



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

January 29, 2010

'Jobs bill' may impact local projects
The News and Tribune
Braden Lammers
1/28/10

In President Barack Obama's State of the Union address Wednesday night, the economy, and how to revive it, took center stage. Obama announced that he wants to initiate another round of stimulus, this time in the form of a "jobs bill", as an answer to the economic crisis in the country. The bill — H.R. 2847 — has cleared the House of Representatives, but it still must pass the Senate before it is enacted, and would provide additional funding to states and major metropolitan areas for federal-aided highway projects, according to a letter addressed to the Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency, from Federal Highway Administration officials from Indiana and Kentucky. If the bill passes, it will have a major impact locally, especially on transportation projects.
http://www.newsandtribune.com/local/local_story_028214646.html

Visclosky lauds high speed rail funding
Chesterton Tribune
1/28/10

U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky, D-1st, released the following statement following President Obama's announcement on Tuesday of a \$71,364,980 stimulus-fund award for the construction of high-speed rail in Northwest Indiana. "This investment in high-speed rail will create jobs in Northwest Indiana and stimulate economic activity into the future," Visclosky said. "Bringing high-speed rail to our area will connect us with cities across the Midwest, enhancing our economic infrastructure and improving energy efficiency and environmental quality. I commend the Obama Administration on recognizing the potential of high-speed rail in Northwest Indiana and throughout the Midwest, and look forward to watching local workers turn this vision into a reality."
http://www.chestertontribune.com/Northwest%20Indiana/128109%20visclosky_lauds_high_speed_rail.htm
Also, <http://www.ibj.com/federal-highspeed-rail-grants-exclude-big-indiana-proposal/PARAMS/article/16061>

Trades council submits resolution to rebuild Cline Ave. bridge
The NWI Times
1/29/10

The Northwestern Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council passed a resolution Tuesday in support of rebuilding of the Cline Avenue bridge. The resolution called the bridge "vital to the economic welfare" of the region and the more than 20,000 members of the council. The resolution also said the bridge serves to remove trucks from residential streets and from becoming an impediment to public

services. Besides the council, other bodies such as the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority Board of Directors also passed resolutions supporting construction of a new bridge.
http://nwitimes.com/business/local/article_ac2c71b9-1224-5b45-bc0d-769f3e259eeb.html

I-69 change benefits public, private sector
The News-Sentinel
Kevin Leininger
1/28/10

According to the area's long-range transportation plan, Interstate 69 in northern Allen County isn't supposed to receive a new interchange for at least another 20 years, at Gump and Hursh roads. So why is the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) apparently considering fast-tracking a very expensive interchange 1.5 miles to the south at Union Chapel Road - a decision that could be influenced by the promise of millions of dollars from a major local employer? To some, the possibility will reflect the abandonment or failure of the traditional planning process, which identifies and approves projects years and even decades in advance, and only after various agencies have declared the work technically feasible and financially sound. Despite the recent surprise presence of survey crews near I-69 and Union Chapel Road, that simply hasn't happened. <http://www.news-sentinel.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100128/NEWS/1280342>

No rail money for city
Local advocates still upbeat as federal grants go elsewhere
Fort Wayne Journal Gazette
1/29/10

A planned high-speed rail route through Fort Wayne failed to receive federal money Thursday, but advocates said the dream is not dead. The White House announced the winners of \$8 billion in grants to spur both the economy and rail access across the country. California, Florida and Illinois were among the big winners, but Indiana received \$71.4 million to fix chronic problems in its northwest corner. The state, along with Ohio and Illinois, sought money for a \$2.8 billion passenger rail line connecting Chicago with Cleveland, with one of two possible routes coming through Fort Wayne. That proposal received no money. <http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20100129/LOCAL/301299963/-1/local11>
Also, <http://www.southbendtribune.com/article/20100128/News01/100129382&template=247art>

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