



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **August 25, 2011**

#### **Legislative infrastructure panel sees challenges ahead for Indiana**

Nwi.com  
8/23/11

INDIANAPOLIS | In the past five years, Indiana has built up a substantial infrastructure advantage over its neighbors, but the road ahead appears riddled with potholes. That's the first take on the condition of Indiana's infrastructure and its future from business and logistics experts who testified Tuesday to a General Assembly committee studying the topic. The panel is led by state Rep. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso. The 2006 lease of the Indiana Toll Road netted \$3.8 billion-- most of which has been spent on road construction under Gov. Mitch Daniels' Major Moves program. State Transportation Commissioner Michael Cline said the Toll Road money has enabled Indiana to achieve "fair" or "excellent" ratings on nearly every bridge and state road, reduce congestion and improve safety. The weak economy also has reduced the cost of construction, he said. [http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article\\_66db9cce-0094-56e9-9fba-a197b1bb8193.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_66db9cce-0094-56e9-9fba-a197b1bb8193.html)

#### **I-70 construction stretches 5 counties**

WTHITV.com  
8/24/11

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (WTHI) - The Indiana Department of Transportation says that construction is underway in five counties spanning from the Indiana/Illinois state line to Plainfield on Interstate 70. Traffic will be restricted to one lane in several areas along this route. Motorists are encouraged to seek alternate routes. Wabash Valley Asphalt was awarded the asphalt resurfacing and bridge deck replacement project for \$5.29 million. This contract will resurface the interstate from the state line to just west of the Wabash River Bridge. It also includes replacing the deck and widening both the eastbound and westbound bridges over Southlake Road, located nearly 3 miles west of US 41. [I-70 construction stretches 5 counties | wthitv.com](#)

#### **Our view: State isn't being open about Cline Avenue future**

Post Tribune  
8/24/11

The way the Indiana Department of Transportation seems to be playing games with the Cline Avenue project, we wouldn't be surprised if the reconstruction resembled a roller coaster. Whatever the state is up to, it isn't being fair to the people of Northwest Indiana. The state closed the highway almost two years ago, when the elevated bridge began showing serious deterioration. After a litany of public hearings, the state announced that the Cline Avenue bridge wouldn't be rebuilt. Instead, the highway would be routed through East Chicago, over improved

Riley and Dickey roads. The state said rebuilding the bridge wouldn't be a wise move financially. [Our view: State isn't being open about Cline Avenue future - Post-Tribune](#)

### **Residents, IN-DOT don't agree on road**

Wane.com  
8/24/11

NEW HAVEN, Ind. (WANE) - The "Fort to Port" project on U.S. 24 is getting closer and closer to completion, but some of the people living right near the construction say they'll be even more inconvenienced when the jobs finished. Harper Road is what's causing the most concern to people living along the rural route and those living in the Georgian Park. "It's a good highway," said Gary Meinerding, who lives in the neighborhood. "I'm proud the state of Indiana and Ohio are doing this, but I think they need to take more locally into consideration in how it's going to affect their lives." [Residents, IN-DOT don't agree on road](#)

### **Gary company wins bids for Marquette Park work**

Post-Tribune  
8/24/11

GARY — Gary-based Gariup Construction was the big winner in the latest round of contracts awarded for the \$28 million Marquette Park overhaul during Wednesday's Board of Public Works and Safety meeting. But, as of last spring, none of the work has to go to Gary workers or businesses. The board also approved a month-long road closure on 29th Avenue and Burr Street on the city's far west side for a development that will include a new McDonald's restaurant and a truck and car fueling center. Gariup submitted a combination bid covering site development, general trades and masonry work on the Aquatorium in Miller for \$1.2 million, beating out a Chicago company that submitted a combo bid that did not include masonry. [Gary company wins bids for Marquette Park work - Post-Tribune](#)

### **Take this detour and see the sights**

TheStarPress.com  
8/24/11

MUNCIE -- In a summer marked by local construction projects and road barricades, next week's closing of Ind. 3 north of Muncie might have the most elaborate official detour of all. When Ind. 3 closes north of Ind. 28 on Monday for a 60-day project to replace a culvert, the Indiana Department of Transportation's official detour will take traffic about 10 miles to the west to Interstate 69. From there, traffic will travel north on I-69 to Ind. 26 in Grant County, where motorists can once again travel east to Hartford City and Ind. 3. [Take this detour and see the sights | The Star Press | thestarpress.com](#)

### **Wider, safer Yeager Road coming to West Lafayette**

Jconline.com  
8/24/11

Utility relocation for a long-planned project to revamp part of Yeager Road in West Lafayette will begin in the next few weeks. City redevelopment commission members approved two agreements with Indianapolis-based firm American Structurepoint for construction inspection on the project, which will stretch from Northwestern Avenue to U.S. 52. Work on the road project itself -- pegged at about \$2 million -- is expected to start next spring. Buck said INDOT officials will let the project for bid in October. It includes widening the road to five lanes, installing sidewalks, building a trail, improving drainage infrastructure and creating a traffic roundabout at

the Northwestern intersection. [Wider, safer Yeager Road coming to West Lafayette | Journal and Courier | jconline.com](#)

### **Mike Pence stops in New Albany to talk jobs, governor's race**

News and Tribune

8/25/11

Locally, Pence said Southern Indiana is primed for an economic boost, especially in the manufacturing sector. He supports building the Ohio River Bridges Project, but reserved comment on funding the initiative until the bi-state Bridges Authority provides a more detailed financial plan. "My hope is that we find a way to bridge the gap over the river," Pence said. "I think roads mean jobs." [Mike Pence stops in New Albany to talk jobs, governor's race » Recent Local News » News and Tribune](#)

### **EDITORIAL: Find solutions to transportation troubles**

Nwitimes.com

8/25/11

A number of ideas have been percolating lately to try to figure out how to address the substantial transportation needs in Northwest Indiana. Keep brewing, rather than pull the plug, but be quick about it. The latest development was Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels' discussion Tuesday of talks with a private company that proposed rebuilding the Cline Avenue Bridge in exchange for the ability to collect tolls on that road. Another idea has been to put the replacement of the Nine Span Bridge in Hammond on hold in favor of replacing the closed Cline Avenue Bridge first. That is a matter of transportation triage, trying to determine which patient needs assistance first and whether the second patient can wait its turn for treatment. Ameristar Casino offered \$35 million to rebuild the Cline Avenue Bridge, but the casino seems to have folded its hand because of the uncertainty over whether it will face significant competition in Illinois. Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn hasn't signed the massive gambling expansion bill into law, but he hasn't vetoed it yet, either.

[EDITORIAL: Find solutions to transportation troubles](#) Also, [Private Company Shows Interest in Rebuilding Key Bridge - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

### **Grants to fund 80 percent of Baker's Camp Bridge rehab**

Banner Graphic

8/25/11

BAINBRIDGE -- The chances of a rehabilitation project for Baker's Camp Covered Bridge got a big boost from a federal grant program. In a pair of recent grant disbursements, Putnam County received \$795,000 in late June and an additional \$185,000 last week. The total of \$980,000, leaves the county with \$245,000 to pay of the \$1.225 million project. "At a time when states are facing serious budget constraints, these grants will help fill a critical need," Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez said when announcing Indiana's grants. [Greencastle Banner-Graphic: Local News: Grants to fund 80 percent of Baker's Camp Bridge rehab \(08/25/11\)](#)