



News Release
January 11, 2010

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PUBLIC HEARING PLANNED AS BRIDGE PROJECT NEARS MILESTONE

Louisville, Ky. (January 11, 2010) – The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) have scheduled a public hearing for the Milton-Madison Bridge Project as it nears completion of a major milestone, its environmental phase. The hearing will be held January 14, 2010, from 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. at the new Milton Elementary School, 9542 Hwy. 421 N., Milton, Ky.

The hearing provides one of the last opportunities for the public to provide input on the replacement of the US 421 Ohio River bridge between Milton, Ky., and Madison, Ind. A formal presentation begins at 7:00 p.m. and will include an overview of the project. Afterward, representatives from KYTC, INDOT and project consultant Wilbur Smith Associates will take comments and answer questions.

The Milton-Madison Bridge Project's Environmental Assessment (EA) document was recently approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), KYTC and INDOT. "This document reflects all the work that has gone into the project over the past two years," said Gary Valentine, KYTC project manager. The EA will be displayed at the hearing and is available at the project Web site, MiltonMadisonBridge.com. The EA document is also available for review at the Madison Mayor's Office (101 W. Main St., Madison, Ind.) and the Milton Municipal Building (10179 US 421 N, Milton, Ky.). Comments on the EA document will be accepted through January 30, 2010.

The EA recommends replacing the bridge's truss superstructure, reusing the existing piers, a method referred to as "superstructure replacement." The EA also evaluates the social, economic and environmental impacts of the project. It includes a discussion of historic resources and actions that will be taken to offset adverse project impacts on historic properties. An EA is required as part of the process outlined by the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. It requires that leaders of federally funded projects thoroughly review the potential impacts of their actions on both the natural and human environments.

In late January, KYTC and INDOT will find out if the states have been awarded \$95 million in federal stimulus funding toward the estimated \$131 million cost of the proposed superstructure replacement. If awarded the federal stimulus funds, the states will split evenly the remaining cost. If these federal funds are not awarded, both states will pursue traditional funding methods for the project.

In the event of inclement weather, meeting cancellation information will be made available to the local media and on the project Web site at MiltonMadisonBridge.com, or by calling 859-254-5759 extension 132.

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