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## Local businesses rally support for bridges project

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LOUISVILLE, KY (WAVE) - Companies employing thousands of workers in the Kentuckiana area launched a support campaign Friday for the Ohio River Bridges project. They are citing the bridges connection to regional job growth now and in the future.

On the heels of Monday's special session in Frankfort, the Advanced Manufacturing and Logistics Network of Greater Louisville, an organization made up of 120 companies, unveiled their new ad campaign Friday to urge public support for the Ohio River Bridges Project and new legislation that could put construction on a fast track...they say traffic tie ups on the bridge are costing them time...and money...

"We have become an epicenter, but unfortunately we're an epicenter that has stoppage and goings every day, every minute. It's a terrible situation," said Chuck Moore, president of Eagle Steel Products, Inc.

The full-page ad, which will run in Sunday's Courier-Journal, proclaims "It's time to turn Louisville and southern Indiana's biggest roadblock into its biggest building block."

"The private sector, the people that write the paychecks, have to send the message how critically important this project is to their future and to the future of the entire region as well as this part of the country," said Kerry Stemler, president of K.C. Stemler Company.

Stemler says that the construction of both the proposed downtown bridge and east end bridge could create 56,000 jobs with a payroll of nearly \$2 billion. He said that does not include the thousands of jobs that could be created when commerce companies relocate to Louisville or southern Indiana because of easier transportation between the states.

On another bridge issue, the plan to reconstruct the Harrods Creek bridge along River Road in Prospect took a step forward Friday. Mac Construction Company has received approval from the state historic preservation office for their construction plans. Now those plans now go to the U.S. Coast Guard office in St. Louis. Once approved there, construction can begin.

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Chuck Moore



Kerry Stemler



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