



BRIDGE PROJECT TEAM BEGINS ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Project expected to create more than 1400 jobs

Louisville, Ky. (September 28, 2009) – The Milton-Madison Bridge Project team begins work this week on a detailed economic impact analysis of the proposed superstructure replacement on local communities. Project economists will examine the short-term benefits of the influx of construction dollars and the estimated losses associated with a one-year bridge closure.

Team members from Wilbur Smith Associates, the engineering consulting firm for the project, will conduct interviews with business owners in Jefferson Co., Ind., and Trimble and Carroll counties in Kentucky. The meetings, which begin Tuesday, September 29 and last for several days, will be held with some 60 businesses ranging from small operations to large industries.

“This information will eventually help guide our overall strategy for coping with the proposed bridge closure,” said John Carr, Wilbur Smith Associates project manager. “While there won’t be any direct compensation to businesses, we hope this information will lead to a course of action that will lessen the impact.”

In addition to basic questions, owners will be asked about customer use of the bridge and estimated losses in income due to the proposed closure. The gathered data, which will remain confidential, will be entered into a special computer program which will calculate potential losses by industry type for the three-county area.

Project economists will also analyze the short-term impact that construction will have on the local economy. An estimated 1424 jobs are expected to be created by the project, many of them local. “We also expect that construction workers will be spending money locally and believe that will help local merchants for the period that the bridge would be closed,” said Carr.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) recently applied for \$95 million in federal funding toward the estimated \$131 million cost of the proposed superstructure replacement, which involves removal of the steel superstructure and construction of a new span atop the existing piers.

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