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## Bridges bill sails through House

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FRANKFORT, Ky. — The Kentucky House overwhelmingly approved a bill Wednesday that would pave the way for local tolling authorities to manage the Ohio River Bridges Project and other large transportation ventures.

House Bill 4 cleared the House on an 89-9 vote, with opposition largely coming from Northern Kentucky legislators. Louisville's delegation all voted for the measure.

The bill was changed on the House floor to give added legislative oversight. The amendment by Rep. Robin Webb, D-Grayson, requires funding plans be submitted to the General Assembly's Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee and the House budget committee.

Webb said the move "allows sunshine on these proceedings."

The plan, sponsored by Rep. Don Pasley, D-Winchester, House Speaker Pro Tem Larry Clark, D-Louisville, and Sannie Overly, D-Paris, would permit local involvement in deciding how to pay for the bridges project — new spans between Louisville and Clark County, Ind., and a redesigned Spaghetti Junction interchange near downtown.

Kentucky's involvement on an authority with Indiana would include four members appointed by Louisville's mayor and three named by the governor. The two-state panel would determine, for example, how to fund the project and its construction schedule.

The governor also would appoint nine members to an 11-member Kentucky Public Transportation Infrastructure Authority, which would have to approve the projects.

A planned Interstate 69 bridge near Henderson, Ky., also would be eligible under the bill.

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