



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

*Driving Indiana's Economic Growth*

## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 14, 2011

### **Modernization of Wabash Memorial Toll Bridge Continues**

*Automation will make traveling across bridge smoother ride*

**MOUNT VERNON, Ind.** – Progress continues on the modernization of the Wabash Memorial Toll Bridge in Posey County. Construction crews are on site and installing the overhead structure and equipment for the new “Wabash Pass”.

The “Wabash Pass” is the new electronic tolling system that allows users to place a transponder on the front windshield of their vehicle which is scanned by an overhead reader at the toll bridge. This will make crossing the structure a stop-free process once all equipment is in place and operational. It is anticipated that testing of the equipment will last through the end of December and the system will “go-live” January 1, 2011. The electronic tolling will allow motorists to load money on their account to pay their tolls and eliminates the need of having to carry cash or purchase advance tickets as they have in the past.

Motorists can go into the Toll Bridge office to sign up for an account and transponder or they can contact INDOT at 1-800-279-5758 and ask for the “Wabash Pass”. INDOT staff will take the necessary information over the phone and mail out the transponders. Hours of operation of the Toll Bridge office are Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. local time, except holidays, and will have special Saturday hours this Saturday, December 11 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. local time. Payment can be made by cash, check or unused tickets.

Motorists will be able to add money to their account by visiting [www.wabashbridge.com](http://www.wabashbridge.com) and will be able to pay by e-check, debit card or credit card. If motorists are unable to come to the office or do not have access to the internet, they should call 1-800-279-5758 and ask for the “Wabash Pass”.

The modernization of the toll bridge is part of INDOT’s daily function as being good stewards of the Taxpayer’s dollars. The bridge is not a part of the Federal Highway Register and is not eligible for federal funding for repairs or replacement. The structure was originally built in 1956 and recently underwent improvements and is currently in year 53 of its estimated 75 year life span. The State did not want to entertain the notion of increasing tolls for the bridge and in order to secure the funding required for the necessary repairs and replacement, refining the tolling process was necessary. By switching to the automated system the State will have a reduction in operating costs and allowing those funds to be retained for capital improvements. The last toll rate increase was in 1984.

The actual go-live date for the system and debiting of tolls from motorists accounts is scheduled to begin January 1, 2011.

INDOT reminds motorists to follow the posted work zone speed limit, use caution and consider worker safety when traveling through a construction zone. For the latest news and information about INDOT, please visit [www.in.gov/indot](http://www.in.gov/indot).

--30--

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Cher L. Goodwin, Vincennes District, (812) 895-7310, [cgoodwin@indot.in.gov](mailto:cgoodwin@indot.in.gov)