



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

November 15, 2011

LETTER: Simply isolate Monroe County

Evansville Courier & Press

11/10/11

I would not only cut off their road funds, but I would erect barriers on four-lane Indiana 37 at the north and south borders of Monroe County. If they want to leave their little Shangri-La, let them use winding hilly two-lane roads we have to use to reach them. If they still don't want to cooperate with the state, cut state roads 45, 46 & 48 at their county borders. Let them travel to and from their environmental haven via their own county-funded, built and maintained road system. Next, cut off all funding for the main Indiana University campus; invest in regional IU campuses that are safely and easily accessible via modern four-lane highways. See how long this little provincial college town thrives when IU dries up and no one chooses to hazard their pitiful little county roads to get there. [LETTER: Simply isolate Monroe County » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

INDOT: Major Projects Becoming Reality

Inside Indiana Business

11/11/11

Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner Michael Cline says key road construction projects are on schedule and will soon begin providing a major boost to the state economy. Cline, who met with officials from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Thursday, says procurement for the Ohio River Bridges Project, which could be a \$3.2 billion initiative, will happen next year. Meantime, in an interview that will air this weekend on Inside INdiana Business Television, Cline tells Gerry Dick that long-awaited improvements to I-69 and U.S. 31 are reaching milestones. [INDOT: Major Projects Becoming Reality - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

Road work snarls traffic, tempers

State senator says highway closures pose problems for local communities

Palladium-Item

11/12/11

State highway road closure in local communities is an issue state Sen. Jean Leising, R-Oldenburg, said continues to be a problem. Leising doesn't represent Liberty, but she does represent Rushville, whose downtown on Indiana 3 last year suffered seven months of total road closure. Milton businesses in Wayne County and a West College Corner restaurant and fireworks business also suffered financially when state highways were closed for months of construction. Leising tried to get a bill through the Legislature this year requiring the Indiana Department of Transportation to notify local governments of proposed state highway projects that would close roads for five or more days. Local officials could then submit objections to the plans.

<http://www.pal-item.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011111120315>

EDITORIAL: I-69 opponents' views on accidents, extortion are outrageous

Evansville Courier & Press

11/13/11

Although the Interstate-69/Bloomington standoff seems to have been resolved — at least from the state's standpoint — opponents continue their outrageous rhetoric against the Evansville-to-Indianapolis highway now under construction. Their protests are such that a couple of Courier & Press readers suggested this past week that the Indiana Department of Transportation should simply bypass Bloomington and Monroe County. It's a tempting suggestion, but it overlooks the fact that there are people in the city who support the highway and look forward to the day when they can use it. What first got us thinking about a Bloomington bypass was a report from The Associated Press on Nov. 3 that members of the Citizens for Appropriate Rural Roads and the I-69 Accountability Project had called for construction to stop in Greene and Daviess counties because it creates traffic hazards. "I-69 work is creating conditions that have led to deaths, severe injuries and extreme damage to property and aquifers," the groups said. [EDITORIAL: I-69 opponents' views on accidents, extortion are outrageous » Evansville Courier & Press](#) Also, [Greene County Daily World: Blog: It's time for I-69 naysayers to let it go](#)

M'ville street project stalled to 2013

The NWI Times

11/13/11

MERRILLVILLE | The next phase of a road widening project on Mississippi Street looks to start later than expected, town officials said. Town Engineer Jonathon Derwinski said Merrillville should begin acquiring right of way for the project early next year. Derwinski said it could take about a year to complete the process. Town Councilman Shawn Pettit said he hoped work to widen the road to four lanes from 83rd Avenue to 93rd Avenue could begin next year. He said he is disappointed that isn't likely to happen.

"The road needs it," Pettit said of the improvements. Derwinski said it's possible Merrillville could award a contract for the project in May 2013. Construction could begin later that year. Pettit initially thought Merrillville needed to acquire right of way from 14 parcels, but town leaders recently were notified Merrillville must acquire property from 51 parcels, he said. "That's going to be a nightmare," Town Attorney Steve Bower said of acquiring right of way. Pettit said he hopes parcel owners understand the importance of completing the widening project when the town begins to acquire the right of way. http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/merrillville/m-ville-street-project-stalled-to/article_9dd04fe9-710d-5085-87da-c05246e540d7.html

Bridge work begins on St. Joe Ctr. Road

WANE.com

11/14/11

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (WANE) - A \$3.4 million bridge project is expected to start Monday on St. Joe Center Road. Crews will begin replacing the bridge over the St. Joe River. Traffic will be maintained between North Clinton Street and St. Joe Road until the expected completion date of August 2012. The initial phase will widen the foundation, add beams, and replace the bridge deck. R.L. McCoy, Inc. of Columbia City won the bid from the project. The engineer's estimated cost for the project was \$3.7 million. McCoy is also handling the MLK Bridge on Clinton Street heading into downtown. <http://www.wane.com/dpp/news/bridge-work-begins-on-st.-joe-ctr.-road>

Chapin bridge will get repairs

South Bend Tribune
11/14/11

SOUTH BEND - The city will spend \$250,000 to spruce up and maintain the Chapin Street pedestrian bridge next to the Salvation Army's soon-to-open Kroc Center. Mayor Stephen Luecke asked the South Bend Common Council on Monday night for the appropriation, saying the 43-year-old bridge has been neglected and sorely needs maintenance. The bridge currently is closed to the public. He added that it will likely be used more often after the Kroc Center opens in January, providing residents who live east of Chapin in large apartment complexes run by the South Bend Housing Authority with a safe route to the new, \$30 million recreation center. Gary Gilot, the city's director of public works, said an average of 6,000 vehicles per day travel under the pedestrian bridge. "I feel it is going from nowhere to somewhere," said Gladys Muhammad, a Housing Authority board member. "It's a bridge out of poverty." Council members voted 8-1 in favor of the \$250,000 bridge project. Council President Derek Dieter, D-1st, cast the dissenting vote over concerns that the bridge is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Council member Henry Davis Jr., D-2nd, represents the district where the bridge is located. "I think it's something that's symbolic to the area," he said. "I would support a brand-new bridge, but that's not what we're looking at right now." [Chapin bridge will get repairs - southbendtribune.com](http://southbendtribune.com)

Contract thrown out for seal cracking roads

The NWI Times
11/14/11

PORTAGE | Authorities thought the bids opened a couple of weeks ago for crack sealing several Portage streets were too good to be true. They were right. The Board of Works approved rejecting all bids Monday, delaying the project until next spring. Days Construction-Asphalt of Gary had been the lowest bidder at a cost of \$83,271 for the project, followed by Scodeller Construction of Wixom, Mich. at \$162,480 and Pavement Solutions of Middletown, Ind. at \$191,760. The board, at a previous meeting, approved going ahead with the Days Construction bid, pending review. Director of Public Works Craig Hendrix said Monday that after -- reviewing the Days Construction bid -- it was learned it had not met specifications in the type and amount of material to be used and needed to be disqualified. Hendrix added, at this point in the year, it would now be too late to do the project which included crack sealing roads within the AmeriPlex at the Port development and two segments of Central Avenue. The board's choice was to either accept the Scodeller bid and hold the price until next spring or reject all bids and do it all over again next year. It chose to reject the bids. [Contract thrown out for seal cracking roads](#)

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