



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Outgoing mayor has high hopes for new Greenwood I-65 interchange

WTHR
12/28/11

GREENWOOD - Drivers on I-65 will have a new exit in Greenwood. The state just approved what will become the city's third highway interchange. The exit at Worthsville Road should open by 2015.

Brake lights, backups and bottlenecks are what drivers often endure driving from one end of Greenwood to the other. "It's pretty bad. It gets backed up pretty far around here," said TJ Ratliff, Johnson County driver. Eyewitness News drove from the Main Street exit along busy Smith Valley Road to US 31. On a holiday week with no rush hour, it took more than seven minutes. Soon there will be an alternative.

The state just approved plans for a new Greenwood interchange off I-65 - an exit at Worthsville Road south of Main Street. Worthsville will also be upgraded from two lanes to five. Design begins now; construction in 2014 with the exit open by 2015. "Feel like it was a really neat Christmas gift to leave the city," said Greenwood Mayor Charles Henderson. Mayor Henderson learned of the project's approval just before finishing his fourth and final term in office. It will cost \$22 million with the city paying up to half.

"We finally then got the new commissioner of INDOT to realize not only is this going do a lot for traffic, but it's also going do a lot for economic growth," said the mayor. [Outgoing mayor has high hopes for new Greenwood I-65 interchange - 13 WTHR](#)

License-plate tolling for Cline Avenue Bridge?

NWI Times
12/28/11

EAST CHICAGO | A toll bridge now under construction in Chesapeake, Va., offers a sneak preview of what to expect if the state accepts a private proposal to replace the failed Cline Avenue span. In license-plate video tolling, vehicle trips are recorded via camera technology that reads license plates, said Robert Poole, founder of the Reason Foundation and a privatization expert. The license plate number is matched with the owner's address filed with the state department of motor vehicles, and a bill is sent to his or her home or business. If open-road tolling is put in place for Cline, it would be a first for Indiana. The Indiana Toll Road has electronic tolling, but drivers still must stop momentarily at toll booths. The new South Norfolk Jordan Bridge in Chesapeake, Va., and the deal that cemented its building offer numerous clues as to what may be ahead if a pact is struck to build a new Cline bridge over the Indiana Harbor and Ship Canal in East Chicago. [.License-plate tolling for Cline Avenue Bridge?](#)

What's happening with the Sherman Minton Bridge?

14 News WFIE Evansville
12/28/11

LOUISVILLE, KY (WAVE) - We are past the halfway point of when Hall Contracting is supposed to be finished with their repairs on the Sherman Minton Bridge. What exactly is being done right now to fix the bridge? Indiana Department of Transportation officials say crews are working seven days a week and 12 hours a day on both sides of the bridge. Loads of steel have been coming down from Gary, Indiana. Right now they are working on the upstream side of the bridge starting on the Kentucky end and moving towards Indiana. That consists of setting the steel on the tie girder, drilling the holes and bolting it in.

On the other side of the bridge, they are still painting and priming because once they are done on the west side with the steel on the outside of the tie girder, they'll move to the east side. After that they'll start the whole process over reinforcing the inside of the tie girders. Of course that work is not helping with the traffic issues on the other bridges that just seem to be building up and the people we spoke with are running out of patience. [What's happening with the Sherman Minton Bridge? - 14 News, WFIE, Evansville, Henderson, Owensboro](#)

Federal legislation could eliminate APC

WLF1
12/28/11

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLF1) - A bill on Capitol Hill is putting the future funding of the Tippecanoe County Area Plan Commission (APC) in jeopardy. The APC is responsible for planning future road projects and other transportation projects. The current federal transportation bill is written the money for those projects would not go through the APC, but instead through state entities, taking the power of planning from the local level. The latest round of proposed federal transportation bills could affect the way funds are allocated to local communities. As it stands now, the legislation would eliminate Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) for communities with populations of less than 200,000. That means seven of Indiana's fourteen MPO's are under the gun for elimination, Tippecanoe County's APC is the MPO for this area, and could be one of those. APC Executive Director Sallie Fahey said that could affect transportation in the county at several levels. "It also would affect CityBus, it might affect the Purdue Airport, it definitely would have affected the railroad relocation had this occurred while that was still ongoing. So it's a substantial amount of reasonably guaranteed money that we can use here every year," said Fahey. [Federal legislation could eliminate APC | WLF1 - Tippecanoe County, Indiana](#) Also, [Tippecanoe County Area Plan Commission would lose funds if plan is OK'd | Journal and Courier | jconline.com](#)

My View: Chamber looks at big picture to lead region into future

The Indianapolis Star
12/28/11

As the new president of the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, I have been asked questions in recent days regarding the role of the chamber in the next year and beyond. The second area where we plan to focus is mass transit. Mass transit is essential for Indianapolis to move forward. The chamber and the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership formed the Central Indiana Transit Task Force in 2008 to evaluate the need for mass transit. Corporate and civic leaders recently presented a proposal, one that we believe is realistic and doable. The proposed plan will meet the transportation needs of our community, transform our neighborhoods, create a more sustainable region and represent a strong return on investment for taxpayers. As Mayor Greg Ballard so aptly stated at the press conference, this plan sets us up to become a regional powerhouse. It refines the Indy Connect plan, based on additional cost-benefit analysis, updated economic projections and discussions with local officials. We are calling upon the Indiana General Assembly to authorize a referendum in November 2012 to give voters the final say.

[My View: Chamber looks at big picture to lead region into future | The Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

Officials In Kentucky And Indiana Reach Consensus On Bridge Plan

LEX18

12/29/11

Kentucky and Indiana have reached consensus on a basic plan to finance and build the Ohio River Bridges Project, keeping the project on target to begin construction in 2012. Under an agreement in principle reached by Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels and leaders of the Louisville and Southern Indiana Bridges Authority, each state would take the lead in financing and overseeing construction of one half of the project, among the largest transportation projects in the United States. Kentucky would be responsible for financing and constructing the downtown portion of the project - a new I-65 bridge, a re-decked Kennedy Bridge, modernization of the Kennedy Interchange, and expansion of the I-65 approach in Indiana. Indiana would be responsible for financing and constructing the East End portion of the project - a new bridge near Utica, Ind., and Prospect, Ky.; a new highway linking the Lee Hamilton Expressway and Gene Snyder Freeway; and a tunnel in Eastern Jefferson County. The Bridges Authority would help coordinate, monitor and ensure an interface between the two procurements, which would continue to be carried out as one project under a single financial plan. [Officials In Kentucky And Indiana Reach Consensus On Bridge Plan | LEX18.com | Lexington, Kentucky](#)

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