



March 30, 2009

## Tolling authority bill's failure lamented

On the day Kentucky's new unemployment rate of 9.2 percent was announced last week, there was also disappointing news that the Kentucky General Assembly would not vote on House Bill 102, legislation to secure an Ohio River Bridges Project funding solution.

The fact that Kentucky's unemployment rate has been increasing at a record pace is a reminder of the urgent need for the Ohio River Bridges Project and the thousands of new jobs it will create in Kentucky and Indiana.

There is no question the project has strong support, including most state lawmakers, and it will generate enormous economic benefits. Construction of the project alone will create more than 56,000 jobs, according to a recent economic analysis. In this region, where 64,000 jobs are in logistics and distribution, the improved access and reduced congestion from the project's completion will allow a major part of the economy to thrive.

Both chambers of the Kentucky General Assembly showed their support by passing the legislation by an overwhelming margin, but the Senate and House failed to resolve differences in their respective bills and took no final action.

Major initiatives such as the merger of Louisville-Jefferson County governments and the downtown Louisville arena also took multiple sessions of the Kentucky General Assembly to secure needed legislation for progress.

Now efforts will continue in both Kentucky and Indiana to make sure the Bridges Project is completed. We are confident of success because too much is riding on this project. The economic prosperity of Greater Louisville, and to a large extent all of Kentucky and Indiana, depend on the Ohio River Bridges Project.

### **C. EDWARD GLASSCOCK**

Chairman

Build the Bridges Project

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