



# THE BRIDGES COALITION

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## **Kentucky lawmakers will consider bridges legislation *Governor puts issue on June 15 special session call***

Citing the need for jobs and economic investment, Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear announced today that legislation addressing funding for the Ohio River Bridges Project would be on the call for the special session of the legislature which starts June 15.

The governor, who also announced an economic incentives package for legislative consideration, said in a news release that the proposed measures have strong support in the legislature and will “create jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in investment for Kentucky.”

“It is time now to move them – quickly – through this process, which is exactly what a short and necessary special session is designed for,” Beshear said. He said with one in 10 Kentuckians out of work, “the timing of these initiatives couldn’t be more critical or more urgent.”

C. Edward Glasscock, chairman of The Bridges Coalition, said the governor’s announcement that legislation for Bridges Project progress will be considered is “great news.”

“We appreciate the leadership of Governor Beshear and the support and dedication of the leadership of the House and Senate and the Jefferson County delegation,” Glasscock said.

“The Bridges Project is essential for job creation and economic development in this region. We look forward to passage of this legislation and major construction on the project as soon as possible.”

The project, authorized in 2003, will provide job growth now and in the future, congestion relief, safer bridges and connecting highways, cross-river lanes for bikes and walkers and 40-45 more acres adjacent to Louisville’s Waterfront Park.

Earlier this year, each chamber of the Kentucky General Assembly overwhelming passed similar legislation providing new funding options through a public authority for major transportation projects, starting with the Bridges Project. But the differences in the two versions of the legislation were not resolved before the session ended.

Beshear's news release said the specific legislation for the special session will be released soon and will foster continued "federal investment and safeguard the existing state investment, ensuring that we maintain the bonding capacity we need over time to fund projects throughout the state."

"Each of these projects reflects our aggressive efforts to recruit retain and create high-paying jobs for more Kentuckians," his statement said.

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The Bridges Coalition is a broad-based non-profit organization supporting the completion as quickly and as cost effectively as possible of the Bridges Project, two new bridges linking Louisville and Southern Indiana and the rebuild of Spaghetti Junction where I-65, I-64 and I-71 converge.