



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

January 18, 2010

Road projects don't help unemployment
The NWI Times
Matt Apuzzo and Brett Blackledge
1/17/10

WASHINGTON | Ten months into President Barack Obama's first economic stimulus plan, a surge in spending on roads and bridges has had no effect on local unemployment and only barely helped the beleaguered construction industry, an Associated Press analysis has found. Spend a lot or spend nothing at all, it didn't matter, the AP analysis showed: Local unemployment rates rose and fell regardless of how much stimulus money Washington poured out for transportation, raising questions about Obama's argument that more road money would address an "urgent need to accelerate job growth." Obama wants a second stimulus bill from Congress that relies in part on more road and bridge spending, projects the president said are "at the heart of our effort to accelerate job growth." http://nwitimes.com/business/local/article_834603a0-73ce-5ac1-9407-d1cc8af6a9f2.html

More traffic tie-ups
With U.S. 40 torn apart, bids opened for bridge over railroad
Palladium-Item
Pam Tharp
1/16/10

West-side Richmond traffic patterns will change again when construction begins on a new bridge on North West Fifth Street. The Indiana Department of Transportation opened bids for the bridge over the Norfolk and Southern Railroad this week, Wayne County engineer A.J. Wortkoetter said. The state will pay 80 percent of the project's cost, he said. Beaty Construction Inc. of Boggs town was the apparent low bidder for the bridge work with a bid of \$2.2 million. INDOT will review all eight bids before awarding the contract later this month, INDOT spokesman Harry Maginity said. Seven of the eight bids were below the engineer's estimate, he said. The new structure, designed by Farrar Garvey and Associates, replaces the 1935 bridge near North West J Street. The 75-year-old bridge has structural issues, Wortkoetter said. <http://www.palladium-item.com/article/20100116/NEWS01/1160302>

Leesburg Road Bridge Closed Until May
Indiana's News Center
Krystal Shull
1/17/10

FORT WAYNE, Ind - The Allen County Highway Department announced that the Leesburg Road Bridge over the Seegar Ditch will be closed beginning Monday, January 18, as work begins to replace the 45-year-old structure. Leesburg Road will be closed between O'Day Road and Flaugh Road during the construction, which is expected to be completed in mid-May. The project consists of removing the existing bridge originally constructed in 1965 and replacing it with a new three-span bridge 60 and a half feet long and 32 feet wide. New pavement approaches will also be constructed. RL McCoy, Inc. will perform the construction work.

<http://www.indianasnewscenter.com/news/local/81919632.html>

Fort Wayne Residents Rally For High-Speed Passenger Rail

Indiana's News Center

John Davis

1/16/10

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (Indiana's NewsCenter) – Hundreds of Hoosiers rallied Saturday afternoon in downtown Fort Wayne in support of bringing high-speed passenger rail service to the Summit City. Organizers from the Northeast Indiana Passenger Rail Association held the rally at the historic Baker Street Train Station. Meanwhile, the proposed line supported by NIPRA would travel east to west from Cleveland to Toledo, to Fort Wayne and on to Chicago. The Indiana Department of Transportation has already applied for a 2.8 billion dollar grant to get the project rolling.

<http://www.indianasnewscenter.com/news/local/81895302.html>

Deadline nears for bridge grant notification

The Madison Courier

1/16/10

The U.S. Department of Transportation has received requests for about \$58 billion to pay for projects with federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grants. The Madison-Milton bridge project is among those requests. Kentucky and Indiana are asking for \$95 million to help pay for the \$131 million project that would place a new superstructure on existing piers that would be upgraded to support the new bridge. But the federal government has only \$1.5 billion to spend - about \$30 million per state, if the money is divided evenly among the states making requests. "We don't know how we can build the bridge without the TIGER grant," said John Carr, Madison-Milton bridge project manager. "We may have to close the bridge if we cannot get a new one built." Carr said the local bridge project is just what President Barack Obama had in mind when he announced that American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding would be available for the transportation projects. Carr said Obama was targeting bridges when he announced the grant last year. The president also wanted projects that would make a difference in the lives of those in the community and that would put people back to work.

<http://madisoncourier.com/main.asp?SectionID=178&SubSectionID=286&ArticleID=54840>

Construction closes bridges over I-465 through June

WTHR

1/18/10

Indianapolis - Construction along a busy Indianapolis interstate means closures for two bridges. The Westfield and River Road bridges over I-465 are closing Monday and that means drivers will have to find alternate routes. On Average, about 13,600 drivers use the River Road bridge each day, to cross I-465, access office parks and get to Keystone at the

Crossing. 10,300 drivers use the Westfield Boulevard bridge daily. The bridges must be demolished and rebuilt to accommodate the widening of I-465 underneath from US 31 to Allisonville. It's the first phase of a much larger, \$434 million Major Moves project, that will widen and improve interchanges along the north and northeast corridors of I-465 and I-69. <http://www.wthr.com/global/story.asp?s=11838295>

Also, <http://www.theindychannel.com/news/22261079/detail.html>

I-69's wrong-way funding: Money could be better spent

The Indianapolis Star

1/17/10

In the next four years, Gov. Mitch Daniels and the Department of Transportation plan to spend between \$830 million and \$1 billion on the first three sections of I-69 extension in Southwest Indiana. The entire project is estimated to cost more than \$3 billion. Meanwhile, the state is cutting the budgets for all levels of education, police, health and environmental programs, youth bureaus, the arts and all state agencies.

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20101170338>

www.buildindianacouncil.org