condition and underwent major repairs eight years ago. Some heavy trucks are banned from the bridge. It carries Indianapolis Boulevard vehicle traffic over the CSX tracks and Indiana Harbor Belt's Gibson Yard. [Nine Span Bridge to be replaced next year](#)

A Bid to Have Obama, Romney Debate Infrastructure Investment

Truckinginfo

8/15/12

President Obama just signed a new highway law, but the program runs for only two years, so either Obama or Mitt Romney is going to sign another one. What should that law accomplish? A trio of political leaders is asking the Commission on Presidential Debates to make infrastructure one of the six topics covered in the Obama-Romney debate in Denver on October 3. "The overriding theme of this presidential election has been and continues to be the U.S. economy," write New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, former Pennsylvania Governor Edward Rendell and former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in an August 8 Letter to the commission. "Efficient, modern and reliable infrastructure is a necessary component to continued economic growth and smarter long-term investments that have the added benefit of creating jobs," they wrote. [A Bid to Have Obama, Romney Debate Infrastructure Investment - Truckinginfo.com](#)

\$5 million INDOT project to help Coliseum traffic

News-Sentinel

8/15/12

More than 50,000 vehicles navigate Coliseum Boulevard each day between Parnell and Crescent avenues, making it one of Fort Wayne's busiest – and often most congested – stretches. But motorists could get some relief in 2014, when the Indiana Department of Transportation plans to start a much-needed \$5 million project that would add two lanes of traffic to Indiana 930 (Coliseum) east of Memorial Coliseum. Highway officials believe the work will help traffic flow more quickly along one of the city's key business corridors, especially at Coliseum and Anthony Boulevard, a crucial intersection near IPFW, Ivy Tech-Northeast and the coliseum. "That extra lane will really improve the flow there at Anthony and Coliseum," said Susan Doell, an INDOT project manager. Regional traffic planners have been eyeing improvements along Coliseum for years – the Northeast Indiana Regional Coordinating Council called for the additional lanes in its long-term transportation plan – but Doell said a four-lane bridge over the St. Joseph River complicated the plan. The bridge, just west of Anthony, also will need to be widened, adding to the project's cost and scope, Doell said. [\\$5 million INDOT project to help Coliseum traffic - News-Sentinel.com](#)

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