



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

September 25, 2012

Election 2012: John Gregg, Democratic candidate for governor, outlines \$3.5B transportation plan
Indianapolis Star
9/20/12

Democratic gubernatorial candidate John Gregg unveiled a plan Thursday to replace the nearly broke Major Moves initiative. The state has budgeted or spent the money it received as part of Gov. Mitch Daniels' 75-year lease of the Indiana Toll Road. To keep the road work moving, Gregg has proposed shifting existing resources and leveraging some of the remaining money from the lease to spend \$3.5 billion on infrastructure. Gregg and Vi Simpson, the Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor, announced the plan Thursday at the Statehouse. Gregg thinks about 97,300 construction jobs would be created on a mix of road, bridge and rail projects. "The Major Moves construction fund is gone or committed," Simpson said. "We're trying to find a way to continue the emphasis on infrastructure that we've had the last several years." Brian Vargus, a political consultant and longtime political science professor, said transportation will be an important issue for voters if the next governor can't find a way to pay for road repairs. In addition to large projects, much of Major Moves has been spent to repave local highways, he noted, and the state will have to find a way to keep up with that work. "INDOT is going to have to get the money from some place, and it's going to have to come from the state budget," Vargus said. "The federal government isn't going to bail us out." [Election 2012: John Gregg, Democratic candidate for governor, outlines \\$3.5B transportation plan | Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

Also, [Simpson in Fort Wayne to unveil Gregg-Simpson plan on Ind. Infrastructure](#)

Mayor: I-69 Project Creates 'New Crossroads'
Inside INdiana Business
9/20/12

Indianapolis, Ind. -- The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) today announced that it will provide limited access to sections of the nearly completed Interstate 69 corridor for celebratory Community Day events in October. This is the first time INDOT has allowed public access of this nature on an interstate highway under construction and community leaders plan to take advantage of this special opportunity before the new corridor opens later this year. Community Day events on the interstate will take place on Saturday, Oct. 20 at five locations along the 67-mile stretch of the I-69 corridor. Each location will feature a variety of family friendly activities being planned by local organizing committees. Some of the highlights may include: 5k runs/walks, concerts, various games for kids, food vendors, special ceremonial remarks, a beauty pageant, chalk art, classic cars on display, corn hole, putting contests and more. The events will be free of charge, but the local organizing committees may ask attendees to bring canned goods and non-perishable food items to help support area food pantries "When the new interstate opens, it will connect numerous communities that have been underserved for decades," said

Governor Mitch Daniels. "In my job, I have traveled all 92 counties and I know firsthand how important I-69 is to southwest Indiana. That's one reason why these Community Days will be full of celebration. This new interstate holds tremendous promise for the future." [Mayor: I-69 Project Creates 'New Crossroads' - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

Group seeks to halt states' spending on Ohio River Bridges Project

Courier-Journal

9/20/12

A group opposed to the Ohio River Bridges Project is asking a judge to force Kentucky and Indiana to stop spending money on the plan until a federal lawsuit challenging the project is resolved. The Coalition for the Advancement of Regional Transportation made the request Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Louisville. It is the first injunction sought in the lawsuit. The coalition wants U.S. District Judge John G. Heyburn II to bar the states from "committing or obligating public funds" or entering into any contracts to clear trees or "any other site work" besides inspection and maintenance of the eastern bridge route. The group wants any spending to stop until Heyburn decides the matter or a new environmental report is issued. The case is expected to be wrapped up by March. "The cabinet will file a formal response to the motion with the court," Kentucky Transportation Cabinet spokesman Chuck Wolfe said in a statement. "But throughout this project, we have taken pains to ensure that all applicable laws were complied with." The Indiana Department of Transportation did not immediately respond to a request for comment. [Group seeks to halt states' spending on Ohio River Bridges Project | The Courier-Journal | courier-journal.com](#)

I69 On Time

WTHI

9/20/12

WASHINGTON, IND. (WTHI) - The nation's biggest highway construction project is running on time for completion later this year. For the last couple of years 8 construction companies have been working on I-69 between Evansville and Crane. Even the weather has helped keep the project on track. Just east of Elnora a crew is putting down the concrete that will be the south bound lane of I-69. While the work seems to move slowly, the road is quickly heading to completion, thanks in large part to the drought that hit this area this summer. "If they were behind in some areas where they wish they had been this has allowed them to catch up and even work ahead of schedule so it's been a blessing for the construction industry," said Cher Elliot with INDOT. State officials say the \$600-million, 67 mile stretch of highway is right on schedule. The first priority of the road is to make travel more safe, but there is a strong belief that once it opens it will bring a lot of business and jobs to the area. " Now by having I-69 connecting Evansville to the rest of the region it is going to open up opportunities for everything along the interstate," said Elliott. [I69 On Time | wthitv.com](#)

Meeting to discuss New Harmony Bridge ends with no consensus on its future

Evansville Courier & Press

9/21/12

NEW HARMONY, Ind. —The president of the three-member White County Bridge Commission overseeing the New Harmony Bridge said Friday that he would give up on the troubled steel span if he thought the other commissioners would agree. "We have kicked this can down the road for quite some time with no success. No one seems to want this bridge. In my opinion we have taken it as far as we can go," Jim Clark said. "I think it is a good time to bow out of this and let the state and federal (governments) do what they want to do." A two-hour discussion between federal, state and local officials Friday at the Granary in New Harmony ended with no consensus on the

bridge's future. Instead, state and federal highway officials told local officials to take the lead if they want to keep a bridge there. The commission voted to permanently close the half-mile long bridge across the Wabash River linking Indiana and Illinois in May after a close-up inspection by engineers. Friday's meeting was called by Richard Marquis, acting division administrator for the Indiana Division of the Federal Highway Administration, to gather facts and hear concerns. "We believe the future of the bridge is a matter of public interest," he said. [Meeting to discuss New Harmony Bridge ends with no consensus on its future » Evansville Courier & Press](#) Also, [New Harmony Bridge Future On Hold](#)

Amtrak service from Lafayette to Chicago may be reduced Indiana, feds disagree about Hoosier State route funding

Journal and Courier
9/21/12

Lafayette may lose daily passenger railroad service next year. Amtrak confirms plans to end the Hoosier State route, effective Oct. 1, 2013. "It is very likely there could no longer be daily service in Lafayette," said Marc Magliari with the Amtrak media relations office in Chicago. Nearly 27,000 people got on and off the Hoosier State and the Cardinal passenger trains in Lafayette last year. The Cardinal would continue to serve Lafayette three mornings and three nights a week on its route between Chicago and New York. Residents would lose four days and four nights of rail service when the Hoosier State stops in Lafayette during its run between Indianapolis and Chicago. "It's vital," said Joe Krause, a community volunteer who helps passengers on and off the trains stopping in Lafayette. "The people who ride the train to Chicago or Indianapolis have no other means of travel." Funding for the Hoosier State is the heart of the dispute between Amtrak, state administrators and the Indiana Department of Transportation. [Amtrak service from Lafayette to Chicago may be reduced | Journal and Courier | jconline.com](#)

Commuters begin crossing Allisonville Road bridge again

Indianapolis Star
9/25/12

The new Allisonville Road bridge over I-465 is open to traffic this morning, a relief to Castleton-area commuters and businesses. Additional temporary lane restrictions will continue for approximately 25 days, said Nathan Riggs, spokesman for the Indiana Department of Transportation. Walsh Construction is finishing work at the interchange, Riggs said in a release, and INDOT is offering the contractor incentives for each day the additional traffic lanes are opened earlier than the 25-day target. Once all lanes on Allisonville Road are open, Riggs said, the new bridge will have three through lanes and two left-turn lanes in each direction. The bridge will also have bike lanes and sidewalks for non-motorized traffic. Riggs said. The \$19 million project to reconstruct the bridge and interchange into a single-point design, which consolidates traffic signals at the top of the interstate ramps, is intended to increase traffic-carrying capacity, he said in the release, and minimize congestion of one of the busiest interchanges in the Indianapolis metropolitan area. The project was originally estimated to close the bridge for up to seven months, Riggs said, rather than the approximately four months it was closed. [Commuters begin crossing Allisonville Road bridge again | Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)