



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

**November 3, 2011**

### **Castleton Construction To Be Painful, But Quick Allisonville Bridge Replacement To Take 3 To 4 Months**

The Indy Channel  
11/1/11

INDIANAPOLIS -- The long-awaited closing of the Allisonville Road bridge over Interstate 465 will be painful for drivers, but relatively quick, transportation officials said. The Indiana Department of Transportation on Tuesday awarded the \$19 million contract to Walsh Construction and said construction will begin sometime after March 1. INDOT could have chosen to leave the bridge partially open during construction, but that would have taken much longer. So officials opted for a complete shutdown, which will let the contractor finish the job in three to four months, similar to Hyperfix and Super 70 projects in years past.

<http://www.theindychannel.com/news/29654686/detail.html> Also, [Allisonville/I-465 bridge closing shortened | The Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

### **EDITORIAL: Standoff cleared for Bloomington on Interstate 69**

Evansville Courier & Press  
11/1/11

The great Interstate 69 standoff in Bloomington has been resolved, not by local planners there coming to their senses, but by a federal transportation official who clarified the rules. Eric Bradner of the Courier & Press Indianapolis Bureau reported Friday that an official with the Federal Highway Administration has informed the Bloomington/Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization that it cannot block construction of a two-mile stretch of the Evansville-to-Indianapolis highway that will pass through its jurisdiction. The only catch for the Indiana Department of Transportation which is overseeing construction of the 142-mile highway is that it cannot use federal funds for the two miles. But, as Bradner pointed out, that's hardly a deal-breaker for the highway project, which is expected to cost some \$2 billion when completed. The two miles in question are part of the \$387 million Crane-to-Bloomington section.

[EDITORIAL: Standoff cleared for Bloomington on Interstate 69 » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

### **Bucshon proposal would allow access to federal dollars in transportation crisis**

Evansville Courier & Press  
11/2/11

INDIANAPOLIS —U.S. Rep. Larry Bucshon is set to push a measure that would give states more flexibility to spend federal transportation dollars in emergencies. The freshman Republican from Newburgh said Wednesday that he plans to introduce a bill that would give states a way forward in situations like the Sherman Minton Bridge closure, without having to ask Congress for extra

cash. He introduced what he's titled the "State Transportation Emergency Flexibility Act of 2011" on Tuesday, and said he hopes the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, of which he is Indiana's only member, will take it up soon. "We need to provide governors the ability to react quickly to their state-specific emergencies with resources that should be already available," Bucshon said. States already receive funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Indiana gets about \$1 billion each year. But much of that money comes with strings attached, requiring it to be spent on certain items.

[http://www.courierpress.com/news/2011/nov/02/no-headline---ev\\_bucshon-bridges/](http://www.courierpress.com/news/2011/nov/02/no-headline---ev_bucshon-bridges/)

### **Obama urges Congress to pass \$50 billion transportation measure to help construction workers**

Daily Reporter

11/2/11

WASHINGTON — Pressing for passage of the transportation piece of his stalled jobs bill, President Barack Obama suggested Wednesday that lawmakers are out of touch and urged them to fall in line with the big majority of the public he said supports him. Even God wants to see the unemployed put back to work, he said. Obama said the nation's aging transportation network costs U.S. businesses and families about \$130 billion a year, a sum he was a tax and a drag on the economy. Failing to upgrade the network could cost the U.S. hundreds of billions dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs by the end of the decade, he said. The Senate plans to vote Thursday on whether to take up the measure — \$50 billion for road, bridge and other repairs and \$10 billion to attract private money to help finance such projects. Obama said the measure would help get some of the more than 1 million unemployed construction workers back on the job.

[Obama urges Congress to pass \\$50 billion transportation measure to help construction workers](#)

Also, [Senate to block competing infrastructure plans as quarrel continues over Obama jobs plan | The Republic](#)

### **EDITORIAL: Indiana offers a plan to keep bridge open**

Evansville Courier & Press

11/2/11

For the first time in recent memory, an entity — any entity outside the White River Bridge Commission — is thinking positively about a way to save the little bridge of big importance in New Harmony from having to close down. No, the Indiana Department of Transportation is not offering to buy and maintain the bridge over the Wabash River — no one is — but at least the Indiana agency has an idea for how it might be saved. As we have repeated here a number of times, the management of the bridge is based on a rather bizarre law. In 1941, Congress created the White River Bridge Commission to own and operate the bridge, but in 1998, the Congress eliminated from the law a provision for commission appointments. That means if any of the members resign or pass away, there is no provision under law to appoint successors. If the bridge loses the three, it will sit without an owner or manager, there to be closed, we would presume. Because neither the states of Indiana or Illinois own the bridge — nor want to — it is left to the private commission of local officials to collect tolls. [EDITORIAL: Indiana offers a plan to keep bridge open »](#)

[Evansville Courier & Press](#)

### **White House touts 'Fort to Port' project**

The Journal Gazette

11/3/11

FORT WAYNE – The White House is touting “Fort to Port” as it tries to build congressional support for part of the American Jobs Act. The widening of U.S. 24 between Fort Wayne and Toledo, a port city on Lake Erie, is among 17 projects nationwide the Obama administration cites

as recent examples of transportation infrastructure improvements “that have substantial economic benefits.” President Obama seeks \$50 billion for highway, rail and airport projects over the next decade, plus \$10 billion for an “infrastructure bank,” as part of his job-creation proposal. During a speech in Washington on Wednesday, he said the criteria for funding future infrastructure projects will be “how badly they are needed and how much good they’ll do for the economy.” A report issued by the White House on Wednesday said U.S. 24 “has become a critical shipping route, with trucks representing a third of the overall traffic.” Its widening “will alleviate safety concerns about the mixture of truck traffic and residential travel,” the report said. The \$590 million project, which will expand about 70 miles of U.S. 24 from two travel lanes to four, began in 2008 and is expected to be completed late next year. U.S. 24 “is a major transportation corridor linking agricultural and industrial areas,” the White House report said, identifying the corridor as Fort Wayne, Toledo, Detroit and Ontario. [White House touts ‘Fort to Port’ project | The Journal Gazette | Fort Wayne, IN](#) Also, [White House Report Highlights Fort to Port - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

**Lima Road done, almost  
Governor on hand to mark wrap-up of widening project**

The Journal Gazette  
11/3/11

FORT WAYNE – The ribbon was cut, but the barrels remain – at least for now. Gov. Mitch Daniels and other officials celebrated the opening of Lima Road/Indiana 3 on Wednesday, but long-suffering drivers could be forgiven if they didn’t notice a big change in their commute. Orange barrels still blocked several travel lanes on Lima, crews were still laying asphalt, and some median work remained. The good news for motorists is that they should experience some relief on the heavily congested thoroughfare soon, maybe even by this afternoon. Bob Alderman, district director for the Indiana Department of Transportation, said Wednesday’s event was scheduled several weeks ago, but some of the work on the \$33 million expansion of Lima was since delayed. If the weather holds, Alderman said, striping crews will begin laying road markings today, which could allow the state to open travel lanes for motorists by the afternoon. <http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20111103/LOCAL/311039961>

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