



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **October 25, 2012**

#### **Route approval sought for new highway near Chicago**

WSBT

10/24/12

LOWELL, Ind. (AP) — Indiana and Illinois officials have asked federal agencies to approve a proposed route for a highway that would link Interstate 65 in northwestern Indiana and Interstate 55 in Illinois. The Illiana Expressway route picked by the state highway agencies goes from I-65 just north of Lowell and west to I-55 near Wilmington, Ill., skirting the southern side of a proposed airport site near Peotone, Ill. The Times of Munster reported Wednesday Officials from the Federal Highway Administration and other agencies could make a decision on the route as soon as the end of this year, after which a more detailed engineering and financing study would be enacted, said Jim Pinkerton, an Indiana Department of Transportation spokesman. "People want things to move along so they can get to know what specific areas will be affected," Pinkerton said. "The more specific we can get, that will provide more clarity for the public." The states also have included a required "no-build option" in their report, which outlines what would happen if the expressway was not built. The proposed highway has been discussed for years as a way to relieve congestion on I-80/94 and other major routes into the Chicago area. State officials picked the route over two others outlined by the agencies in July, including one that started further south of Lowell. Many residents had protested the choosing of a route north of Lowell. "We don't want this toll road because we don't see the benefit to Indiana or to our community in particular," Lowell Town Councilman Craig Earley said. Don Carnahan, who lives near Lowell, said he believed officials only seriously considered the route that was picked. "They are just keeping it as far north as they can," Carnahan said. State highway officials have said property purchases could start next year, but that 2015 is the earliest construction could start. The state agencies estimate it will cost \$1.25 billion to build. [Route approval sought for new highway near Chicago - wsbt.com](http://www.wsbt.com)

#### **Officials christen Hoosier Heartland segment from Delphi to Lafayette**

Pharos-Tribune

10/25/12

DELPHI — A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked a milestone four decades in the making Wednesday morning. Antique cars, semis, fire trucks and police cars lined the new Ind. 25 in preparation for the Delphi and Lafayette segment of the Heartland Highway opening to traffic. A caravan, limited to the first 160 vehicles, gathered for the drive to Lafayette and back. The new Ind. 25 will be a 31-mile, four-lane, limited access divided highway. The project is divided into four segments between Lafayette and Logansport. Along that stretch of highway, INDOT's consultants are in varying stages of design and construction. Gov. Mitch Daniels, former state Sen. Tom Weatherwax, former first lady Judy O'Bannon and Delphi Mayor Randy Strasser were among the crowd gathered south of the new highway's intersection with U.S. 421. Daniels accepted a gift, including a Purdue University shirt, from Strasser before speaking. He said no one was happier to see the highway open than he was. Daniels mentioned that he heard an unnamed professor say

the money put toward the highway would disappear. [Officials christen Hoosier Heartland segment from Delphi to Lafayette » Local News » Pharos-Tribune](#) Also, [Hoosier Heartland Section Dedicated - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

### **Roads to get county oversight**

The Journal Gazette  
10/25/12

The Allen County commissioners will vote Friday on accepting nearly 40 streets into county supervision and becoming responsible for their maintenance and upkeep. The county certifies its total road mileage each year with the Indiana Department of Transportation to receive state funding for road repairs and maintenance. Every little bit of road helps, county Highway Director Bill Hartman said. The county receives about \$6,000 a mile, which goes into a fund dedicated for highway use, he said. Last year the county added about 17.5 miles of new roads, boosting the total county road mileage under the highway department's care and eligible for state funding to 13,055. This year's numbers will be compiled in December or January, Hartman said. [Roads to get county oversight | The Journal Gazette](#)

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