



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

June 1, 2010

EDITORIAL: Road resistance
Evansville Courier & Press
5/28/10

We thought we were lost in a time warp the other day. There we were on Sunday on the Opinion page, lending support to the state for speeding up construction on a direct Interstate 69 route between Evansville and Bloomington, one that will eventually go on to Indianapolis. And lo and behold, we learned later, the Indianapolis Star was at it as well, on Saturday in an editorial, "What's the rush for I-69?", questioning the state for its "dubious" speedup of direct I-69, which was "never shown superior to cheaper alternatives as a driver of the economy ..." It was like old times, say 1998, when the Star and others argued strongly for sending I-69 up through Terre Haute and over, instead of a direct route through Bloomington. More importantly, the editorial was a reminder that there are still influential voices in Indiana who oppose the construction of a direct I-69.
<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2010/may/28/road-resistance-the-issue-i-69-doubts-persist/>

County begins zoning for I-69
WTHI
5/27/10

A southern Indiana county begins work toward county-wide zoning. The route for I-69 in Daviess County is staked out and construction is expected to begin soon. County officials say the new road has them looking hard at putting in a zoning ordinance for the first time ever. Daviess County officials say that with the accelerated schedule for construction of I-69 they will have to move much faster to put the zoning ordinance in place.
http://www.wthitv.com/dpp/news/local/southern_indiana/county-begins-zoning-for-i69

INDOT Awards Bloomington Bypass Contract
Inside Indiana Business
5/27/10

Milestone Contractors in Columbus has been awarded a nearly \$22 million contract from the Indiana Department of Transportation. The company will widen and rebuild a section of the State Road 45/46 Bloomington Bypass. INDOT says the project has been discussed for about two decades and is now part of Indiana's Major Moves initiative.
<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/newsitem.asp?ID=41889>

Improvements planned for McDonald Lane

The Evening News and Tribune
Chris Morris
5/28/10

New Albany city officials are looking for public input for the proposed improvements to McDonald Lane from Grant Line Road to Charlestown Road. New Albany Mayor Doug England said public input is vital to making sure the improvements “are the best fit for our community.” The McDonald Lane kickoff meeting will begin 6:30 p.m. on June 8 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 1752 Scheller Lane. After a brief presentation, residents will be allowed to speak to officials on the proposed work. The proposed upgrades to McDonald Lane will be 80 percent funded with federal dollars. The local match for engineering work, which will take up to two years to complete, will come from Tax Increment Financing, or TIF, according to John Rosenbarger, New Albany’s public works projects supervisor. The total cost is estimated at \$5 million and Rosenbarger said it may have to be completed in two phases. Planned changes include revamping the existing pavement to a two-lane road with curbs and a new storm sewer system. Safety improvements, including realignment of the existing 90-degree curves, the addition of turn lanes, as well as the incorporation of sidewalks and/or a pedestrian pathway are planned.

<http://newsandtribune.com/local/x712223852/Improvements-planned-for-McDonald-Lane>

INDOT: Indiana 66 will reopen for traffic this evening
Evansville Courier & Press
5/28/10

The Indiana Department of Transportation announced this morning that Indiana 66 in Spencer County would re-open one lane in each direction to traffic. The road had been completely closed since March, when a drainage structure failure caused the highway to wash out 2.7 miles east of the highway’s intersection with Indiana 61. In a news release, INDOT spokeswoman Cher Goodwin said the interior passing lane on both sides of the highway would open to traffic at about 6 p.m. local time, as long as weather, materials and equipment all cooperate today. The road is expected to be fully opened by mid-June.

http://www.courierpress.com/news/2010/may/28/indot-indiana-66-will-reopen-traffic-evening/?partner=yahoo_feeds

Website has updates on 38th Street repairs
The Indianapolis Star
5/28/10

The city’s Department of Public Works has created a website to keep commuters up to date on the West 38th Street road work. Work on the busy thoroughfare from just west of High School Road to just east of Guion Road is set to begin next month. The \$14 million project includes resurfacing, replacing traffic signals and replacing bridge decks over Guion Road and the CSX railroad line. Completion is scheduled for fall 2011.

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20105280376>

U.S. 35 Closure Extended Through End of June
Muncie Free Press
5/31/10

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) announces the U.S. 35 closure at the intersection of Schultz Road has been extended through the end of June. The recent rains delayed the dirt work necessary to construct the road base as part of the sight distance improvement. Crews are working to reconstruction the roadway at the intersection to open

it to traffic as quickly and safely as possible. Once the work is complete, the sight distance and overall safety of the intersection of U.S. 35 and Schultz Road will be improved. Approximately nine feet has been removed at the crest of the intersection. U.S. 35 between U.S. 20 and Johnson Road were repaved last fall as part of this project. <http://www.munciefreepress.com/node/21982>

Street projects get thumbs up from Board of Works
Post-Tribune
James Wolf Jr.
5/29/10

Construction dominated City Hall's last public meeting of May. The Board of Works and Safety approved two street plans and two subdivision construction plans at Friday's meeting. The northern section of Roosevelt Road, which is now being repaved, will go from four lanes to three lanes, with the center lane being for left turns. That would only affect the section of Roosevelt between Glendale Boulevard and Vale Park Road, and the extra room would be used for bike lanes on either side. <http://www.post-trib.com/news/porter/2330652,vworks0529.article>

Georgetown business owners hope new exit ramp will bring in new business
Evansville Courier & Press
Jessica Wimsatt
5/31/10

Construction crews recently completed construction on the Exit 118 ramp, off of Interstate 64 in Georgetown. And although hopes are that the new two-lane ramp will ease traffic congestion in the area, the several months of road construction affected many local businesses. <http://newsandtribune.com/local/x1174315849/Georgetown-business-owners-hope-new-exit-ramp-will-bring-in-new-business>

Grant Street work tough on motorists
Post-Tribune
Jon Seidel
5/31/10

Grant Street commuters should prepare for a long summer as officials say work on the main artery south of the Borman Expressway won't end until Labor Day. "And, of course, it depends on the weather," Arnie Muzumdar, owner of Northwest Engineering, said. Muzumdar's firm is overseeing the \$2.7 million project for Gary, 80 percent of which is funded federally through the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission. Gary Stormwater Management District is paying the rest. When the work is done, a new sewer system should be installed under rebuilt roadways. <http://www.post-trib.com/news/lake/2333478,new-ggrant0530.article>

Cassopolis road work to close First Street
South Bend Tribune
Tom Moor
5/28/10

Those who travel First Street frequently will need to find an alternative route the next two months, but the road should be done by the time the Cass County Fair opens later in the summer. A \$610,000 project will close the thoroughfare from Tuesday until July 30, with the

balance scheduled for completion by Aug. 31, Village Manager Kevin Gillette said this week. The construction, which will run from East State Street to Graham Street will involve new curbs and gutters, sidewalks, a minor water main replacement, storm drain improvements and repaving.

<http://www.southbendtribune.com/article/20100528/News01/100529474/1130>

I-69 connection staying put, even with higher costs
Indianapolis Business Journal
5/29/10

Might higher-than-expected costs to build Interstate 69 to Evansville result in a new connecting point to Indianapolis? That's what some are wondering now that costs of the controversial project have risen to \$3 billion from the \$1.7 billion originally projected. So far, the state is using what it calls "innovative" construction techniques on the southern stretch already under construction and for segments about to be started. These include narrower medians and thinner pavement, Gov. Mitch Daniels said earlier this month. Critics say this could lead to higher maintenance costs later. The project has drawn strong opposition in places such as Bloomington, for the potential environmental effects, and among those living in Perry Township, in Marion County, where the highway is to tie into I-465 roughly at where State Road 37 now runs. <http://www.ibj.com/i69-connection-staying-put-even-with-higher-costs/PARAMS/article/20231>

Also, <http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20105300325>

Extension opposition stands in way of progress
The Indianapolis Star
5/30/10

For decades, the citizens of southwest Indiana have fought for a direct link to the state capital. That link happens to be Interstate 69. Since 2006, Indiana has made significant progress in moving the I-69 project forward with major construction. The mere suggestion to "divert I-69 funds to more worthwhile projects," as stated in a May 19 letter to the editor, is yet another attempt by highway opponents to stand in the way of progress. The fact is that Gov. Mitch Daniels' Major Moves transportation program took hundreds of projects across the state off the drawing board and made them a reality, including the I-69 extension from Evansville to Indianapolis.

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20105300323>

Point: Plan will lower rates, raise infrastructure funding
The Indianapolis Star
Ryan Vaughn
5/30/10

When the Republican City-County Council assumed the responsibility of the majority, we vowed to fight crime, balance the budgets and aggressively address our city's crumbling infrastructure. Crime is down overall for the past two years. We honestly balanced the city's budget two years in a row and created a rainy day fund, while providing an income tax cut. We are aware that much more needs to be done. Mayor Greg Ballard realizes this as well, that's why he has proposed a transaction with Citizens Energy Group that will mitigate future rate increases, create thousands of jobs, and net us \$425 million that will be used to address our city's long-neglected infrastructure. Citizens Energy will put more than a century of utility expertise and a diverse, nonpolitical corporate structure to work to improve our water and wastewater utilities and reduce costs to Marion County households. Additionally, this proposal will net the city \$425 million that we can use to invest in our

roads, sidewalks, bridges and abandoned homes. Infrastructure projects that have long been the needs of citizens, neighborhood associations and community organizations will now become reality. This unprecedented infrastructure investment is created while still securing a projected 25 percent rate reduction against what water and wastewater rates would be if we do nothing. <http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20105300335>

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