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FIRST PLANNED CLOSURE ANNOUNCED FOR MILTON-MADISON BRIDGE *Construction schedule adjusted in wake of record-setting rainfall*

Louisville, Ky. (January 31, 2012) – The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) today announced the dates of the first five-day, construction-related closure of the Milton-Madison Bridge. The 82-year-old bridge – which carries US 421 from Milton, Ky., to Madison, Ind., – is scheduled to close from April 25–29, though the dates are subject to change depending on weather conditions and river levels.

During the planned five-day closure, the project contractor – Walsh Construction Company – will work around the clock to remove the existing bridge approaches and connect temporary ramps in Milton and Madison.

“Shifting traffic to the temporary ramps is just the first in a series of steps we’re taking to ensure traffic keeps moving during construction,” said Kevin Hetrick, INDOT project manager. “When you consider that this community was initially facing a year-long bridge closure, five days – while still an inconvenience – is a lot more manageable.”

During the planned five-day closure, a ferry service will be provided for emergency medical services (ambulances) only. Drivers will detour to the Markland Locks and Dam Bridge, 26 miles upstream, or Louisville, 46 miles downstream.

In order to explain closure-related traffic changes and emergency services provisions and provide a bridge construction update, the project team will conduct a public meeting on March 22 at The Brown Gym, 100 Broadway St., in Madison, from 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m., with a presentation beginning at 7:00 p.m. The project team will be available to answer questions starting at 6:00 p.m. and again after the presentation.

Construction began in early 2011 to replace the narrow and deteriorating Milton-Madison Bridge using innovative design and construction methods. A new 2,400-foot-long steel truss bridge will be built on temporary piers, then slid into place on top of the existing piers which are being strengthened to meet modern standards. Once complete, the new wider bridge will lie within the footprint of the existing bridge.

Weather-Related Schedule Adjustment

After a year of record-breaking rainfall and sustained high-river levels, an adjusted project schedule indicates the new bridge will open to traffic in 2013.

“When river levels rise, the cofferdams flood, the current is swift and it’s simply not safe for our workers,” explained Andy Barber, KYTC project manager. “We built time into the schedule for

weather issues, but when you see these kinds of rainfall extremes, obviously it's not something we can control. So we'll make adjustments and keep the project moving forward as quickly and safely as we can."

The project schedule was impacted by five high-water events totaling 108 days in 2011. A sixth high water event is currently underway.

"The good news is that the schedule adjustment does not impact the length of the planned bridge closures; the two closures will still last just five days each," explained Hetrick. "We're hoping no more weather records will be broken in 2012."

Named one of the Top 10 bridge projects in the country by *Roads & Bridges Magazine*, and the recipient of several state and national engineering awards, the Milton-Madison Bridge Project is a bi-state effort between INDOT and KYTC. For more information, visit www.MiltonMadisonBridge.com or follow us on Twitter @MMBridgeProject.

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