



BUILD THE BRIDGES COALITION

www.buildthebridges.com

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Kentucky Funds Ohio River Bridges Project *Funding will keep project on schedule*

Kentucky's work on the Ohio River Bridges Project will stay on schedule and non-stop electronic tolling was identified as a funding option to help cover construction costs, under legislation approved late yesterday by the Kentucky General Assembly.

"Kentucky's budget is good news for the Bridges Project and continued progress," said C. Edward Glasscock, chairman of Build the Bridges Coalition, a non-profit group of Kentucky and Indiana businesses and organizations advocating for the project.

"In a tight budget year, the Kentucky General Assembly showed a strong commitment to the project and keeping work on schedule," Glasscock said. "The decision reflects the strong public support for the project, and the need to complete the work as quickly and as economically as possible."

Kerry Stemler, chairman of One Southern Indiana, a chamber of commerce and member of Build the Bridges Coalition, said Kentucky's funding approval "is a huge step for project completion, which will give us a stronger economy, needed public safety improvements and congestion relief."

The project is comprised of two new Ohio River bridges in the Louisville-Southern Indiana region and the rebuild of an interchange where I-64, I-65 and I-71 converge in downtown Louisville.

Authorized for construction nearly five years ago, the project's purpose is to improve cross-river transportation in the Louisville-Southern Indiana region, a major economic and logistics hub. A new Ohio River Bridge hasn't been built in the region in nearly 50 years.

The Kentucky General Assembly provided \$231.5 million in federal highway bonds for the next two years to keep the project on schedule, bringing Kentucky's total committed funding to \$430 million since 2002. The state has spent about \$100 million, largely on design work, in the past two years alone, according to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

Work scheduled in the next two years includes construction in the approach area for the new downtown bridge, right-of-way and final design both downtown and in the East End where a second bridge is located.

The state budget stipulates that the project's Finance Plan should be updated by the Transportation Cabinet to show that toll revenues – which can be generated from non-stop electronic operations – would be available as a funding source in the future to help pay Kentucky's \$2.9 billion share of the project. Details on oversight of a tolling operation are expected to be determined in a future legislative session.

Indiana has accounted for its \$1.1 billion share of the project, with much of its funding generated from a toll road in Northern Indiana.

Each state is paying for work on its side of the river and covering 50 percent of the bridge structure costs. Bridge designs were selected more than a year ago. Bike and pedestrian cross-river access is part of the project plan.

Under the project's Finance Plan, the East End Bridge is to be completed in late 2013 or early 2014, followed by the downtown bridge in 2019 and the completion of the Spaghetti Junction interchange rebuild in 2024.

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Build the Bridges Coalition

The coalition is a private, non-profit organization advocating for completion of the Ohio River Bridges Project. Twenty businesses and organizations have representatives on the coalition, which was founded by Greater Louisville Inc., One Southern Indiana, the Louisville Downtown Development Corp., and the Regional Leadership Coalition. Other organizations participating: UPS; Ford Motor Co.; Greater Louisville Building and Construction Trades Council; Associated Builders and Contractors of Kentuckiana, Inc.; The Greater Louisville Logistics Network; Louisville Chapter, National Association of Women Business Owners; The Hispanic-Latino Business Council; The African-American Business Alliance; Young Professional Association of Louisville; The Louisville Urban League; The Urban League Young Professionals; Offices of the Mayor: Louisville Metro, Bowling Green, Elizabethtown, and Jeffersonville, Ind.; Office of the County Judge-Executive, Bullitt County.