



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

January 19, 2012

I-69 Letters Between MPO, INDOT, and FHWA Released

Indiana Public Media

1/17/12

Kent McDaniel, Chairman of the Bloomington, Monroe County Metropolitan Transit Organization has released public documents related to the MPO's actions to remove I-69 from its Transportation Improvement Plan. The letters are between Bob Tally of the Federal Highway Administration, Richard Martin of the I-69 Subcommittee, McDaniel, and Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner Michael Cline. There is also a letter from U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood to Governor Mitch Daniels. The letters demonstrate frustration from INDOT and FHWA regarding the November 4 MPO meeting where members of the public expressed their discontent with INDOT and FHWA. The MPO's responses argue that state and federal officials are not giving the MPO enough input on details of how sections four and five of I-69 will be built in Monroe County. The next meeting of the MPO is scheduled for February 10, but McDaniel says he might postpone that meeting if some issues discussed in these letters are not resolved by then. [I-69 Letters Between MPO, INDOT, and FHWA Released | News - Indiana Public Media](#)

New Overpass Bills

Vincennes Overpass Project is Dead But Not Bills

WTHI

1/17/12

VINCENNES, IND. (WTHI) - A southern Indiana city is finding a dead project is still producing plenty of expense. Last year the Vincennes City Council told the mayor that they would not back a plan to build a \$20 million railroad overpass. The mayor that put together the project may be gone, but the city is still paying for the dead project. About 70 trains a day roll through Vincennes, frustrating motorists and tying up traffic. The problem prompted former Mayor Al Baldwin to push for an overpass project. The city council though refused to fund it and the project appeared to be dead. New Mayor Joe Yochum says the bills are very much alive. "The overpass project, we just received about \$100,000 worth of bills on it," said Yochum. The new bills for engineering work on the project caught the city council by surprise. "That's troubling because we let him know under no uncertain terms that we no longer wanted to fund this project that we wanted to pull the plug on it," said Councilman Scott Brown. [New Overpass Bills](#)

Our View: Roundabout ways

Lake County News-Sun

1/17/12

While we're not convinced of the efficacy of roundabouts as the most efficient way to get around

Lake County, we better get used to them. The Lake County Board on Tuesday approved funding for a fourth roundabout for county roads. The newest roundabout, at Roberts and River roads near Tower Lakes in Cuba Township, joins the one in Lincolnshire and two on Hunt Club Road north of Gurnee. Approval for the roundabout came at the same time the board accepted the contract for the reconstruction and widening of Delany Road from Yorkhouse Road to Wadsworth Road, from Waukegan to Wadsworth, to five lanes, and voted funds for widening Wadsworth Road to three lanes through what some call downtown Wadsworth. Roadwork in Lake County remains a growth industry. Lake County highway officials are convinced of a future with additional roundabouts, yet their penchant for the vehicle movers is no match for the Indiana Department of Transportation which plans to install roundabouts at 31 intersections in the Hoosier State over the next five years. Indiana DOT officials, like their Lake County counterparts, insist roundabouts are safer than traditional intersections. Then again, nobody ever praised the driving skills of Indiana motorists. [Our View: Roundabout ways - Lake County News-Sun](#)

Eight companies vie to build airport overpass

NWI Times

1/18/12

Eight construction companies submitted bids Jan. 12 to build a vehicle overpass for railroad tracks on Airport Road, with Superior Construction Co. Inc., of Gary, the apparent low bidder at \$11.45 million.

Gary/Chicago International Airport staff and contractors are going through the bids submitted to make sure they meet requirements, airport interim Director Steve Landry said. Officials must complete that process before determining the winning low bidder. The Gary/Chicago International Airport Authority could award the contract as early as its regularly scheduled meeting Monday. Superior Construction's bid total included a 1 percent "Buy Indiana" credit, which is a requirement under the airport's contract with the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority. The RDA is funding the project. Two other contractors also received the credit, which discounts bids by 1 percent for scoring purposes. The bids came in well under an airport preliminary estimate of \$22.9 million delivered to the RDA a year ago. Many Indiana Department of Transportation projects also have been coming in well under estimates, including the recent Cline Avenue Bridge demolition contract. [Eight companies vie to build airport overpass](#)

New Albany OKs street cut for Scribner

News and Tribune

1/18/12

NEW ALBANY — The New Albany Board of Public Works and Safety approved a street cut permit for an Indiana American Water contractor Tuesday that will affect Scribner Drive likely into May. Approval from the board was contingent upon the New Albany City Council's acceptance of a modification to an ordinance governing street cuts made by utility companies. The amendment was introduced to the council last week, but has yet to receive a vote. The changes would strengthen the city's ability to require utilities to pave streets that were damaged for repair work, according to administration officials for Mayor Jeff Gahan. The amendment was prioritized by the administration due to pending work orders for Indiana American Water. Utility companies must garner city approval to repair their infrastructure if they must cut into a public street or sidewalk.

[New Albany OKs street cut for Scribner » Recent Local News » News and Tribune](#)

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