



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

August 4, 2011

INDOT plans more road work starting Friday

Indystar.com
8/4/11

The Indiana Department of Transportation will continue interstate road closings around the metro area this weekend for concrete repairs on highways and ramps. INDOT crews will close the right lane of eastbound Southport Road and the ramp from eastbound Southport road to northbound I-65 at 7 p.m. on Friday. The ramp will remain closed through the weekend and should reopen before 5 a.m. on Monday, INDOT said in a news release. The state has also hired Milestone Contractors to resurface I-65 on the Southside. In the contract to begin soon and finish by November, Milestone will patch and pave 2.4 miles of I-65 between I-70 (the south split) and Keystone Avenue. The plan is to resurface all six lanes -- with three lanes headed in both directions.

[INDOT plans more road work starting Friday | The Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

That INDOT pick-up truck is really a state police cruiser

Warrick Publishing
8/4/11

White pick-up trucks are ever present in highway work zones. Construction inspectors and foremen use them as a mobile office, supervising road work while sheltered from the dust and blistering summer sun. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Indiana State Police (ISP) recently joined forces to unveil the first pick-up truck converted for traffic enforcement in and near construction zones. Equipped with police lighting, sirens, radios and radar equipment, the white pick-ups will be operated by uniformed troopers on unmarked patrols. "It's not INDOT's or ISP's goal to catch motorists in the act of committing a violation, but to promote compliance with safe driving practices and reduce the number of crashes," said INDOT Chief Operations Officer Troy Woodruff. "On average four out of every five people killed in highway work zones are motorists, not highway workers." An analysis of 2010 statistics found the top causes of work zone crashes to be following too closely, improper lane change and failure to yield the right of way. Troopers in the white pick-ups will more easily spot these violations, which carry increased fines and penalties under a new state law that took effect this month.

[That INDOT pick-up truck is really a state police cruiser - Warrick Publishing, Inc.: Business News](#)

Beech Grove roundabout constructed expected to be completed in early September

Star Report
8/4/11

Construction on a new roundabout in Beech Grove began July 18 and is projected to be

completed within about 45 days of the work starting. Weather permitting, that should mean the circle traffic control location will open by early September. The five-leg intersection, controlled by traffic lights, involves 17th Avenue, also called Sherman Drive; Albany Street; and Churchman Avenue. The \$900,000 construction and inspection costs of the project are to be paid for by a Federal Highway Administration grant administered by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization.

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20110804/LOCAL1801/108040328/Beech-Grove-roundabout-constructed-expected-completed-early-September?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7CCommunities%7Cs>

D.C. needs a dose of Hoosier common sense

The Journal & Courier
8/3/2011

Recent data show national economic growth is slowing from a crawl to a halt. Add that to the mountain of evidence that the federal government's bailouts and borrowing can't really create jobs. It's time Washington learned some lessons from Indiana, where government creates conditions for economic growth without punishing taxpayers and the private sector. Take two legislative successes near to my heart: the Major Moves highway-construction fund and telecommunications reform. They've brought thousands of jobs to Indiana and spurred almost \$6 billion in private investment statewide.

[D.C. needs a dose of Hoosier common sense | Journal and Courier | jconline.com](#)

"Phantom work zone" troubles drivers

WLFI.com
8/3/11

CLINTON COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) - A 13-mile stretch on Interstate 65 is being labeled a "phantom work zone" by drivers. Motorists tell NewsChannel 18 signs may indicate construction is occurring, but they don't see any work being done. What makes drivers so upset is, for 13 miles, they have to drive 45 miles per hour (MPH), but don't even see construction. I-65 drivers are tapping the brakes and slowing down from mile marker 158 near the State Road 28 exit in Clinton County to mile marker 171 in Tippecanoe County. Crews are replacing pipelines. "On this project, and a lot of projects, you are going to continue driving 45 miles per hour until you see an end of construction sign," said Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) spokeswoman Debbie Calder.

["Phantom work zone" troubles drivers | WLFI - Clinton County, Indiana](#)

Downtown readies for more construction

WTHR.com
8/2/11

INDIANAPOLIS - Think you've seen enough cone zones this summer? Get ready for even more. The city of Indianapolis is preparing for another round of road construction. That's as some people are starting to experience "construction fatigue." Gina Plummer lives along North Meridian Street, one of the many roads being resurfaced. While she's glad to see the improvements, she noted "it's taking a long time. We've repeatedly asked (for repairs) and it's now in process, but it just seems to be taking longer than it should." Plummer and others between 38th and 49th streets are particularly annoyed by the raised sewer covers. "These bumps in the center where the sewer caps are hard on the cars," she said.

Sara Holsapple, a spokesperson for the Department of Public Works said the work should be done in two weeks. After crews finish some sidewalk work, they'll put on the last layer of asphalt.

[Downtown readies for more construction - 13 WTHR](#)

Wayne County Council expected to move \$400,000 to highway department for road repairs

Palladium-Item

8/2/11

The Wayne County Council on Wednesday is expected to give the county highway department another \$400,000 for road construction and repair this year. The move will be made in lieu of a wheel tax that was proposed this year by the Wayne County commissioners but not approved by council members. The additional \$400,000 will now give the highway department \$1 million to use for highway construction and repair since the council and commissioners approved an additional appropriation of \$600,000 from the highway fund earlier this year. The \$400,000 will come from the County Adjusted Gross Income Tax fund to the highway department. Council meets at 8 a.m. Wednesday in Council Chambers at the County Administration Building, 401 E. Main St.

[Wayne County Council expected to move \\$400,000 to highway department for road repairs | Palladium-Item | pal-item.com](#)

Environmentalists sue to block I69 construction over caves and wetlands

Chesterton Tribune

8/2/11

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana environmentalists are suing to stop construction of I-69 in southern Indiana. Citizens for Appropriate Rural Roads and the I-69 Accountability Project said the road expansion would violate federal environmental laws. A lawyer for the groups also says the project would threaten the Indiana Bat and violate the federal Endangered Species Act. The groups filed suit Monday in federal court in Indianapolis. A spokesman for Citizens for Appropriate Rural Roads said the group believes the state highway department underestimated in its count of nearly 1,500 geologic features such as sinkholes, caves and springs in the path of the latest approved section. "I-69 should never have been routed through this extremely environmentally sensitive area," Thomas Tokarski said.

[Environmentalists sue to block I69 construction over caves and wetlands](#)

County paving delayed by pothole repairs

The starpress.com

8/2/11

MUNCIE -- 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.

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

Liberty merchants feel pain from U.S. 27 closure

Pal-item.com

8/2/11

LIBERTY, Ind. -- The closing of U.S. 27 North two weeks ago has cut fuel sales at Country Corner by \$200,000. At Monday's Union County commissioners meeting, Union County Co-op General Manager Randy Fields said the road closure also is affecting food sales at the co-op-owned convenience store.

"It's not just big trucks. It's unleaded gas for cars and boats. It's food and everything," Fields said. Commissioner Paul Wiwi, who also is a co-op director, said he had to drive through a bank parking lot last week to reach the co-op because its entrance was closed by the construction. Barricade fatigue has become widespread here in what is now the fourth straight summer of state highway construction. Commissioners asked Indiana Department of Transportation spokesman Nathan Riggs and state representatives Jud McMillin and Tom Knollman to attend Monday's meeting to hear local businesses' concerns. Knollman was unable to attend.
<http://www.pal-item.com/article/20110803/NEWS01/108030304>

www.buildindianacouncil.org