



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

July 13, 2010

Local match for Clark County road projects sparks debate
Evening News and Tribune
Braden Lammers
7/9/10

The Clark County Commissioners are pursuing Group IV Funds through the Indiana Department of Transportation in order to help fund road projects into 2011. But a lack of funding may be a lingering issue because the county will have to show the state it has 20 percent in matching local funds before receiving any additional federal dollars. Because of the county's financial constraints, it does not have the money to match both of its priority projects: St. John Road and Star Hill Road. According to a chart presented by Greg Fifer, attorney for the commissioners, \$34,675 in local funds and \$138,701 in federal funds have been paid toward St. John Road. The county would have to pay \$744,000 in matching funds for 2011 to get the project to bid and to be able to start construction. The project cost and constraints are just as steep for Star Hill Road.

<http://newsandtribune.com/clarkcounty/x279772604/Local-match-for-Clark-County-road-projects-sparks-debate>

Bridge on expressway razed
Structure above I-65 ramp to I-94 part of Major Moves project
Post-Tribune
Chelsea Schneider Kirk
7/8/10

Construction crews worked overnight to demolish a bridge above the well-traveled northbound Interstate 65 ramp to the westbound Interstate 94 this week. The project coincides with the Interstate 80/94 widening project that began in fall 2009. When finished, the expressway will have expanded from six to 10 lanes from Broadway to Central Avenue. The Indiana Department of Transportation is now working on reconstructing the westbound side of the Borman. Work on the eastbound and median lanes is complete. INDOT demolished the bridge and is widening the structure to accommodate the additional lanes, according to INDOT spokeswoman Angie Fegaras. The work is part of a \$97 million contract, the final of three contracts for the interchange modification project. The interchange work is the final phase of the marathon Borman Expressway project that dates back to 2003. <http://www.post-trib.com/news/2476168.new-indot0708.article>

Cherry Valley interchange faces new battle
The Newark Advocate
Kent Mallett

7/9/10

It was almost four years ago when a state-hired consultant recommended building the proposed Cherry Valley Road-Ohio 16 interchange a quarter-mile east of the existing intersection. Newark, Heath and Granville officials soon responded with support for the recommended location, using 48 acres of state-owned land and avoiding costly acquisition of existing homes and businesses. No construction funding has been set aside for the interchange project, but at least a preliminary location had been identified. The Indiana bat had not been consulted, however. An environmental study of the proposed interchange area revealed trees used by the Indiana bat, an endangered species on decline because of disease. The studies are not complete and no decisions have been made, but the discovery raises the prospect of moving the interchange closer to the intersection, acquiring homes or businesses and increasing costs.

<http://www.newarkadvocate.com/article/20100709/NEWS01/7090307/1002/rss01>

Campaign's goal is fixing Ind. bridges, highways
Evansville Courier & Press
Eric Bradner
7/11/10

The Laborers' International Union of North America kicked off a campaign aimed at securing federal dollars for highway and bridge construction and upgrades in Indiana at an event last week just south of Indianapolis. The group launched the "Build Indiana 2010" campaign from a bridge over Interstate 65 in Southport. The bridge, the campaign's leaders say, is one of 4,111 in Indiana that the federal government has rated structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. "Today in Indiana, one in four construction workers are out of work, while one in four bridges are in need of repair. All that's missing is the commitment to invest in building our country and our state," said David Frye, field representative for the union group's Indiana District Council.

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2010/jul/11/campaigns-goal-is-fixing-ind-bridges-highways/>

Also, <http://www.nwitimes.com/news/state-and-regional/indiana/116482b8-9c16-5afb-b33f-e119e26e291e.html>

Drive up gas taxes to drive down deficit
Fort Wayne Journal Gazette
7/11/10

Summer driving season is upon us. This year, the annual migration of vacationers coincides with rising concerns over the federal debt and a nasty oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. What better time to revisit the enduring, maddening, illogical contrast between how little Americans actually pay to drive – and how fiercely they resist even modest gasoline tax increases that would go a long way in addressing the nation's environmental and fiscal crises? By any measure, driving in the United States is cheap. The price of a gallon of regular gasoline averaged about \$2.70 during June. That's up almost \$1 since the depths of the Great Recession in December 2008. But the price has been steady for about a year, and adjusted for inflation it is 66 cents per gallon less than it was in 1980. Gas prices have had their ups (the \$4-a-gallon spike in mid-2008) and downs (the consistently low prices of the late 1980s and 1990s). Overall, though, driving today is substantially cheaper, in real terms, than it was about a generation ago. In fact, it's cheaper than it was at the end of World War I. Government forecasts suggest prices might rise slightly over the next year.

<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20100711/EDIT05/307119932/1147/EDIT07>

City: Fry Road project on track despite delay
The Indianapolis Star
7/11/10

Greenwood Utility issues have slowed the Fry Road reconstruction project near Greenwood Park Mall, but Greenwood officials say the work will be completed as planned by the November deadline. The stretch of Fry Road between Madison Avenue and U.S. 31 on the south side of the mall has been closed to through traffic since spring. The area is popular with shoppers from southern Marion County and Johnson County. As part of the project, the bridge over Pleasant Creek will be removed to make way for a new structure. The road will be widened, sidewalks will be built on both sides of the road, and a traffic signal will be placed at the mall entrance nearest the AMC movie theater.

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20100711/LOCAL/7110355/Fry-Road-project-on-track-despite-delay-official-says>

Avon Commons' east entrance to close
The Indianapolis Star
7/12/10

Access to the eastern entrance of the Avon Commons shopping center from Ronald Reagan Parkway was scheduled to close Tuesday as crews begin work on a new overpass for the CSX rail yard. The access point to the shopping center will be closed for the duration of the project, which is scheduled for completion in September 2012. Avon Commons is home to stores such as Dick's Sporting Goods and Target. That shopping center's main and westernmost entrances will not be affected. The Ronald Reagan Parkway entrance south of U.S. 36, including access to Menards, Wendy's and other businesses east of the parkway, will remain open except for a few days later this month as construction activities dictate. Crews will use signs in the area to announce future road closures.

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20107120326>

Speedway OKs \$1.6M to improve sewers
The Indianapolis Star
7/12/10

Speedway -- The town of Speedway approved a \$1.6 million contract last week to hire Indianapolis-based Commonwealth Engineers to begin the first phase of improvements to the town's sewage infrastructure. The improvements will take place in neighborhoods in the oldest portions of Speedway, between Lynhurst Drive and Main Street, and 10th and 16th streets. The areas have experienced flooding, including raw sewage backing up into basements. The funds, approved by the council at its June 28 meeting, will cover the costs of design, surveys and construction engineering and help set up Geographic Information System technology to identify the exact location of all of the town's utilities for future improvement projects.

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20100712/LOCAL1804/7120324/Speedway-OKs-1.6M-to-improve-sewers>

Move Over Law adds 2 changes
Reduce speed by 10 mph if you can't move to an adjacent lane for emergency vehicles; law now includes utility service vehicles
Palladium-Item
7/13/10

Indiana State Police is spreading the word about two changes to Indiana's Move Over Law

that took effect July 1. Motorists must reduce their vehicle's speed 10 miles per hour under the posted speed limit if they cannot move to an adjacent lane safely. The updated law now also includes utility service vehicles. ISP reminds drivers that Indiana law requires motorists to approach cautiously when an emergency or highway maintenance vehicle is stopped on two- or four-lane roadways with emergency lights flashing. This is the time of year when highway work crews are in road construction zones repairing roadways throughout Indiana. Police advise drivers to use extra care and reduce speed in these work zones. <http://www.pal-item.com/article/20100713/NEWS01/7130317/1008/rss>

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