

Indiana's 4 New Transportation Priorities

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A blue ribbon panel Governor Mike Pence assembled to study Indiana's transportation needs in the future has identified four top priorities for the state's road construction projects.

There are four existing transportation projects the governor's office says are first in line in the state's transportation future:

1. Completing I-69 from Evansville to Indianapolis
2. The Ohio River bridges project
3. The Illiana Expressway in northwest Indiana
4. Completing renovations on U.S. 31 from Indianapolis to South Bend

The blue ribbon panel has come up with the next four:

5. Adding lanes to I-65
6. Adding lanes to I-70
7. An I-69 Ohio River Bridge
8. A commerce connector around Indianapolis

Lieutenant Governor Sue Ellspermann, who co-chaired the panel, says the four priorities were chosen from a list of 25 projects after careful evaluation based on five key criteria.

"Economic impact, capacity to meet the demand, multimodal integration and synergy – how did these different modes work together – did it increase our access to both national and international markets, and its impact on quality of life," she says.

Gov. Mike Pence says the panel went above and beyond his expectations and, working with their recommendations, state agencies can now figuring out how and when these projects can be accomplished.

The estimated cost of the four top priorities is around \$5 billion. The blue ribbon panel did not include any specific funding recommendations.