Transportation Infrastructure

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Topics

• Who we are
• Why we are interested in transportation
• What we have done
• What we are doing and plan to do
• Discussion
Who We Are

Soybean Checkoff and Corn Checkoff
Mission:
The Indiana Soybean Alliance proactively works to improve the viability of Indiana Soybean Farmers and Industry partners.

Vision:
The Indiana Soybean Alliance will be a leading resource for Indiana agriculture.
Indiana Corn Marketing Council

Mission:
Indiana Corn Marketing Council works to enhance the value of corn for Indiana corn farmers.

Vision:
Indiana Corn Marketing Council will be a catalyst for innovation and leadership for Indiana agriculture.
Why We Are Interested in Transportation

Simply stated – our strategic plan

ISA/ICMC work to identify restrictions that result in increased transportation costs or reduced basis for Indiana farmers.

Source: INDOT
• Deteriorating infrastructure has been widely discussed
• Funding is short and the gap continues to widen
• Our international competitors are catching up...albeit slowly
• Our international customers have taken note
• Our domestic customers have taken note
• Production is projected to increase substantially – more grain to move
• Our competitiveness absolutely depends on transportation
• The bottom-line at the farm is directly impacted by transportation
What We Have Done

Soy Transportation Coalition
• 11 state checkoffs join to form STC
• USB major funding source for national level research on transportation issues

Indiana Transportation Studies
• Since 2008 significant investment has been made to: identify problems, look at economics, and find options to address the issues
Research Studies

- Funding Indiana’s Rural Transportation Infrastructure and its Impacts to Agriculture, Informa Economics, July 2012
- Indiana Bridge Infrastructure Development Update, Informa Economics, February 2012, April 2013
- Analysis of Indiana’s Transportation Infrastructure, Informa Economics, October 2011
- Impacts of Higher Truck Weights on Indiana Grain Producers, Informa Economics, August 2010
- Indiana Transportation and Agricultural Infrastructure, Informa Economics, April 2009
- Indiana Infrastructure Assessment and Economic Impact Relative to Grain Movements, Biofuels, Livestock and Further Food Processing, Informa Economics, November 2008
- Indiana’s County Motor Vehicle Excise Surtax and Wheel Tax, DeBoer, L and Yadavalli, A. Purdue University, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, August 2012
- Assessment for Paved and Gravel Roads, Indiana LTAP Center, Purdue University School of Civil Engineering, January 8, 2013
- Farm to Market – A Soybean’s Journey from Field to Consumer, Informa Economics and Economic Development Research Group, USB, USSEC, and STC, July 2012
- Analysis of Rural Infrastructure and Remedial Recommendations for the Eleven STC Member States, Informa Economics, Soy Transportation Coalition, October 2012
Research Studies

- Bridge Study – updated twice
Key Findings Categories

- Macroeconomic and agricultural outlook
- Funding Gap
- Current Status
- Importance of Agriculture & Infrastructure

- Gaining public support
- Alternative funding mechanisms

- Alternative funding structures
- Increasing truck weights
- Paved vs. gravel
- Efficiency impacts of investing in certain infrastructure projects

- Barge vs. rail vs. road
- Key bridges
- Impacts of investing in certain infrastructure projects
Based on research conducted:

• A lock failure on the Ohio River would result in a 2 cent per bushel decrease across all of Indiana’s production
• A Class I rail failure would result in a 3 cent per bushel decrease across all of Indiana’s production
• A bridge failure is much more localized, but would result in a minimum of a 2 cent per bushel decrease
  • If it is an interstate bridge or requires a longer detour, the number only increases
• If a bridge were to go out along highway 41 causing a 20 mile round trip detour, an additional 7¢/bu cost is incurred to reroute around the bridge
• This additional cost makes it more economical to send more soybeans to Indianapolis
• Changes customers
• Disrupts trade
What we are doing

• Working with other industries and partners to collectively address the issues
• Public Private Partnership Pilot – Shelby County
• Encouraging Technology Adoption
• Looking at prioritization from an ag perspective
OBJECTIVE: To have a project underway, but at the very least have a pretty clear roadmap of how to identify, prioritize, and ultimately complete PPP projects for infrastructure critical to agriculture

• Joint project with Illinois Soybean Association to leverage discovery in both states
• Working with consultants, potential projects were identified using the bridge study as well as some economic analysis of critical bridges for agriculture
• Shelby County has risen to the top due to interest, resources, project importance
  • Consultants are working with Shelby County Officials on an overpass project
  • Engagement with the private sector is now underway
Bridge Assessment Sensors – Structural Health Monitoring (SMH)

- In partnership with STC – we will be offering sensors at no cost
- [http://lifespantechnologies.com/articles](http://lifespantechnologies.com/articles)
  - South Carolina DOT has embraced the technology
    - Immediate benefits – including a $700,000 savings on a single bridge
    - Supplements current inspection techniques
• How is it currently done?
  • Rotation?
  • Safety?
  • Economic Development?
  • Politics?
  • Comprehensive Analysis?
• We want to know what tools can we provide to assist counties in prioritization
What we have planned

• Continue to build a coalition of users
• Continue to develop our relationship with county decision makers
• More proactively engage farmers in the discussion
• Engage with the ag industry to increase their awareness of issues
• **Pending board approval in September 2013** - Develop a 15 year agriculture transportation infrastructure plan
What we are planning to do

- Build a broader coalition of users
- More directly engage farmers in the conversation
- Engage the ag industry – educate them on our research findings
- Further develop our relationship with county elected officials
- Work on the development of a 15 year infrastructure plan – with agriculture in mind

LET’S WORK TOGETHER.

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