



Cathie Rowand | The Journal Gazette

State trucks block part of Huntington County Road 900 North – which becomes Lafayette Center Road in Allen County – for a ceremony Wednesday marking completion of a nearly \$20 million road widening project that started in 2016.

# Roanoke road project complete

11-2-17 P. 1C

**ASHLEY SLOBODA**  
The Journal Gazette

Dozens of people braved the November chill Wednesday to celebrate the completion of a road project benefiting Allen and Huntington counties.

The crowd, which included local and state dignitaries, gathered in the westbound lanes of Huntington County Road 900 North as traffic whizzed by in the eastbound lanes of the road, which in Allen

## BY THE NUMBERS

**Project length:** 3.7 miles, with 2 miles in Huntington County and 1.7 miles in Allen County  
**Construction cost:** Nearly \$20 million  
**Construction duration:** 20 months, 10 months ahead of schedule

County is known as Lafayette Center Road.

As attendees sipped hot apple cider and nibbled on cookies, they could look down on the Norfolk Southern Railroad just west

of Gundy Road. Before, officials were quick to point out, trains would tie up traffic on the road.

The road project not only built a bridge over the railroad but also widened the two-lane road to four

lanes and included other improvements to the 3.7-mile stretch between the General Motors plant and U.S. 24 in Roanoke.

Officials said the \$30 million project came in under budget and finished about a year before schedule. Construction costs were nearly \$20 million.

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-Huntington, said the long-awaited project was the result of great col-

Road, Page 2C

## ROAD

Continued from Page 1C

laboration.

Officials from Allen and Huntington counties, the state and Indiana Department of Transportation spent years working to get the project approved. By the ceremonial groundbreaking in April 2016, crews had removed trees, homes and other buildings lining the road.

"What this project means to northeast Indiana can probably not be put in words," Zay said.

Allen County Commissioner Therese Brown, among

others, spoke about the project's importance on economic development. Many noted it was known as a priority road for economic development.

"It brings a needed vitality to this corridor," Brown said, her remarks often drowned out by the roar of passing trucks.

Having a road unimpeded by railroad tracks should benefit the GM plant, Huntington County Commissioner Tom Wall said.

"You know how many times the trucks have to sit and wait on this railroad for the trains to go by?" he said. "Now, as you can see, they're just zooming through."

asloboda@jg.net