



Building for Tomorrow

The Indian River Inlet Bridge Newsletter

A publication by the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT)

December 2011



THANK YOU

This month's issue of *Building for Tomorrow* is the final issue in the award-winning series. From the very beginning, the project to build the new Indian River Inlet Bridge has been viewed as a learning opportunity for the public to get a close-up view of what it's like to build a bridge of this magnitude. January 2012 will see the

opening of two lanes of traffic on the new bridge, with the other two lanes opening in late spring or early summer. Once those lanes open, the bridge will be fully operational for everyone to use and enjoy.

We have had the pleasure of featuring people involved in the project in this section as our featured guests. These people, and those who work with them, have helped to provide the information that you've found within this publication. Without their help and knowledge, this publication could not have been done. We would like to thank our featured guests, those who have worked on the bridge, and YOU, our readers, for contributing to and reading this award winning newsletter. It has been, and will continue to be, a source of information about the building of our new bridge.

Bridge + Ribbon = FUN!



The new Indian River Inlet Bridge is nearing completion. In January, a ribbon cutting will be held to open two of the four lanes on the bridge. The two southbound lanes will be opened to traffic in order to remove traffic from the current bridge. Once that change over has been completed, work will

begin to remove the current bridge. Prior to Memorial Day weekend, the two northbound lanes will be open to traffic, which will completely open the bridge.

The event in January will be small in comparison to the dedication ceremony that will be held in the spring. Events will include a lot of fun things, like a bridge walk. During that walk, you and your family will have the opportunity to walk over the new bridge in the northbound lanes before they are opened to traffic.

Watch for information about these to events soon!

An Update on the Bridge!



This month Skanska is completing the bridge deck overlay with a material known as Polyester Polymer Concrete (PPC). It is being placed directly over the concrete surface of the bridge using specialized paving equipment that is similar to an asphalt paver. Its key attributes are that it has an extremely low permeability (which means salt and other deteriorating materials will not be able to penetrate it), and its ability to be placed at much lower temperatures, unlike more traditional concrete overlays. Unlike traditional asphalt which requires an outside temperature of at least 45 degrees to be applied, this material can be installed in cool/windy weather. Skanska will also be able to use less material and time to install the material, but with the same performance as asphalt. The material also forms a strong bond with existing concrete. All these attributes combined provide an overlay that will be in place for many years to come, with minimal maintenance expected.

Skanska is also finishing up the pedestrian barrier installation, electrical work and lighting, stay cable tensioning, and load balancing. Those familiar tower cranes will also be coming down this month, as overall site cleanup occurs. The roadway approach work continues to be on schedule and DelDOT anticipates opening two lanes of traffic on the new bridge in January 2012. A small Ribbon Cutting ceremony is being planned for this time.

A bike/walk day is being planned for late spring, which will be followed by an Official Bridge Dedication Ceremony as we mark the opening of all four lanes of the new Indian River Inlet Bridge.

Ways to Always Find Indian River Inlet Bridge Information

The screenshot shows the Delaware Department of Transportation website for the Indian River Inlet Bridge project. The page is titled "INDIAN RIVER INLET BRIDGE" and "CHARLES W. CULLEN BRIDGE". It features a navigation menu on the left with sections like HOME, SERVICES, and INFORMATION. The main content area is divided into several columns: "What's Happening Now" with a photo of the bridge under construction and a text update from December 2011; "Milestone!" with a "Final Bridge Deck Concrete Pour!" announcement and a "News Updates" section listing events from November 3, 2011, and October 31, 2011; and a "TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS" section. A right-hand sidebar contains links for "Project Home Page", "Who is Charles W. Cullen?", "Bridge Construction", "Bridge Approaches & Bridge Demolition", "Park Enhancements", "Multi-Media Gallery", "Public Involvement", "Public Safety", and "Bridge Education".

Even though construction is coming to an end on the new Indian River Inlet Bridge, you will still be able to find great information about this project.

The best resource for anything about the new bridge will always be the project website, irib.deldot.gov. This site will always house great information, including:

Project Facts

A Project Site Virtual Tour

Timelapse Video of the Construction

News Releases

Project Photos

And So Much More!

A Moment of Bridge History



The photo above was taken on May 17, 1933, and shows the creosote bridge that once was the only way to cross the area that is now the Indian River Inlet.

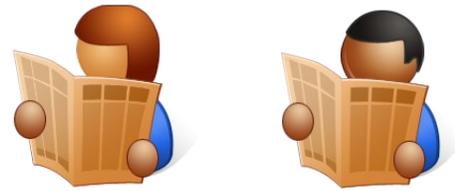
What's A Construction Advisory Group and How Was It Used?



When you are building a large project like the new Indian River Inlet Bridge, it is important to involve members of the community. They can provide very valuable information that can help during the construction process. Leading up to, and during, the bridge project, DeIDOT created a Construction Advisory Group (CAG) that was made up of residents, business leaders, legislators, and other community members to get feedback on the construction.

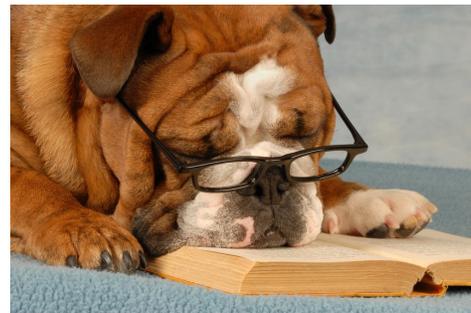
These CAG members provided an opportunity to find out how residents felt about the construction, how traffic was affecting them during different phases, and other great information. DeIDOT also depended on these members to be representatives for the project within the community. By doing this, they could provide valuable information to their friends and community members, while also clarifying any incorrect information that they heard about the project in their communities.

This group was a valuable resource for DeIDOT during this project. We appreciate these community members volunteering their time to be a part of this historic project.



Have you missed past issues of "Building for Tomorrow?"

They are always available on the Indian River Inlet Bridge Project site!



[Click Here to Find Them](#)



Employee Spotlight!



This is where we get to see all of those workers who we have featured in this section of the newsletter!



Craig Stevens



Katherine Stabile



Marx Possible



Carlos Garcia



William Green



Marion Edwards



Danny Fetterolf



Gary Wenczel



Cheryl King



Steve Revitsky



Manny Chavez



Jessica Dotson



Tony Bozzi



Photos from the Job Site

November 2011



A worker monitors a machine that prepares the concrete surface of the bridge for the overlay that will be the surface that cars will drive over when using the bridge (Skanska USA Civil Southeast).



Work continues on the roadway approach portions of the new Indian River Inlet Bridge (Skanska USA Civil Southeast).



The southern view from the roadway approach toward the new Indian River Inlet Bridge (Skanska USA Civil Southeast).



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