

## Seymour District Breaks Ground On U.S. 50 Bypass Project



*Shovels hit the dirt at the groundbreaking May 22 for the U.S. 50 project. Participating in the ceremony (from left): INDOT Project Manager Gary Pence, Milestone Contractors Vice President John Wacheter, INDOT Executive Advisor to the Commissioner Bob Zier, Parsons Corporation Design Manager Toby Randolph, Seymour District Deputy Commissioner Kathy Eaton-McKalip, Jennings County Commissioner Jeff Barger, Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, Indiana National Guard Major General Omer Tooley, North Vernon Mayor Harold Campbell, State Representative Dave Cheatham, State Representative Randy Frye and Force Construction Vice President of Construction Pat Kirchner.*

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman joined the Indiana National Guard and local officials May 22 for a ceremonial groundbreaking on the new U.S. 50 North Vernon Bypass in Jennings County.

The \$21.9 million Major Moves project will feature a new two-lane, 4.5-mile partial bypass connecting the existing U.S. 50 near County Road 400 West to State Road 3 in North Vernon. This western section, known as Phase One, was awarded to two Columbus contractors. Milestone Contractors will build the southern contract, from County Road 400 West to County Road 150 North. Force Construction will build the northern contract from County Road 150 North to State Road 3. Three bridge replacements on the existing U.S. 50 are also part of this project, which is expected to be completed in December 2013.

With the addition of the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center and new businesses on U.S. 50, the bypass will address traffic congestion and improve safety by minimizing the number of trucks traveling through downtown North Vernon. The downtown area will receive new facades and streetscapes through a separate Stellar Communities grant, which Skillman announced last year.



“As one of the state’s Stellar Communities, North Vernon is making tremendous progress in moving their economic development plans forward,” said Skillman. “Infrastructure improvements are one of the top reasons businesses invest in Indiana, and this bypass will certainly bring additional growth to this area.”

More information on the project is available at [www.in.gov/indot/div/projects/us50/northvernon](http://www.in.gov/indot/div/projects/us50/northvernon).