



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

November 1, 2011

Next governor likely to complete Interstate 69

The Star Press
10/27/11

It's not as if they don't have paved streets and roads in Bloomington and Monroe County. It's not as if construction has not begun on Interstate 69, which will run from Evansville to Indianapolis and will add two miles of pavement to Monroe County. And it's not as if the route was not subjected to a comprehensive environmental study years ago. If all of those circumstances were the reverse of reality, then the folks in Bloomington-Monroe County who are blocking I-69 on a technicality might have some rational standing to try and stop the highway. But they don't. Then-Gov. Frank O'Bannon subjected the Evansville-to-Indianapolis proposal to one of the most exhausting environmental impact studies ever conducted in the United States, before finally selecting the route that adds those two miles to Monroe County. [Next governor likely to complete Interstate 69 | The Star Press | thestarpress.com](#)

INDOT doesn't want New Harmony bridge

Evansville Courier & Press
10/27/11

INDIANAPOLIS —The Indiana Department of Transportation won't take over maintenance of the aging Wabash River bridge at New Harmony, Ind., but is offering to help the private group that runs it move forward with more than \$8 million in needed repairs. Options include converting the bridge into a public or nonprofit entity to apply for grants, as well as having Posey County take over some additional roadways from the state to get more cash, and adopting a new method for collecting tolls. The 80-year-old toll bridge that links New Harmony and Southern Illinois is run by the White County Bridge Commission, a private three-member panel created by Congress. Because of that ownership status, the bridge isn't eligible for many grants. But by becoming a public or nonprofit bridge, it could compete for INDOT, Indiana Department of Natural Resources and National Park Service grants totaling \$6.52 million. That would get the New Harmony bridge close to the \$8.4 million that White County Bridge Commission member David Rice has estimated it needs in repairs. [INDOT doesn't want New Harmony bridge » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

New Madison Bridge moving forward

WDRB.com
10/28/11

Madison, IN (WDRB News) --While construction of the Ohio River Bridges project in Louisville won't get underway until at least next August, there is a bridge construction underway in the region. In Milton, Kentucky, across the Ohio River from Madison, Indiana, construction crews are building the steel truss of the new bridge on a barge out in the river. That truss will eventually be

lifted onto temporary piers. "It can be cables or some sort of hydraulics," says Aaron Stover, of Michael Baker, Jr. Inc., "that actually lifts the truss; it will rise from the water to the top of the temporary towers where it will rest." There is a lot of activity at the site, where the old bridge remains open to traffic. Crews are working 50 feet in the air on the new truss. Colder winter temperatures are not expected to have a major impact on the construction. "If you have frozen precipitation on the steel there is only so much work you can do," explains Doug Vanslambrook of the Walsh Construction Company, "so occasionally you will be impacted and may have to wait a couple of hours in the morning until the precipitation has a chance to thaw" [New Madison Bridge moving forward - WDRB 41 Louisville - News, Weather, Sports Community](#)

Bridge Work Snarls Traffic In Hamilton County Beams Being Installed Over U.S. 31 At SR 38

The Indy Channel
10/31/11

HAMILTON COUNTY, Ind. -- Installing beams for a new bridge over U.S. 31 is creating traffic troubles in Hamilton County. The first five of 10 concrete beams that will span 31 at State Road 38 arrived Monday, with the final five expected to be delivered Tuesday, RTV6's Stacia Matthews reported. Drivers approaching the intersection when the 115-foot-long, 66,000-pound beams arrive will have to wait up to 20 minutes for crews to put them in place. U.S. 31 is getting a face lift to make it an interstate-style highway in an effort to save time, reduce congestion and improve safety. Eventually, there will be twin bridges at the intersection, but crews are rushing to get the northbound bridge finished now.

<http://www.theindychannel.com/news/29642048/detail.html>

Nation needs long-term plan to pay for roads

The Indianapolis Star
10/31/11

Indiana has earned the designation as the Crossroads of America because of its considerable network of roads, bridges and highways. But without a long-term plan for funding the nation's transportation infrastructure, what the state has spent decades building could be in jeopardy. The 18.4 cents-per-gallon federal fuel tax, which makes up the majority of federal transportation funding, isn't tied to inflation and hasn't increased since 1993. As fuel consumption decreases and construction costs rise, the fuel tax has become a strained funding source for our national transportation network. Indiana needs a forward-looking solution that establishes guaranteed funding that logistics and construction firms need before hiring new workers or breaking ground on major projects. Although funding may be inadequate, we will not make up for years of underfunding, diversions and the approval process overnight. We need a clear path that will strengthen our infrastructure investment in a fiscally responsible way while exploring all options.

[Nation needs long-term plan to pay for roads | The Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)