



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

September 20, 2011

Top INDOT officials talk with company wanting to build Cline toll bridge

NWI.com

9/15/11

A day before a drop-dead deadline for proposals on replacing the Cline Avenue Bridge, top INDOT officials in Indianapolis met with a Florida company that wants to rebuild the condemned span as a toll bridge. "Basically, INDOT met with them today to better understand their proposal," INDOT spokesman Will Wingfield said Thursday. "That is really the only other proposal we have besides upgrading Riley and Dickey roads." The company making the proposal was American Bridge Partners, which is allied with the FIGG Group, of Tallahassee, Fla., Wingfield said. The Indiana Department of Transportation's point man on Cline Avenue, Bob Zier, was at the meeting, Wingfield said. The agency now will review the proposal and keep the public updated and informed of any progress, he said. http://www.nwitimes.com/business/local/article_5dc40f1a-f25a-523b-8c56-c4b9a61ff8b0.html

Road projects may close major routes simultaneously

Clarion

9/15/11

PRINCETON-Princeton Mayor Bob Hurst said Thursday he's concerned about an Indiana Dept. of Transportation project that might close Ind. 65 on the city's north end, possibly around the same time the Brumfield overpass may be closed to traffic for repairs. Hurst said INDOT plans to install a turn lane in the front of the new high school on the west side of the highway as part of the construction project. North Gibson School Corp. got approval for part of the project to be funded with excess Tax Increment Financing revenue available through the Gibson County Redevelopment board. At the time of the request two weeks ago, school board president Mark lunghuhn said the scope of the work - particularly, whether a small bridge would be replaced or rehabilitated - was still being negotiated with INDOT. [Road projects may close major routes simultaneously - Princeton Daily Clarion: Pdclarion](#)

NASH: Let's put the bridge closure in perspective

News and Tribune

9/15/11

SOUTHERN INDIANA — A week has gone by since the Sherman Minton Bridge was closed, and now they are saying it is possible that it may not be open for quite some time. It was reported that it will take up to three weeks just to inspect the entire span and repair estimates range from a few weeks to six months to several years depending on the extent of the damage. There is a lot of speculation of what could happen, but it is clear that nobody knows for sure. The most important

thing to consider is this is not the end of the world. While it may be the end of the world as we knew it, we will survive just by making a few changes in our everyday lives.

<http://newsandtribune.com/opinion/x1700247665/NASH-Let-s-put-the-bridge-closure-in-perspective>

Our view: President's jobs plan has merit

Post-Tribune

9/17/11

State Rep. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso, made an interesting point last week when he addressed the Winfield-Lakes of the Four Seasons Chamber of Commerce. Soliday said it could be a "long time" before the state agrees to finance the widening of 109th Avenue from the Lake-Porter county line to the new intersection at Interstate 65. He had the same prediction about rebuilding the Cline Avenue bridge. Soliday said infrastructure demands statewide are overwhelming, while funding falls far short of the need.

<http://posttrib.suntimes.com/opinions/7661709-474/our-view-presidents-jobs-plan-has-merit.html>

Lawmakers pledge aid to reopen bridge

The Indianapolis Star

9/18/11

LOUISVILLE, Ky. -- Members of Kentucky's and Indiana's congressional delegations pledged federal assistance Saturday for reopening a key Ohio River bridge once engineers determine what's needed to repair defects found in the nearly 50-year-old steel span. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., joined U.S. Reps. John Yarmuth, D-Ky., and Todd Young, R-Ind., in touring the damaged portion of the Sherman Minton Bridge. Afterward, they said it would take engineers another two weeks to thoroughly assess the bridge's condition. [Lawmakers pledge aid to reopen bridge | The Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

Major Moves aside, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels not a fan of Obama's infrastructure plan

Evansville Courier & Press

9/18/11

INDIANAPOLIS —We will add hundreds of miles of roads, assets we never would have had otherwise, to our public works inventory. A new construction record will be set every year for the next decade, with thousands of new jobs attached to each year's record." The quote sounds remarkably like President Barack Obama's recent pitch for billions of dollars in road and bridge rehabilitation to spur job growth. But it actually came from Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels as he basked in the \$3.8 billion leasing of the Indiana Toll Road in his 2007 State of the State speech. When Daniels was lobbying for the measure in 2006, he called it "the jobs vote of a generation." Now Obama is touring the nation lobbying for a similar infusion of government spending to pay for roads and bridges, school buildings and teachers and firefighters. [Major Moves aside, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels not a fan of Obama's infrastructure plan » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

Meeting to key on 4 bridges coming to Keystone Parkway

The Indianapolis Star

9/19/11

The anticipated traffic nightmare in Hamilton County is fast approaching. State transportation officials say that beginning next spring, sections of Keystone Parkway near U.S. 31 in Carmel will be closed as the state builds four new bridges -- part of the U.S. 31 project in Carmel and Westfield. The Indiana Department of Transportation will have an open house Wednesday at

Westfield Middle School to share more information on the 13-mile corridor upgrade, which in the end will transform the four-lane highway -- riddled with traffic signals and known for congestion and long backups during rush-hour -- into a free-flowing interstate-type highway with interchanges. <http://www.indystar.com/article/20110919/LOCAL01/110919022/Meeting-key-4-bridges-coming-Keystone-Pkwy?odyssey=nav%7Chead> Also, [Keystone Pkwy. closures needed for U.S. 31 construction - fox59.com](#)

Sherman Minton not the only shaky bridge in Indiana

News and Tribune

9/19/11

INDIANAPOLIS — The Sherman Minton Bridge on Interstate 64 that spans the Ohio River between New Albany and Louisville isn't the only Indiana bridge that may be a little shaky. Federal records show that up to 18 percent of Indiana's highway bridges are in less-than-satisfactory shape. Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels ordered the 50-year-old Sherman Minton Bridge closed two weeks ago after inspectors found cracks in the steel span. Inspectors say, though, the other major paths across the Ohio River, including those that link Evansville and Henderson, Ky., via U.S. 41 and the other two bridges in the Louisville area, are sound. But many of those looked at through routine every-other-year inspections are aging. Indiana has 2,591 highway bridges. Of those, 146 were rated "structurally deficient" and 323 earned a "functionally obsolete" rating, according to December 2010 statistics compiled by the Federal Highway Administration. <http://newsandtribune.com/local/x7813323/Sherman-Minton-not-the-only-shaky-bridge-in-Indiana>

Valpo OKs funding for North Coast road, utilities

ValpoCommunity.com

9/19/11

VALPARAISO | The price was right for the city's Redevelopment Commission to move ahead with buying about two acres and building a frontage road and utilities extensions for the North Coast Distributing site. The commission approved funding last week for a contract with DeBoer Egolf, of Portage, to building the 1,200-foot frontage road parallel to the west side of the Ind. 49 bypass, adjacent to the 35-acre North Coast site. The road will exit onto Ind. 49 across from the Bertholet Boulevard entrance to the Porter County Sheriff's Department. Bids for the road and utilities extensions were opened Sept. 8 during the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting. All bids were below the \$940,000 estimate by GAI Consultants, and DeBoer Egolf's bid of \$636,979 was lowest. City Engineering Director Tim Burkman said GAI included a \$200,000 contingency amount in its estimate that somewhat inflated the figure. http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/porter/valparaiso/article_e0b3ca6a-c2aa-5915-bcbb-4d9fbbfca3aa.html

I-70 pavement project moves into new phase of work to west

Banner Graphic

9/19/11

The ongoing Interstate 70 pavement rehabilitation project moves into its third phase this week, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) announced. The section of the patch and rehabilitation project that runs from the Wabash River Bridge at the Indiana-Illinois state line east to State Road 59 is scheduled to begin construction on or after Monday, Sept. 19. Wabash Valley Asphalt officials said they will begin in the eastbound lanes first but will also begin restricting westbound traffic in the right lane while crews strengthen the median shoulders. The project will reduce the interstate to one lane in a four-mile work zone 24 hours a day, except for most of the weekend. The work schedule will be from 9 p.m. on Sunday until noon on Friday during the construction. The western leg of the I-70 project is scheduled for completion on Aug. 31, 2012.

This phase of the project was awarded to Wabash Valley Asphalt for \$4.3 million. [Greencastle Banner-Graphic: Local News: I-70 pavement project moves into new phase of work to west \(09/19/11\)](#)

Are hundreds of Indiana's key bridges wearing out?

The Indianapolis Star
9/20/11

It normally buzzes with traffic, carrying 80,000 cars and trucks a day over the Ohio River between Southern Indiana and Louisville, Ky. It's definitely the bridge to somewhere. But since Gov. Mitch Daniels ordered the six-lane I-64 bridge closed Sept. 9, shortly after inspectors found cracks in two critical support beams, it's been the bridge to nowhere, and motorists have been fuming as they look for alternative routes across the Ohio River. Bearing the brunt: the nearby I-65 bridge, where all the extra traffic is adding delays of an hour or more, especially on the southbound lanes into Louisville during the morning rush hour. [Are hundreds of Indiana's key bridges wearing out? | The Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

www.buildindianacouncil.org