



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

February 2, 2010

Eminent domain issues linger over Woodlands Park
Property owner claims public safety compromised by access road
The News and Tribune
Daniel Suddeath
6/30/10

New Albany-Floyd County Parks Department attorney Rick Fox renewed a motion last week calling for the courts to appoint appraisers to determine value of land over a contested eminent domain case. David Lind is one of several property owners opposed to the construction of an access road from Budd Road to what is planned to be Woodlands Park. As designed, the road would provide pedestrian access to the nature reserve from a parking lot several hundred feet away. It would be paved, with 4 feet designated for walkers and 6 feet for vehicles. It's a gravel path right now, but Lind said paving it would decrease its size and make it dangerous. There wouldn't be enough space for pedestrians and large trucks to share, as the surrounding woods are logged resulting in transport vehicles frequently on the road, Lind said. http://www.news-tribune.net/floydcounty/local_story_030191611.html

Debate reignites after South Bend road widening project given green light
South Bend Tribune
Troy Kehoe
1/29/10

SOUTH BEND — Debate is heating up again over a long awaited road expansion project in South Bend after word that the final hurdle to build it has now been cleared. This spring, crews will break ground on a one mile stretch of Miami Street just South of the Bypass, widening it from two to four lanes. But, some living nearby say the expansion is "overkill." South Bend based Rieth-Riley Construction was awarded a \$3.9 million contract for the project on Friday. Bids went out for it on Wednesday. For the last few decades, traffic volume along Miami Street from Jackson Street to Kern Road has slowly grown. Statistics from city engineers show the road now supports up to 12,000 vehicles a day. During particularly busy periods, the road can see up to 800 cars an hour. <http://www.wsbt.com/news/local/83089017.html>

Bridge update
Fort Wayne Journal Gazette
Benjamin Lanka
1/30/10

Plans for Clinton Street's new Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Bridge over the St. Marys River are nearly complete and have been sent to the state for review. Dave Ross, city engineer, said the multimillion-dollar project should be put to bid in May. The city parks board this week approved a plan

to use some park land to gain access to the work site, though no land will be permanently required. He said a formal presentation of the bridge's final design will be made in early spring.
<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20100130/LOCAL0203/301309974/1002/LOCAL>

Fall in gas-tax funds pinches rural paving
Fort Wayne Journal Gazette
Amanda Iacone
1/31/10

Shrinking gas-tax revenues across the state will mean fewer gravel roads will be paved and northeast Indiana roads in general will receive less maintenance this summer. Some counties say they could be a few years away from switching roughly paved roads back to gravel because of a chronic lack of money. Allen County, however, has seen its budget increase and plans to pave more county roads. Rural county highway departments rely almost exclusively on the state's gas-tax revenue and related state motor vehicle fees. Since 2005, that revenue has declined, with last year falling well below 2003 levels. That means less money to spread among cities, towns, counties and several statewide agencies, according to the state auditor's office.
<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20100131/LOCAL/301319908/1002/LOCAL>

Project will give U.S. 33 drivers a real turning point
The Truth Newspaper
Tim Vandenack
1/29/10

Lewis Tippie, owner of a re-sale shop on U.S. 33, suspects congestion caused by the ongoing upgrade of the road is reducing traffic flow in front of his business. Still, he puts a positive spin on things. Traffic frequently has to slow to contend with the work, increasing the possibility that passing motorists see his Dunlap-area business, All Your Wants. U.S. 33, one of Elkhart County's busiest roads, is getting a new center turn lane from C.R. 15 north past Kulp Avenue, just south of U.S. 20. The \$10.38 million facelift will ultimately result in smoother traffic flow. The Elkhart County Sheriff's Department investigated 77 accidents in the U.S. 33 section in question between March 1 last year, when preliminary work started, and Thursday. That's up from 62 in the same period the year before.
<http://www.etruth.com/Know/News/Story.aspx?id=504257>

Much rides on Indiana's high-speed rail grant
Journal & Courier
Curt Slyder
1/30/10

Friends Mickey Dickinson of Lafayette and Jenn Hockema of West Lafayette sat in the Amtrak station at Riehle Plaza on Friday morning, waiting for the daily train that runs from Indianapolis to Chicago. It was more than an hour late, delayed by freight trains along the corridor. It was one day after President Barack Obama announced Indiana would receive \$71.4 million in stimulus funds to help develop high-speed rail in northwestern Indiana. But all that money will be used to upgrade tracks, crossovers and signals along the Indiana portion of the busy Detroit to Chicago rail corridor. The corridor from Indianapolis to Chicago is not included. According to the Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana is among eight Midwestern states proposing a high-speed rail system with trains running from 80 to 110 mph. The idea is to reduce travel times, increase the frequency of service and increase reliability and accessibility. <http://www.jconline.com/article/20100130/NEWS02/1300329>

Route chosen for 641 Bypass
WTHI

Dan Klein
1/30/10

The Indiana Department of Transportation has revealed the path they have chosen to connect the bypass to State Road 46, just south of Interstate 70. Plans will re-route Riley Road and U.S. 46 and will add two roundabouts to the traffic pattern. "It was very popular with all the public comments that we did receive from the hearing," said INDOT Spokesperson Debbie Calder. "So we took all that into account and I believe it's one that has the least environmental impact. So that was the line that was chosen." Calder said the roundabouts will provide better views for drivers and should help keep traffic moving. She believes Terre haute drivers will quickly get used to them.
<http://www.wthitv.com/dpp/news/641-bypass-route-chosen>

M'ville eyes funds for street paving
Post-Tribune
Karen Caffarini
2/1/10

MERRILLVILLE-- A second round of stimulus funding pending in Congress could pay for additional road paving this year, while the more extensive Mississippi Street project is moving closer to getting the funding it needs despite a temporary setback. Councilman Shawn Pettit, D-6th, said last week that funding similar to the \$900,000 received last year is expected again this year under the Jobs for Main Street initiative. He said the town will need to decide what paving projects it would allocate the money for in the event the funding is approved. On the downside, he told fellow councilmen at their regular meeting that \$1.2 million was taken from the more extensive Mississippi Street project and given to another town's project, which was ahead of Merrillville's on the priority list. <http://www.post-trib.com/news/lake/2021634,mvroads0201.article>

Keystone Parkway overpass wins national award
The Indianapolis Star
Chris Sikich
1/29/10

CARMEL -- Carmel's Keystone Parkway overpass at 106th Street has won the National Award of Excellence from the Portland Cement Association. The award recognized the bridge's creative, functional, aesthetic, sustainable and economic design. The award will be presented Feb. 25 during the association's Concrete Bridge Conference in Phoenix, Ariz. Indianapolis-based American Structurepoint designed the bridge. Construction on Keystone began in 2008 and intersections with 106th, 116th, 126th and 136th streets are now open. Construction has not yet begun at the last two intersections in the project, Carmel Drive and 131st Street. The city is paying for the \$112 million project with \$90 million in state funds, an \$11 million bond and interest.
<http://www.indystar.com/article/20100129/LOCAL0101/1290400/1150/local0101>

Stimulus money funds projects in Tippecanoe County
The Exponent
Jonathan Oskvarek
2/1/10

Stimulus money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, labeled by President Obama in his State of the Union address as pivotal to the economic rebound, makes several projects in the area possible. Tippecanoe County put its \$4.1 million of stimulus funds to use in starting projects long desired, but under-funded. John Thomas, assistant director of transportation on the Area Plan Commission, said stimulus funds made these projects a reality. After a highly regulated and successful bidding process, Thomas said \$5 million worth of projects have been planned. Most of the

transportation projects involve roadway paving.

http://www.purdueexponent.org/index.php/module/Section/section_id/?module=article&story_id=19652

Pioneer Drive project set to start; county stays with liability provider

The Pilot News

Rusty Nixon

2/2/10

PLYMOUTH — The clock is finally running on the Pioneer Drive project that will link SR 17 and US 30. While no dirt is actually being moved yet, members of DLZ Corporation — construction engineers for the project — came before the Marshall County Commissioners beginning their monthly updates on the project until its completion. Ron Wireman, the project manager, had nothing really to report other than saying that he expected some surveying and possibly tree clearing to begin soon. Rieth-Reilly will be the contractors for the project and it is expected they will begin to stage equipment in the area within the next week as well. Wireman said that the project would begin on the north end — near US 30 — but would quickly spread to all parts of the proposed road shortly thereafter.

<http://www.thepilotnews.com/content/view/148741/27/>

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