



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

December 6, 2012

Jeffersonville council moves forward in joint effort to block bridge tolls

Courier-Journal
12/4/12

A second Southern Indiana municipality is joining the fight to block downtown tolling on the Ohio River Bridges Project — vowing to spend \$10,000 to help stop the effort. The Jeffersonville City Council has tentatively approved giving money from gaming proceeds to the Clark-Floyd Counties Convention and Tourism Bureau, which voted last month with the Clarksville Town Council to each spend \$10,000 on an Indianapolis law firm to file a lawsuit. While they say they support the Ohio River Bridges Project, all three want to block plans to toll the Kennedy Bridge and a new Interstate 65 span that is to be built next to it. They argue that an economic study shows that tolling would cause about \$7 billion in business revenue and job losses over the next 30 years along the Interstate 65 corridor, mainly affecting the Clarksville and Jeffersonville business districts. Bridge project advocates say the economic report released in April predicts that the Ohio River Bridges Project will have an overall positive effect, directly leading to 9,000 new jobs and creating new access and development near the planned East End bridge connecting Utica and eastern Jefferson County. But opponents such as Paul Fetter, a Clarksville town councilman and a founder of the anti-tolling group No2BridgeTolls, says the costs outweigh the benefits. [Jeffersonville council moves forward in joint effort to block bridge tolls | The Courier-Journal | courier-journal.com](#)

3rd southern Indiana group joining legal effort to block tolls on I-65 bridges over Ohio River

The Republic
12/4/12

JEFFERSONVILLE, Indiana — A third group is joining a legal effort to block tolling on two bridges that will carry Interstate 65 traffic over the Ohio River between downtown Louisville, Kentucky, and southern Indiana. The Jeffersonville City Council tentatively approved allocating \$10,000 to the Clark-Floyd Counties Convention and Tourism Bureau for the legal fight Monday, The Courier-Journal reported. A final vote by the council is likely Dec. 17. The tourism bureau's board and the Clarksville Town Council both voted last month to allocate \$10,000 each for legal costs to fight a joint Indiana-Kentucky plan to use traffic tolls to pay for a new I-65 bridge and refurbished Kennedy Bridge. Opponents of the tolls fear they will hurt southern Indiana businesses, as an economic impact report released in April has projected. However, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet spokesman Chuck Wolfe said Tuesday that tolling is necessary to help pay for the bridges. Under the two states' plan, tolls will be introduced on the two downtown bridges as well as the East End bridge. Kentucky is building and rehabbing the I-65 bridges at a projected cost of \$971 million, and Indiana is building the \$763 million East End portion. Both portions are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2016.

[3rd southern Indiana group joining legal effort to block tolls on I-65 bridges over Ohio River](#)

State may hire one agency to handle all details of I-69's next section

Evansville Courier & Press

12/4/12

INDIANAPOLIS — Instead of contracting its design and construction out bit by bit, Indiana transportation officials are considering hiring one private firm to handle the entire Interstate 69 stretch from Bloomington to Martinsville. The Indiana Department of Transportation posted a "request for information" on Tuesday, asking companies to tell the state how they could handle both planning and building that segment of the highway – and possibly also its maintenance once it's built. The move comes as the state looks for ways to move forward with the six-section, 142-mile I-69 project. The first three sections, a 67-mile stretch from Evansville to Crane, are already open, and a fourth, to Bloomington, is now under construction. But the fifth, to Martinsville, and the sixth, to Indianapolis, must still be built, and the \$3.85 billion the state gained from the "Major Moves" lease of a northern Indiana toll road is already all earmarked for specific purposes. As a result, Indiana officials are looking for ways to complete the I-69 project without decimating the state's transportation budget. "INDOT is exploring innovative ways to deliver needed safety improvements for the citizens of Bloomington while reducing uncertainty and inconvenience for motorists and businesses," said Michael B. Cline, INDOT's commissioner. [State may hire one agency to handle all details of I-69's next section » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

St. Joe County reacts to Douglas Road decision

Fox 28

12/5/12

It's a done deal. Late Tuesday night the St. Joseph County Council voted unanimously to follow through with the University of Notre Dame's proposal for realigning Douglas Road. The plan will re-route Douglas Road closer to the Indiana Toll Road. Notre Dame thinks the project will be good for everyone in the area, but some people nearby don't see it that way. They think it's just an attempt by the University to isolate itself from South Bend. Charles Clark lives in Indian Village. He says he's extremely disappointed by the council's decision and believes they have failed voters. "Taking a perfectly straight segment of road and making it really curvy and sticking two traffic circles in it just doesn't make any sense," he said. "I think these people who were paid to represent and carry out the citizens' will weren't listening." Meanwhile the University says it will pay for the road construction to be done if the county does its part to maintain the road. They say their project will increase safety around campus. St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Jeff Rea agrees. And he says safety isn't the only benefit this project will bring. "It's really going to be transformational for our community, much like we saw Angela and Edison transform and really that whole area around campus," he said. "It just gives Notre Dame an opportunity to grow and expand. We think it's a wonderful enhancement for the community as well. "It's a win-win from an economic development standpoint, from a traffic flow standpoint, from a visual standpoint, and all those things really enhance the county as a whole." FOX 28 will cover the project from beginning to end and we'll let you know how construction will affect traffic in the area. [St. Joe County reacts to Douglas Road decision - Fox 28: South Bend, Elkhart IN News, Weather, Sports](#)

INDOT awards \$18M contract to replace Nine Span Bridge

Post-Tribune

12/5/12

HAMMOND — The Nine Span Bridge on Indianapolis Boulevard is slated for demolition and replacement after the Indiana Department of Transportation awarded a contract Wednesday of

almost \$18 million to an Illinois construction company. Dunnet Bay Construction of Glendale Heights, Ill., will demolish and replace the bridge for \$17.99 million. "That bridge is in need of replacement at this point," said Matt Deitchley, a spokesman for INDOT. "Just like any kind of structure, it eventually needs to be replaced. That's where we're at with this bridge." Construction is expected to begin in late December or early January, with completion scheduled for November. No set dates have been determined, and detour routes are under discussion. Deitchley said starting dates and detour routes should be set by mid-December. The bridge, south of the South Shore train station in East Chicago, near the border of Hammond and East Chicago, was built in 1935 and spans the Gibson Rail Yards. [INDOT awards \\$18M contract to replace Nine Span Bridge - Post-Tribune](#)

UPDATE: Passenger Rail Service Could Be Reality

Stacey Page Online

12/5/12

Passenger rail service could be coming to Warsaw as soon as 2018. That is according to Warsaw/Kosciusko County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Mark Dobson. Dobson was asked by Warsaw Mayor Joe Thallemer to give the Warsaw Common Council an update Monday night on a conference Dobson attended. The workshop was hosted by Northeast Indiana Passenger Rail Association. In 2009, a collaboration of Indiana mayors and Gov. Mitch Daniels prompted the Indiana Department of Transportation to seek federal stimulus funding for a Midwest Regional Rail System. In September of this year, the Warsaw Common Council agreed to donate \$5,000 toward a study to bring passenger rail service to northern Indiana. Dobson recently attended the conference and reported that the result is that NIPRA will begin to develop a business model for passenger rail service to come through Warsaw. "Because they are finding they will be able to operate the line profitably, they're moving forward under what they call the Build, Own, Operate, Transfer program," said Dobson. "Realistically, if they find that the numbers look as good as what they are projecting, passenger rail service will be restored in as little as 6 years." A summit is being planned to gather representatives of cities and towns from Columbus, Ohio, to Chicago, Ill., to learn more about passenger rail service and what it means for Indiana and other areas that will benefit. "We are asking for the summit to be held in Warsaw," Dobson told the council. [UPDATE: Passenger Rail Service Could Be Reality](#)

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