



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **November 29, 2011**

#### **I-70 lane restrictions lifted until spring**

Greencastle Banner-Graphic  
11/23/11

But as of Wednesday morning, I-70 travelers should find clear sailing from Terre Haute to Indianapolis.

That was the official word Tuesday afternoon from Debbie Calder, Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) media relations director. "Yes," she told the Banner Graphic, "the I-70 lane restrictions have been lifted and will remain lifted for the holiday weekend." That means all the construction zone barrels that have dotted the I-70 landscape the past couple of months have been moved back out of the way from east of Plainfield (State Road 267) to the Brazil exit (State Road 59). During the ongoing highway work, an 11-foot width restriction has been in place for vehicles. There will still be some periodic lane closures after the holiday weekend, Calder said, "but not to the extent we have had out there."

Some of those lane closures and even the slightest fender-bender in the construction zone have been known to back up I-70 traffic for miles in the western Indiana construction zone. But the INDOT spokesman said I-70 drivers will have a reprieve until approximately April 1. [Greencastle Banner-Graphic: Local News: I-70 lane restrictions lifted until spring \(11/23/11\)](#)

#### **Delays likely near closed Indiana-Kentucky bridge**

WHIO-TV  
11/23/11

Construction workers have completed patching work on the closed Ohio River bridge linking Indiana and Kentucky while waiting on shipments of steel needed to reinforce the span. Crews have been installing platforms that will aid in attaching new steel to the closed bridge's brittle, 1960s-era steel. They've also been spending as many as seven days a week making special cuts in the welded areas meant to prevent any future cracks from expanding, said Will Wingfield, an Indiana Department of Transportation spokesman. "Until the steel arrives they're doing what work can be done," Wingfield told The Courier-Journal. Wingfield said the delivery of the 2.4 million pounds of specialized steel needed for the strengthening work is expected in December. Officials closed the nearly 50-year-old bridge in September after a crack was found in a steel support beam, leading to traffic delays as the some 80,000 vehicles that used the span each day were funneled onto the area's two other Ohio River bridges. State officials last month awarded a \$13.9 million repair contract to Louisville-based Hall Contracting of Kentucky with a March 2 target date for completion. Wingfield said the completed deck work isn't directly related to the pending repairs but that the closure was a chance to get additional maintenance work done. [Delays likely near closed Indiana-Kentucky bridge | www.whiotv.com](#)

## **No recount requested by GOP candidates in Floyd County Construction continues along Grant Line Road**

News and Tribune  
11/24/11

The more than \$2.7 million Grant Line Road construction project is under way, as traffic has been backed up along the route at certain times due to the closure of turning lanes at intersections including University Woods Drive and McDonald Lane. The project — which is being footed through relinquishment funds the state provided last year after the city agreed to maintain a portion of Ind. 111 — is slated to last until at least July 31. The initial phase of the project stretches from Mount Tabor Road to McDonald Lane. “The huge majority of the time, there will be two lanes open at all times,” said John Rosenbarger, director of public facilities projects for the city. As the city is finalizing engineering plans for the second tier of construction, Rosenbarger said officials elected to proceed with the I-265 to McDonald Lane section first because the state already had design strategies for the span from when it was considering building an overpass over the train tracks near the Pillsbury plant entrance. The Indiana Department of Transportation scrapped those plans when it elected to pay New Albany \$6.125 million for the city to oversee repairs and upgrades to 4.5 miles of Ind. 111. [No recount requested by GOP candidates in Floyd County » Recent Local News » News and Tribune](#)

## **Pay up, avoid penalties at Wabash Memorial Bridge**

The Carmi Times  
11/25/11

Mt. Vernon, Ind. — The Indiana Department of Transportation has announced that special hours will be available for its toll bridge office west of Mt. Vernon, Ind. The office will be open on Friday, Dec. 2 and Saturday, Dec. 3 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. local time. The local office is being manned to allow motorists in non-compliance status the opportunity to sign up for a Wabash Pass transponder for their vehicles and pay their violations without any penalties being incurred. Motorists with the Wabash Pass may also stop in and add money to their accounts, resolve any issues with their transponders or accounts or ask general questions regarding the system. The new system has not gone without having issues; however, INDOT has worked with contractors, software designers and local law enforcement to resolve those concerns. The state did not want to entertain the notion of increasing tolls for the bridge. The last increase was in 1984. In order to secure the funding required for the necessary repairs and replacement, refining the tolling process was necessary. [Pay up, avoid penalties at Wabash Memorial Bridge - Carmi, IL - The Carmi Times](#)

## **Indiana gets over \$300,000 to repair damage from April storms**

WTHR  
11/28/11

WASHINGTON, DC - WASHINGTON - Indiana will receive over \$300,000 in federal funds to repair roads and bridges damaged in April's severe storms. The US Department of Transportation will provide Indiana with \$322,523 to make the repairs from storms and flooding in April 2011. The money is part of \$215 million being distributed to states to cover storm damage. Parts of southern Indiana received up to 15 inches of rain in early April. The Wabash River flooded from Lafayette to Vincennes, and Clark, Dubois, Floyd, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Martin, Perry, Pike, Posey, Switzerland, Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties issued emergency declarations at the time. The money will reimburse states for fixing or replacing highways, bridges and other roadway structures. Costs associated with detours, debris removal and other immediate measures necessary to restore traffic flow in impacted areas are also eligible. [Indiana gets over \\$300,000 to repair damage from April storms - 13 WTHR](#)

## **EDITORIAL: Cline dilemma requires Daniels' input**

The NWI Times

11/29/11

It has been more than two years since the future of Cline Avenue became uncertain. On Wednesday, the Indiana Department of Transportation opens bids for demolition of the bridge in East Chicago. But what will replace it? After the bridge was closed because of structural problems, Gov. Mitch Daniels stood in the cold and said the bridge would be replaced as quickly as possible. Then INDOT proposed to make the current detour, using surface streets with at-grade railroad crossings and possibly a drawbridge, the permanent route for this state highway. That is not an acceptable solution. Ameristar Casino came to the rescue — almost — by offering millions of dollars for a new, slimmer bridge, but that deal fell apart.

Talks with the major players in Northwest Indiana continue and focuses on getting a replacement bridge

Making the detour permanent, the least desirable option, would cost an estimated \$75 million but provide an unworkable traffic solution. Labor groups said the estimated \$150 million cost of replacing the bridge would be reduced if a new bridge has fewer lanes, which would be appropriate given the lower traffic counts.

[http://www.nwitimes.com/news/opinion/editorial/editorial-cline-dilemma-requires-daniels-input/article\\_66a74a12-76f0-543a-b18c-5d62c0880e54.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/opinion/editorial/editorial-cline-dilemma-requires-daniels-input/article_66a74a12-76f0-543a-b18c-5d62c0880e54.html)

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