



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

September 15, 2011

Failing bridges hurt Indiana's economy

WTHR
9/13/11

INDIANAPOLIS - There's a new call to repair Indiana's bridges after engineers found the same steel in a major bridge not far from where engineers found cracks in an Ohio River bridge. INDOT closed the Interstate 64 bridge linking Indiana with Kentucky at New Albany last week. The bridge over Interstate 64 at Jeffersonville remains open, but it's another thing for planners and drivers to worry about. Indiana inspects its bridges every two years, but repairs and much-needed new bridges will be in hot competition for fewer dollars. Most drivers aren't worried about driving across Indiana's bridges. I think it's fine," said one driver. But for others, since Friday when the governor closed the giant I-64 bridge between Indiana and Kentucky because of a dangerous crack in a critical support, some worry.

[Failing bridges hurt Indiana's economy - 13 WTHR](#)

THE AMERICAN JOBS ACT: IMPACT FOR Indiana

WSBT
9/13/11

The American people understand that the economic crisis and the deep recession weren't created overnight and won't be solved overnight. The economic security of the middle class has been under attack for decades. That's why President Obama believes we need to do more than just recover from this economic crisis – we need to rebuild the economy the American way, based on balance, fairness, and the same set of rules for everyone from Wall Street to Main Street. The President's plan includes \$50 billion in immediate investments for highways, transit, rail and aviation, helping to modernize an infrastructure that now receives a grade of "D" from the American Society of Civil Engineers and putting hundreds of thousands of construction workers back on the job. Of the investments for highway and transit modernization projects, the President's plan will make immediate investments of at least \$703,000,000 in Indiana that could support a minimum of approximately 9,100 local jobs. [Indiana & The American Jobs Act - WSBT-TV](#)

State Rep: Road updates in trouble

Post-Tribune
9/13/11

LAKES OF THE FOUR SEASONS — State Rep. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso, provided little hope Tuesday that either the widening of 109th Street to four lanes or the rebuilding of the Cline Avenue bridge would take place anytime soon. Soliday said the state is looking at some very grim infrastructure dollar projections. He said roads throughout the state are falling apart, some to the

point that they are being ground to gravel. Soliday said the Major Moves initiative is over and there is no money to replace it for infrastructure purposes. What would make matters worse, he said, would be if Congress didn't reinstate the 18.4-cents per gallon federal excise tax on gas that is set to expire on Sept. 30. If that would happen, states would have to pay for their own roads. [State Rep: Road updates in trouble - Post-Tribune](#)

Bridge Crisis Could Become Political Football

TheIndyChannel.com
9/13/11

INDIANAPOLIS -- As state officials grapple with the emergency closing of the Interstate 64 bridge over the Ohio River, there's concern the project could turn into a political football. Democratic State Chairman Dan Parker said it won't come from the Major Moves fund, which was created from the proceeds from the toll road lease, because he said that's mostly gone. "By 2013, Major Moves will only have \$15 million left," Parker said. "(Gov.) Mitch Daniels has blown through the money in seven years." [Bridge Crisis Could Become Political Football - Indiana News Story - WRTV Indianapolis](#)

Bids accepted for Grant Line Road construction

News and Tribune
9/13/11

NEW ALBANY — The New Albany Board of Public Works and Safety accepted three bids Tuesday for the Grant Line Road improvement project, which will include the addition of a turning lane and other upgrades from Mount Tabor Road to McDonald Lane. The lowest bid was submitted by New Albany based MAC Construction & Excavating Co. at \$2.735 million, followed by a proposal from the Clarksville company Gohmann Asphalt and Construction worth \$3.291 million. The highest bid received was submitted by TSI Paving at \$3.576 million. <http://newsandtribune.com/local/x1095948075/Bids-accepted-for-Grant-Line-Road-construction>

Company in talks for possible NWI toll bridge

Post-Tribune
9/14/11

EAST CHICAGO — A Florida-based company is weighing whether to build a toll bridge to replace a highway bridge in Northwest Indiana that has been closed for safety reasons since 2009, the company's CEO said. State highway officials are facing a Friday deadline to decide whether to move ahead with a permanent detour of the 11/4-mile Cline Avenue bridge in East Chicago rather than a \$150 million project to rebuild it. FIGG Bridge Developers of Tallahassee, Fla., has developed similar bridges in Florida and elsewhere. President and CEO Linda Figg said the company has been talking to local officials about building a bridge over the Indiana Harbor and Ship Canal. She wouldn't divulge details of the confidential talks. [Company in talks for possible NWI toll bridge - Post-Tribune](#) Also, [Company in talks for possible NW Indiana toll bridge | Palladium-Item | pal-item.com](#), [Florida company in talks to build Cline Ave. toll bridge](#)

Officials further scrutinize bridge

News and Tribune
9/14/11

SOUTHERN INDIANA — The crack that closed down the Sherman Minton Bridge — connecting Louisville to New Albany over the Ohio River — on Friday was not the first crack to be discovered on the Interstate 64 span. "There are multiple cracks on the bridge," said Director of Bridges for

INDOT Anne Rearick. "Right now, there's the one crack that was of enough concern that we closed it. The others were still within the threshold where we felt comfortable leaving the bridge open." According to a technical advisory report issued by the Federal Highway Administration on Monday, "several cracks" were found on the butt welds of the Sherman Minton Bridge and repair work for those cracks was started "earlier this year."

<http://newsandtribune.com/local/x1078459334/Officials-further-scrutinize-bridge>

I-69 construction moving forward

Greene County Daily World

9/14/11

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has issued a Tier 2 Record of Decision (ROD) for Section 4 of the I-69 Evansville to Indianapolis project. When completed in 2014, Section 4 of I-69 will extend as an interstate highway from the U.S. 231 interchange in Greene County to State Road 37 south of Bloomington. Section 4, approximately 27 miles in length, extends through Greene and Monroe counties in Indiana. "With the approval from Federal Highway for construction of the last piece of new terrain I-69, INDOT will march forward toward having I-69 open to traffic from Evansville to Bloomington by the end of 2014", said INDOT Commissioner Michael B. Cline. "This is an exciting time for INDOT and all of Indiana." [Greene County Daily World: Local News: I-69 construction moving forward \(09/14/11\)](#)

State explains closure of Toll Ramp to Borman

NWI.com

9/14/11

A top Indiana Department of Transportation official says the private operator of the Indiana Toll Road will have to adhere to rigorous federal criteria to make any changes to westbound Exit 21 in Lake Station. Indiana Toll Road Oversight Director Clark Snyder on Wednesday said Indiana Toll Road Concession Co. is studying what modifications might be required to improve traffic flow on the ramp, which was closed on an emergency basis on July 6. "The long-term future of this ramp will not be known until well into 2012," Snyder said Wednesday at the Toll Road Oversight Board's regular meeting in Granger. The board is responsible for seeing that the company adheres to the 75-year lease under which the company runs the 157-mile road. Snyder and Indiana Toll Road Concession CEO Fernando Redondo assured the offramp will reopen within the next two weeks and remain open during the study. [State explains closure of Toll Ramp to Borman](#)

INDOT shares U.S. 24 bridge plan

JOnline.com

9/15/11

MONTICELLO -- Construction is still two years away, but White County residents were treated to an in-depth look at a long-planned bridge replacement project Wednesday night. About 70 people filed into the Twin Lakes High School cafeteria to take a look at the Indiana Department of Transportation's plan to replace the 64-year-old span that runs over the Tippecanoe River in Monticello. The project, which dates back to 2006, will realign a portion of U.S. 24 and include road improvements between Bluff Street and Spring Valley Court.

<http://www.jonline.com/favicon.ico>

www.buildindianacouncil.org