



February 1, 2009

In this together

On today's op-ed page, there's an example of the broad thinking and cross-river cooperation that will be necessary if our region is going to flourish.

The fact that the piece was written jointly by Indiana civic leader Kerry Stemler and Louisville civic activist Ed Glasscock should tell you something. It says that those in the business community who have invested the most time and effort in thinking through a better local future have come to the same major conclusions.

Mr. Stemler has been a tireless advocate of regionalism, serving as chairman of the group that pushed creation of One Southern Indiana, the Hoosier counterpart of Great Louisville Inc., in which Mr. Glasscock was such an effective advocate. Both are leaders in the Build the Bridges Coalition, with Mr. Glasscock serving as chairman and Mr. Stemler serving as a member of the executive committee.

The strengthened relationship between One Southern Indiana and GLI was obvious when Mr. Stemler, addressing an annual GLI dinner, reminded the audience that (1) ours is one economic development area, only coincidentally divided by a river that history transformed into a state boundary, and (2) we'll succeed or fail as one region.

There's legislation pending in Frankfort and Indianapolis that would speed and smooth the work on our most obvious regional goal -- completion of two new bridges and a Spaghetti Junction redo, to address the area's most serious traffic problem. Those bills should pass. But broad community understanding of the region's shared challenges and mutual dependence is even more important.
