



News Release
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MILTON-MADISON BRIDGE PROJECT REACHES MAJOR MILESTONE

Louisville, Ky. (March 23, 2010) – The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) today announced federal environmental approval of the Milton-Madison Bridge Project, allowing the states to continue moving toward design and construction of a new bridge.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) officially signed off on the project's NEPA document, which attests that the project will not significantly impact the environment and should be allowed to advance. Such documentation is required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970.

The 80-year-old bridge, which connects Milton, Ky., and Madison, Ind., and carries US 421 over the Ohio River, will be replaced with a wider, modern steel truss structure that is similar in appearance to the existing bridge. It will be built atop the existing piers, which will be modernized.

The estimated cost of the project is \$131 million. The project was awarded \$20 million in Recovery Act funding in February. Indiana and Kentucky have identified state and federal funding for the estimated \$111 million remaining cost of the project, which will be evenly split by both states.

Specifics regarding Recovery Act funding will be detailed in a grant agreement currently being developed with FHWA. Once that agreement is reached, INDOT will advertise a construction contract for a period of 11-12 weeks, during which time bids will be accepted through a competitive letting process. Draft contract documents will be available for review on the project Web site, MiltonMadisonBridge.com, four weeks prior to the contract advertisement.

The contract is expected to be awarded in late summer with construction efforts beginning this fall. Construction will take approximately 24 months, with the bridge expected to close to traffic in the early fall of 2011. While contractors will be permitted to close the bridge to traffic for a maximum of 12 months, efforts will be made toward a shorter closure. A free ferry service across the Ohio River will be offered while the bridge is closed to traffic.

For more information, visit the project Web site, MiltonMadisonBridge.com.