



# THE BRIDGES COALITION

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## **Kentucky passes legislation for Bridges Project progress**

By an overwhelming majority, the Kentucky General Assembly today adopted legislation that includes provisions for new funding options for the Ohio River Bridges Project. Gov. Steve Beshear, who placed the issue before the General Assembly in a special session, informed lawmakers that he would sign the bill.

The bill, part of House Bill 3, passed the Senate 35-0 and the House vote was 86-10.

“The passage of this legislation means the Ohio River Bridges Project can proceed and thousands of jobs will be created now and in the future,” said C. Edward Glasscock, chairman of The Bridges Coalition.

“The overwhelming majority vote speaks volumes for the need for the project, the benefits it will bring, and the strong support for getting the bridges built,” Glasscock said.

“We appreciate the leadership and support of Gov. Beshear, Speaker Pro Tem Larry Clark and the entire Jefferson County delegation, Kentucky Senate President David Williams, House and Senate Leadership and Rep. Don Pasley, who has championed the legislation for more than two years.” Glasscock said. “Mayor Jerry Abramson also provided leadership for this legislation which had the strong support of local elected officials from throughout Kentucky and Southern Indiana.”

The legislation will allow creation of a Kentucky-Indiana transportation authority that could issue bonds and tap new revenue sources such as high-speed electronic tolls to help pay for the project.

The project - two new Ohio River bridges and the rebuild of Spaghetti Junction in Louisville where I-64, I-65 and I-71 converge – was authorized in 2003, but has stalled because of a lack of a long-term funding plan in Kentucky. Indiana has funds to cover its \$1.1 billion share of the project, but Kentucky has lacked funding options to help cover its nearly \$3 billion in costs. The legislation will provide the Kentucky funding options needed.

The project will create 56,000 jobs during construction and thousands of jobs when completed while providing 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.

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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.