



# THE BRIDGES COALITION

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## **Balloon highlights Bridges Project importance**

*Balloon will fly, glitter and glow at U.S. Bank Derby Festival Great Balloonfest*



A balloon featuring The Bridges Coalition name will land in Greater Louisville this week to draw attention to the benefits of the Ohio River Bridges Project.

The project, authorized in 2003, will provide job growth now and in the future, congestion relief, safer bridges and connecting highways, cross-river lanes for bikes and walkers and 40-45 more acres adjacent to Louisville's Waterfront Park.

Bridges Project supporters Jerry and Kathy Copas, owners of Fine Signs & Graphics, donated the balloon for use by the coalition, an alliance of Kentucky and Indiana advocates for the Bridges Project. The balloon will make its first appearance at Kentucky Derby Festival events from Thursday to Saturday and can be seen in weeks ahead on solo flights and at other balloon events.

"I know from experience that on a lot of days, you can float across the river in a balloon faster than you can get across on one of our existing bridges," Jerry Copas said. "Like a lot of business owners, I look forward to the project being completed and I am happy to help draw attention to the project's benefits."

The balloon will be featured at the following events: Thursday, 8:30 p.m., U.S. Bank Derby Festival Great Balloon Glimmer, Kroger's Fest-a-Ville on the Waterfront, Louisville; Friday, 9 p.m., U.S. Bank Derby Festival Great Balloon Glow at the Kentucky Exposition Center; and Saturday, 7 a.m., U.S. Bank Derby Festival Great Balloon Race, also at the Exposition Center.

The Bridges Coalition is a broad-based non-profit organization supporting the completion as quickly and as cost effectively as possible of the Bridges Project, two new bridges linking Louisville and Southern Indiana and the rebuild of Spaghetti Junction where I-65, I-64 and I-71 converge.

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