

67 Miles And Three Sections Of I-69 In Southwest Indiana Now Open

November 19 was a date for the record books in the state of Indiana. Governor Mitch Daniels declared the interstate “open for business,” joining federal, state and local officials to officially cut the I-69 ribbon in southwest Indiana.

One ribbon cutting was not enough, though. Ceremonies took place at all three sections of the 67-mile corridor, completing what has been the longest contiguous new interstate construction project in the United States. The new roadway opened just in time for the Thanksgiving travel holiday.



Governor Mitch Daniels cuts the last portion of the “Open For Business” I-69 ribbon surrounded by federal, local and state officials and I-69 supporters in Evansville. INDOT Commissioner Michael B. Cline holds the ribbon directly to the right of Governor Daniels. INDOT Deputy Commissioner Major Projects/I-69 Samuel Sarvis (far left) also holds the ribbon.

“Many people said this interstate expansion wouldn’t happen in their lifetime, but it’s here,” the governor said. “In addition to opening the road ahead of schedule and under budget, we’re opening greater economic opportunity, faster and safer travel, and improved connectivity.”

The new I-69 corridor opened several years ahead of schedule and nearly \$80 million under budget in construction costs alone. When total project costs are factored, the corridor came in more than \$300 million under estimates.

In addition to project cost savings, the new corridor also delivers significantly reduced travel times. According to a study from the [Joint Transportation Research Program](#) at Purdue University, the 67-mile alignment provides a 38-minute reduction in one-way travel time between Evansville and Naval Support Activity (NSA) Crane compared to alternate routes.



Governor Mitch Daniels (left) speaks to INDOT Commissioner Michael B. Cline during the I-69 ceremonies.

INDOT Commissioner Michael B. Cline touted the advantages of the new interstate.

“One of the key benefits of the new corridor is that it provides greater connectivity to important areas of the state that have been historically underserved,” the commissioner said. “I-69 will significantly reduce travel times and provide residents across southwest Indiana with improved access to jobs, education and healthcare.”