



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

March 2, 2010

House Approves Illiana Expressway Bill
Inside Indiana Business
2/26/10

The Indiana House of Representatives has passed legislation that would allow a public-private partnership to build a new interstate between Indiana and Illinois. The Illiana Expressway would link Interstate 65 in Lake County with Interstate 55 in Illinois. The measure provides the state the ability to contract with a private developer, who could operate the expressway as a toll road. A start date is tentatively set for 2017.

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/newsitem.asp?ID=40355>

Also, <http://www.post-trib.com/news/2070809,gailliana0226.article>

Replacement of Ind 49 bridges a step closer in Porter
Chesterton Tribune
Paulene Poparad
2/25/10

A consultant said Tuesday that the Indiana 49 replacement bridges over the South Shore tracks and U.S. 12 have been moved up to July bid-lettings. A new bridge over U.S. 20 at Indiana 49 will have bids let in May, A.J. Monroe of SEH Inc. told the Porter Town Council. But despite the busy construction season, Monroe said indications are Indiana 49 will remain open with some lanes left passable for local and visitor traffic. All construction related to the new bridges is slated for completion by May 31, 2011.

http://www.chestertontribune.com/Town%20of%20Porter/replacement_of_ind_49_bridges_a.htm

Jobs Bill Passes Senate
Indiana's News Center
Scott Sarvay
2/25/10

WASHINGTON (Indiana's NewsCenter) - The Senate has passed a \$15 billion bill to help create jobs. The proposal provides tax breaks to businesses that hire unemployed workers, as well as money for highways and mass transit. 13 Republicans joined Democrats in voting for the bill, which now heads to the House. Even though that chamber already passed a larger, \$155 billion jobs bill. The House will take up the Senate version to preserve highway construction funds.

<http://www.indianasnewscenter.com/news/local/85356532.html>

State Senate bill looks at keeping South Bend in the fast lane

WSBT
John Paul
2/25/10

SOUTH BEND — Indiana lawmakers are forcing the state's Department of Transportation to take a closer look at the benefits of a high-speed rail route through South Bend. A high-speed rail network between Cleveland and Chicago is on the fast track, and officials in South Bend hope the city is along for the ride. "With all the work we have at Ignition Park and Innovation Park and the Midwestern Institute for Nano-electronics Discovery, we have a real opportunity to create a high-tech corridor," said South Bend Mayor Stephen Luecke. When state officials applied for federal funding last year, their plans pumped the brakes on Luecke's efforts. While Fort Wayne was included on the route, South Bend and Elkhart County were not. With more federal money expected to be available next year, state leaders are working to put South Bend and Northern Indiana back on track. <http://www.wsbt.com/news/local/85424417.html>

Capital Avenue intersection issue on hold
South Bend Tribune
Jeff Parrott
2/25/10

A St. Joseph County judge Wednesday barred the state from closing off any Capital Avenue driveways or intersections until he rules on a lawsuit the city of Mishawaka and Memorial Health System have filed against the state. The dispute centers on the city's and Memorial's desire to see development of a new Evergreen Road, which would intersect Capital and align with the Toll Road's existing interchange at Capital. Memorial wants to develop the land, and the city seeks the property tax revenue from that development, along with other future commercial growth along the new road that would connect Capital with Fir Road, according to court records.
<http://www.southbendtribune.com/article/20100225/News01/100229583/-1/googleNews>

Could Ind. 5 be extended along 600-W?
The Star Press
2/25/10

YORKTOWN -- A group of residents from several small communities in Delaware and Grant counties are lobbying the state to extend Ind. 5 through several communities, including Yorktown. Under the proposal, the highway -- which now ends just south of Upland -- would continue south, following existing local roads, primarily Grant County Road 950-E and Delaware County Road 600-W through Upland, Matthews, Gaston and Yorktown, ending at Ind. 67. Proponents have held public meetings about the plan in Upland, Matthews and Gaston, and plan to have one in Yorktown in March.
<http://www.thestarpress.com/article/20100225/YOURTOWNS01/2250368>

Portion of Cumberland Ave. now closed
WLFI
Laura Kirtley
3/1/10

Cumberland Avenue from U.S. 52 to the Salem Courthouse Apartment complex is closed to traffic until mid-June. City Engineer Dave Buck said this is the first segment of the Cumberland Avenue Reconstruction Project. During construction, crews will install the city's first official roundabout. Roads and sidewalks will also be improved.
<http://www.wlfi.com/dpp/news/local/Portion-of-Cumberland-Ave-now-closed>
Also, <http://www.jconline.com/article/20100301/NEWS09/100301012>

116th over Keystone to close for 2 weeks
The Indianapolis Star
2/28/10

Carmel Work is ramping up again on Keystone Parkway. Keystone is down to one lane in each direction just north of Carmel Drive as crews install a culvert. Then beginning Wednesday, crews plan to close the 116th Street overpass for about two weeks to remove temporary pavement and complete other work. Construction on Keystone began in 2008, and intersections with 106th, 126th and 136th streets are now open. The work with 116th is nearly complete, and construction will begin this spring at the Carmel Drive and 131st Street intersections. Work on Carmel Drive is expected to start April 1 and last about five months. Work will begin on construction at 131st about April 15.

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20100228/LOCAL18/2280378/1001/news>

Congressional spat shuts down highway funding
The NWI Times
Keith Benman
3/1/10

A Congressional impasse over federal highway funding should not affect highway projects in Indiana unless the dispute becomes a prolonged one, according to the Indiana Department of Transportation. "What may happen if this becomes a protracted issue is an interruption in cash flow not just for Indiana but for all the states," said INDOT spokesman Will Wingfield on Monday. However, Wingfield said all indications from Washington, D.C., are that Congress will resolve the issue quickly and federal highway funding will be restored. That funding provides 80 percent to 90 percent of the funding for most major road projects in Indiana and other states. On Friday, U.S. Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., blocked passage of a \$10 billion bill that would pay for extended unemployment benefits for 40,000 out-of-work Americans as well as provide stop-gap funding for Federal Highway Administration programs that have expired.

<http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/2dc5e2fc-3e32-5f0b-ae49-336bcaa01317.html>

Web letter by Philip Wright: Fort Wayne sees progress toward high-speed rail service
Fort Wayne Journal Gazette
2/28/10

Recently, President Obama announced the funding decisions for high-speed rail under the economic stimulus package during a visit to Tampa, Fla. Details of where the funds will go nationally were released at the same time. The local media have had the wrong reaction to the information. They report the events as if Fort Wayne lost. We won. The bidding was competitive, with requests for \$57 billion, and *only* \$8.2 billion was made available. No part of the country got all they asked for. Fort Wayne will be a part of the line that connects Chicago to Cleveland. That project was not funded in full at this time. What was funded in Indiana was improvement of a bottleneck section of rail just south of Lake Michigan that is a prerequisite for Fort Wayne to obtain high-speed rail service. It is part of the project to bring service to Fort Wayne. This area had to be re-engineered before there could be any high-speed rail to any destination east of Chicago. <http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20100228/EDIT09/302289964/1147/EDIT07>

