

# REFLECTIONS

## FIRST PUBLIC MEETING

Get involved and give feedback on the Milton-Madison Bridge Project! The first public meeting for the project will be held February 12, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Brown Gym, 100 S. Broadway Street, in Madison, Ind.

The meeting starts with an "Information Fair," followed by a presentation and public polling exercise beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Milton-Madison Bridge Project Public Meeting	
6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.	Information Fair
6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Presentations & Electronic Preference Polling
8:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	Information Fair Continues

The primary focus of the meeting is to get public feedback on the Bridge Type Selection process. Electronic polling will be used to determine the community's likes and dislikes regarding bridge characteristics, such as size, shape and symmetry. Small, easy-to-use electronic keypads will be used to register public opinion.

"It's like when contestants poll the audience on the TV show, 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire,'" says John Carr, project manager of Wilbur Smith Associates. "We show choices up on the screen, and the public gives us instant feedback." The results of the electronic polling will help project managers refine the list of choices for the future type of bridge that will best fit the potential river crossing locations in the next steps.

Project managers will also discuss the "Purpose and Need" statement for the Milton-Madison Bridge Project. To comply with federal regulations, this statement must explain the problem in detail, as well as why the expenditure of public funds is both necessary and worthwhile.

## MiltonMadisonBridge.com

The Milton-Madison Bridge Project has launched its new Web site, MiltonMadisonBridge.com. The site, entitled "Milton-Madison Bridge Project, A Reflection of Two Communities," provides useful tools to help the community stay up-to-date on the project.

"The site is designed to grow along with the project, so we'll be adding new information along the way," said Gary Valentine, KYTC project manager.

The new site offers an overview of the Milton-Madison Bridge Project, outlining project goals, scheduling and funding. It includes sections on public involvement, historic and environmental concerns and potential bridge types and locations. Visitors can view upcoming project events and meeting summaries. Eventually, the site will present major documents associated with the project.



### INITIAL PROJECT GOALS:

- Building consensus with the public and resource agencies
- Selecting a bridge location
- Identifying an affordable bridge type
- Completing a sound federal environmental report



### NEW PROJECT MANAGER

Gary Valentine has been named KYTC's new project manager for the Milton-Madison Bridge Project. Valentine also is heading up the Louisville Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges Project. He attended the University of Kentucky, graduating in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and received his Professional Engineering registration in 1995. Valentine is married with two children and lives in Elizabethtown, Ky.

### SIGN UP:

for an electronic project newsletter at [MiltonMadisonBridge.com](http://MiltonMadisonBridge.com)

### MAKING CONNECTIONS

If you have any comments or questions, please contact:

**Andrea Clifford**  
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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **How much will a new bridge cost?**

The bridge cost is not available right now. Cost estimates will be determined as the project progresses through the preliminary engineering and environmental stages of the project. Various alternatives along with multiple bridge types are under consideration. Based on engineering experience, girder bridges and suspension bridges are not economically feasible for this location. Both Kentucky and Indiana plan to build a bridge that is affordable to the taxpayers.

- **Will this be a toll bridge?**

This decision has not been made. Since we are in the early stages of the project, we have the funding necessary to complete the first task, which is to move the project through the Preliminary Engineering and Environmental phases. A Financial Plan will be developed to review all funding options which will include an evaluation of tolling.

- **Will the Milton-Madison Bridge Project address the need for a hilltop-to-hilltop connection?**

There are presently no plans to connect the bridge to U.S. 421 at the Milton hilltop. The project will focus on building a new bridge and connecting to the existing roadways as appropriate. However, during the design process, the project will consider future projects that might link other highways to the bridge.

- **What's all this I hear about a ferry?**

No decision has been made yet. One alternative being considered is to re-use the piers on the existing US 421 bridge if they are found to be structurally sound. This would involve the replacement of the bridge's superstructure, or upper elements. If this is done, the bridge would be closed for several months. Therefore, the possibility of using ferry service to accommodate some of the passenger car trips has been discussed. However, the superstructure replacement option is only one of many scenarios under consideration.

## PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP (PAG)

Another way the Milton-Madison Bridge Project is working to engage the public is through its Project Advisory Group (PAG). The 24-member PAG has met four times since October, providing ongoing input on the project.

At its first meeting, the PAG was given an overview of the project and the process that must be followed to comply with federal regulations. When the PAG met in November, members provided feedback on potential bridge alignments. At the December PAG meeting, the group helped refine the project's Purpose and Need statement and gave further input on possible bridge locations. When the group met in January, members once again reviewed alternative alignments and learned about the Bridge Type Selection process.

The Project Advisory Group provides input to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), contributing to the decision-making process in support of the technical analyses, engineering studies and community feedback.

## SECTION 106

Individuals and organizations interested in historic resources may participate in the Milton-Madison Bridge Project as "Section 106 Consulting Parties." Consulting Parties assist the project team in the identification and treatment of historic properties and provide comments concerning potential mitigation measures to reduce the adverse effects of the project on historic resources. Information about becoming a "Section 106 Consulting Party" can be obtained from Gregory Rawlings, Federal Highway Administration, (502) 223-6728 or [gregory.rawlings@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:gregory.rawlings@fhwa.dot.gov).

## What's Next?

In the next few months, the Milton-Madison Bridge Project will:

- Screen bridge location alternatives and eliminate those that do not meet the project's purpose and need.
- Meet with representatives of historic interests (Section 106 Consulting Parties.)
- Conduct a second general public meeting in late spring or early summer.

