



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

August 2, 2011

Work progressing on Noblesville railroad bridges

Indianapolis Star
8/2/11

Work is nearly complete on railroad bridges that led to road closings beginning last week. Hoosier Heritage Port Authority is replacing 70-year-old concrete under the rails at two trestles, one on Allisonville Road south of downtown and the other on Ind. 19 next to Forest Park. Repairs to each cost \$26,000.

[Work progressing on Noblesville railroad bridges | The Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

New online tool to help drivers steer clear of Indy's construction zones

Indianapolis Star
Chris Sikich
8/2/11

All the road work this summer got you down? Well, with 276 projects under way and more in the pipeline, you'll have to get used to it. But at least an interactive map that city officials debuted Monday will help you figure out where to expect headaches. Cone zones Downtown, along Meridian Street and in neighborhoods throughout Indianapolis are creating temporary traffic delays as the city continues its busiest construction season ever. Since September, the city has spent more than \$140 million on RebuildIndy, Mayor Greg Ballard's initiative to upgrade roads, bridges, sidewalks, sewers and trails and to demolish abandoned houses.

[New online tool to help drivers steer clear of Indy's construction zones | The Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

INDOT chief: Without I-69, state approval for Bloomington roads plan won't happen

Evansville Courier & Press
Eric Bradner
8/1/11

A Bloomington group's transportation plan has to include the Interstate 69 extension in order to receive state approval, the Indiana Department of Transportation head has told the group. Michael Cline, the state's transportation commissioner, rejected the Bloomington/Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization's updated transportation plan because local opponents of the 142-mile Indianapolis-to-Evansville highway project had it chopped out of that plan. It's the latest twist in a standoff over a stretch of the highway that is less than two miles long. The state needs Bloomington to ultimately include that portion in its plans, and Bloomington needs to avoid the potential consequences – such as losing funding for local projects – that could come if it does not accede.

[INDOT chief: Without I-69, state approval for Bloomington roads plan won't happen » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

Also, [INDOT rejects Monroe County highway plan that omits Bloomington section of I-69 expansion | The Republic](#)

Also, [INDOT excludes Monroe Co. plan excluding I-69 - 13 WTTH](#)

Also, [Environmentalists Sue State Over I-69 Construction - Indiana News Story - WRTV Indianapolis](#)

Senate bill would allow states to opt out of federal programs

Landline Magazine

8/1/11

A bill in the U.S. Senate would allow state departments of transportation to opt out of federal transportation programs and make their own decisions regarding fuel-tax revenue. Sen. Tom Coburn, R-OK, and 13 cosponsors introduced S1446, the State Transportation Flexibility Act, on Thursday, July 28. "The State Transportation Flexibility Act that would allow state transportation departments to opt out of the Federal-Aid Highway and Mass Transit programs. Instead, these states would be able to manage and spend the gas tax revenue collected within their state on transportation projects without federal mandates or restrictions," the senators said in a joint statement.

[Senate bill would allow states to opt out of federal programs](#)

New county road signs still in the works

Greene County Daily World

Nick Schneider

8/1/11

The Greene County Commissioners learned Monday morning the \$917,000 countywide road sign replacement project -- which will display new E-911 addressing names and numbers -- is progressing. The plan, which started in 2008, is now under review by the Indiana Department of Transportation. Doug Dagley, of the Indianapolis engineering firm of Janssen & Spaans, told the commissioners they presently are waiting approval of Stage 3 plans, which could take about three months. Dagley said he anticipates starting actual installation of the signs in the spring 2012.

[Greene County Daily World: Local News: New county road signs still in the works \(08/01/11\)](#)

County paving delayed by pothole repairs

Muncie Star Press

Keith Roysdon

8/1/11

The superintendent of the Delaware County Highway Department promised Monday the county's road paving program would finally shift into high gear following months of smaller road repairs. "I never thought we would be patching potholes in July," Duke Campbell told The Star Press on Monday. "But we've had tremendous damage to our chip-and-seal roads by spring flooding." The county commissioners, who oversee the highway department, have not yet released their 2011 paving plan. Campbell said Monday he needed to talk to the commissioners and fine-tune this year's specifics. Campbell said this year's paving plan, when it is finalized, will represent the final year of a three-year plan. He said the county has paved around 24 miles of road each of the [first](#) two years.

[County paving delayed by pothole repairs | The Star Press | thestarpress.com](#)

EDITORIAL: I-69 progress is welcome for many near Bloomington

Evansville Courier & Press
7/31/11

The construction of the Interstate 69 highway between Evansville and Indianapolis took a giant step forward this past week with the announcement that the Indiana Department of Transportation has completed plans for the highway from the Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center to Bloomington. This is the section that will take I-69 from Crane, through Greene and Monroe counties right into Indiana 37 just south of Bloomington. Indeed, this is the link that takes I-69 through what has been characterized as hostile territory: The home ground of I-69 opposition groups that continue to fight construction, even though it is well along. On the far south section, motorists are already driving on I-69 and construction is under way at various sites between Evansville and Crane. Eric Bradner of the Courier & Press Indianapolis bureau reported on Monday that construction could begin on the Crane-to-Bloomington section as soon as INDOT gains approval from the Federal Highway Administration. He reported that could come later this summer.

[EDITORIAL: I-69 progress is welcome for many near Bloomington » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

Project to divert lanes of I-70 near Post Road

Indianapolis Star
7/31/11

The Indiana Department of Transportation will redirect eastbound lanes of I-70 between Post Road and County Road 700 (the first overpass west of Mount Comfort Road) to the north side of the roadway this week, the agency said. The \$32.3 million project includes reconstructing I-70 from Post Road to Mount Comfort Road. A third travel lane is being added in each direction. The work is expected to be finished on June 1, 2012.

[Project to divert lanes of I-70 near Post Road | The Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

Valpo's U.S. 30 corridor price tag: \$56.6M

NWI Times
Phil Wieland
7/30/11

The city now has a plan for beautifying its U.S. 30 corridor "front door," but, with an estimated price tag of \$56.66 million, Planning Director Craig Phillips warns it's not going to happen overnight. "We will do it as money becomes available," Phillips said. "The plan will be done in phases, and we could seek grants in phases, too. We will do it as we've done the other streetscape improvements throughout the city with a combination of grants, EDIT funds and redevelopment commission money." The corridor plan, done by Kendig Keast Collaborative over the past year as part of the update of the city's overall comprehensive plan, was adopted by the council Monday. It provides guidelines for beautification, development and redevelopment along the entire five-mile section of U.S. 30 within the city boundaries.

[Valpo's U.S. 30 corridor price tag: \\$56.6M](#)

Whitlock project comes to an end

Crawfordsville Journal Review
Barry Lewis
7/30/11

One major headache for motorists will soon come to an end when the city reopens Whitlock Avenue on Monday. City officials will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. on Whitlock Avenue where the culvert was replaced. The road was closed in September 2009 after a sinkhole was discovered.

The project was bid at \$1.5 million. However, it will be completed at a cost that ranges between \$900,000 and \$1 million. Furthermore, the project will be completed on time despite some heavy spring rains that flooded the creek bed as HIS Construction was trying to set the culvert in place.
[Whitlock project comes to an end - journalreview.com: News](#)

Still open for business

Kokomo Perspective

Pat Munsey

7/29/11

Downtown Russiaville looks like another tornado hit it. The construction of State Road 26, which runs through the middle of the town, is in full swing, and currently there simply is no road there. The old pavement has been completely removed, leaving a great brown strip of soil. The road work has made things difficult for travelers and residents this summer. Businesses, too, have suffered along with their neighbors. But this is the cost of progress. John Newlin, owner of Waddell's IGA grocery, has decided to help people find their way back to Russiaville businesses. Last week, he began hanging detour signs that direct people to the local stores they love in the hope that they will take a few moments of inconvenience to get shop in town, rather than make the drive to Kokomo or elsewhere. The \$11.2 million Major Moves reconstruction project began with right-of-way clearing last October, and full construction began in May. The project calls for widening of the highway along 7.4 miles -- from Russiaville to just west of Dixon Road. The highway also will be milled and resurfaced west of Russiaville to the Clinton County line during the project.

[Still open for business - Kokomo Perspective: Local News](#)

www.buildindianacouncil.org