



News Release
August 10, 2010

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CONTRACT REVISED TO PROMOTE SHORTER BRIDGE CLOSURE

LOUISVILLE, KY (August 10, 2010) — The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) today announced a new bidding option that will encourage contractors to close the Milton-Madison Bridge for less than 12 months.

Contractors may continue to submit proposals with the original timeline, which requires the bridge to be open to traffic by September 15, 2012. A contract revision published on Friday, however, provides additional scheduling flexibility, giving contractors the option of selecting a May 31, 2013 deadline for substantial completion of the project. Both options still prohibit contractors from closing the bridge more than 365 days without financial damages being assessed against the contract.

Each bridge closure day will be converted to a dollar amount of \$25,000. That number will be added to the contractor's lump sum project bid and used in determining the low bid on the project.

“The lowest qualified cost proposal, combined with the fewest number of bridge closure days, equals a winning bid,” said INDOT Project Manager Kevin Hetrick. “By providing contractors with scheduling flexibility, we are encouraging contractors to shorten the bridge closure.”

The contract revision stemmed from the mandatory July 7 pre-bid meeting, during which contractors expressed concern about pouring concrete during winter months and pier rehab in the event of high water.

“That was the whole purpose of last month's pre-bid meeting; to give contractors the opportunity to provide input and ask questions,” added Gary Valentine, KYTC project manager. “There was a consensus among the contractors that adding flexibility would allow them to build the bridge under optimum conditions and submit lower cost proposals.”

The exact timing of the bridge closure will not be known until INDOT officially awards the contract in late September or early October. Under the new bidding option the bridge closure would be shortened, but incidental construction could continue through May 2013.

“Regardless of which bidding option the contractors elect to use, this is still an aggressive project schedule,” explained Hetrick. “Prior to receipt of the TIGER grant, the two states were moving towards a 2013 start to construction.”

The Contractors and Design Teams in attendance at the July 7 informational meeting in Madison, Ind. included American Bridge Company/ HDR; CJ Mahan Construction Co./ Janssen and Spaans Engineering, Inc./ Entran; Massman Construction Co./ Parsons Transportation Group; Traylor Brothers/ HNTB; Walsh Construction Company/ Burgess & Niple Engineers/ Buckland and Taylor Ltd.

INDOT is using an innovative construction method on the bridge project called “design-build” to replace the existing 80-year old US 421 bridge connecting Milton, Ky. and Madison, Ind. With design-build, the design and construction phases of the project overlap, shortening the completion time of the project. Design-build does not compromise quality or safety; inspectors will monitor every step of construction.

For more information, visit the project Web site, www.Milton-MadisonBridge.com

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