



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

December 13, 2012

NIRPC group told Cline Ave. demolition near complete

NWI Times

12/11/12

The demolition of the condemned Cline Avenue Bridge remains on track and the Indiana Department of Transportation expects the bridge to be down by the end of this month, according to INDOT spokesman Jim Pinkerton. Walsh Construction, of Crown Point, won the \$8.93 million contract to demolish the bridge one year ago and work on bringing it down has been in full swing through the spring and summer months. The Transportation Policy Committee of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission was briefed on the bridge demolition Tuesday by Pinkerton at NIRPC headquarters in Portage. Completion of the demolition work will mark the final demise of the troubled span, which first opened to traffic in 1983. It was condemned by the state in December 2009 when it was found to be gravely weakened. A bridge building company, United Bridge Partners, concluded agreements earlier this year with the city of East Chicago and the state to build a private toll bridge within the footprint of the demolished bridge. Under those agreements, INDOT has been preparing to transfer the right-of-way for the bridge to United Bridge Partners in a land swap deal. Pinkerton told the Transportation Policy Committee that INDOT will largely withdraw from the project after the bridge demolition is complete and building the new bridge will become mainly a matter between the city and United Bridge Partners. NIRPC Data Resources Planner Kevin Garcia told the committee the NIRPC board is expected to vote on new Adjusted Urbanized Area boundary maps for Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties at its meeting on Thursday. The boundaries determine the amount of federal highway and transit dollars available to Northwest Indiana's urbanized areas. They also determine the areas where some types of federal highway and transit dollars can be spent. The 2010 census revealed changes in population density and counts for the region, so new maps have to be drawn up and approved. http://www.nwitimes.com/business/transportation/nirpc-group-told-cline-ave-demolition-near-complete/article_527c49d9-9030-5b1c-adbc-0c48b1109952.html

I-69 Opposition Fighting Legal Battle Despite Road Progress

Indiana Public Media

12/12/12

Despite of the completion of a major section of Interstate 69 from Evansville to Crane, opponents of the highway are still fighting the road. The environmental group Citizens for Appropriate Rural Roads is filing a new lawsuit challenging the environmental impact the interstate will have on south and central Indiana. Nearly two dozen South-Central Indiana citizens gathered Tuesday night at the Monroe County Public Library to hear updates on CARR's latest challenge to I-69. CARR lawyer Mick Harrison says a lawsuit, being filed in federal court this month, argues INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration did not properly disclose air pollution studies to the

public during its planning stages for I-69. "The purpose of the injunction is to force the federal agencies to come into compliance with the federal laws, the federal environmental laws, and until they do, they should stop construction," he says. Harrison says if an injunction is granted, he hopes INDOT would not expand the interstate any further than where it currently stops at Crane naval base. CARR member Brian Garvey says even though the motion to stop the road is coming late in the game, his group is not giving up hope that it can prevent the interstate from continuing. "With I-69, if it stopped now, it would stop now, and we could use the monies where we really need it." Harrison says he's hopeful U.S. District Judge Sarah Evans-Barker will rule on the motion in early 2013. INDOT officials say the department has a policy against commenting on pending litigation. [I-69 Opposition Fighting Legal Battle Despite Road Progress | News - Indiana Public Media](#)

Harrison-W. Harrison State Street upgrade could happen in 2014

Dearborn County Register
12/12/12

Buckeyes and Hoosiers won't be driving on a smooth State Street until at least mid-2014, but Harrison Council pushed the long-awaited reconstruction project into another gear last week by approving the city's share of the cost. Reconstruction of the multi-jurisdictional road has been on the back burner several years, but began to heat up this year after Harrison officials arranged meetings with the several state, municipal, and regional agencies involved. Plans call for new pavement from Broadway to Campbell Road, drainage upgrades, replacement and addition of sidewalks, lane widening on the Ohio side for vehicular/bicycle lane, and upgrading the flashing warning light at Broadway. The work is estimated to cost \$1.2 million for which Harrison must pay \$250,000. The federal government will shell out \$509,000, and West Harrison will foot the bill for the rest. Harrison's contribution includes 100 percent of preliminary engineering costs and all right-of-way costs. The upgrade, which has been in stasis for more than seven years, must wait until geo-technical and environmental surveys are completed. The timeframe for the surveys includes all of 2013, with construction bids possibly being let in the first quarter of 2014. Councilman Jim Robertson asked why the scope of the project apparently was cut in half, but councilman Bill Neyer pointed out the northern section of State Street already had been reconstructed during a previous upgrade. The money from the federal government has been approved because of the multi-jurisdictional orientation of State Street with the south lane in Ohio and the north lane in Indiana. [Harrison-W. Harrison State Street upgrade could happen in 2014](#)

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