



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

January 4, 2010

Mayors: 'We need to get Cline rebuilt'
Post-Tribune
Chelsea Schneider
1/1/10

Re-engineering the Cline Avenue bridge as a lower expense and hiring a regional traffic consultant are highlights of a plan released Thursday by local government officials and business leaders. The plan drafted by the mayors of Hammond, East Chicago and Whiting, along with the Northwestern Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council, details proposals the leaders will send to the Indiana Department of Transportation regarding the beleaguered Cline Avenue bridge. "We know there is a situation that needs a short-term fix, and we are willing to cooperate and work within that to be sure that we find those routes and do what we need to do to accommodate traffic," Whiting Mayor Joe Stahura said. "We are very clear that replacing the existing bridge is difficult and costly. We feel there are many options to look into and research to dramatically reduce the cost of replacement." <http://www.post-trib.com/news/1968251.clinemeeting0101.article>
Also, <http://www.post-trib.com/news/opinion/1967933.murchek0103.article>
Also, <http://www.post-trib.com/news/1970461.cline-folo0103.article>

AN UNENVIABLE TASK AT HAND: Ohio River Bridges project impact will be felt across region
The News and Tribune
Braden Lammers
1/2/10

Entering into the New Year offers most a chance to make a resolution or to start fresh, but for the Ohio River Bridges project it looks to be more of the same. Delays, conflict over which plan to adopt, how to pay for two new bridges across the Ohio River and a redesign of Spaghetti Junction, while dealing with two state bureaucracies, were all contributing elements in developing a bi-state authority to help streamline the convoluted process. Despite moving forward by naming the members of the bi-state authority for Indiana and Kentucky, the task the individuals have been saddled with carries with it the possibility of several negative impacts on the region and seemingly the only positive regional impact being the long-awaited bridges will finally be built. http://www.news-tribune.net/homepage/local_story_002195313.html?keyword=leadpicturestory

Local project lists grow while tax forecasts shrink
The Truth Newspaper
1/3/10

With tax revenue expected to shrink, preparation of next year's budgets will weigh heavily on Elkhart County's cities, schools and other governmental units in 2010. That'll hardly be the only issue, though. Elkhart County is mulling construction of a new \$3 million juvenile detention facility and the Six Span and Johnson Street bridge upgrades continue, disrupting life for some motorists. Here's a rundown of some of the bigger issues and projects to look forward to this year:

<http://www.etruth.com/Know/News/Story.aspx?id=502118>

Boston Street project to begin

Herald Argus

1/1/10

LA PORTE — The first phase of the Boston Street project will begin on or around Jan. 4, during which a portion of the roadway will be closed for about six months. Phase 1 of the project includes closing Bach Street from Belden Street to Larson Street and closing Boston Street from Bach Street to Factory Street. Alternative routes will be clearly marked. The project will widen Boston Street south of the railroad, smooth out the intersection of Boston and Bach streets and reconstruct the existing roadway north of Bach Street. Construction will be done in three phases.

<http://heraldargus.com/articles/2010/01/02/news/local/doc4b3ebfdf4fb38920955297.txt>

Boonville Bypass pushed an additional three years

Warrick Publishing

1/1/10

I cannot begin to tell you how disappointed I was when the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) informed me that the proposed S.R. 61 Connector (the Boonville Bypass) was going to be moved back on its schedule, delaying work on the project for another three years. To be sure, there were other projects that faced the same knife blade, but none that had the potential to save a community from the dirt, safety and pounding from hundreds of coal trucks every hour of the day. During debate on Gov. Daniels' Major Moves program in 2005, INDOT officials said there would be changes in the way that road projects were being done in Indiana. Using a point system to determine the importance of each and every project, INDOT would create a "real" 10-year plan. Once your project was in the plan, you had every right to expect that your road would be built. When I reviewed this new point system, I immediately noticed the Boonville Bypass was graded incorrectly. Boonville Mayor Pam Hendrickson and I met with INDOT officials. After another review of the factors surrounding the need for this project - including patterns of vehicle movements on S.R. 61 and the amount of coal truck traffic - the Connector was moved up on the schedule. Engineering and public hearings were to be completed in 2009, followed by right of way transactions and a construction start date in 2013.

http://www.tristate-media.com/warrick/opinion/editorials/article_0cc9f74c-f560-11de-9567-001cc4c03286.html

Key 2010 stories familiar

Evansville Courier & Press

12/31/09

INDIANAPOLIS — Events of this year literally will change the landscape of Southwestern Indiana. INTERSTATE 69 - Citing construction costs driven lower by the recession, Gov. Mitch Daniels' administration is accelerating work on the 142-mile extension of Interstate 69 from Indianapolis to Evansville. With work on the first of six sections already under

way, the state is wrapping up planning on the next two sections. Daniels hopes to see construction finished on the first three sections by the time a new governor is elected in 2012. Most of 2010 will be spent acquiring right of way, securing environmental permits and getting construction contracts signed. That will lead to two years of laying pavement that leads to the Crane warfare center in Martin County.

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2009/dec/31/key-stories-familiar/>

www.buildindianacouncil.org