



June 15, 2009

Support voiced for Ohio River bridges project

Louisville jobs are at risk. Not just because of the current economy, but because of our current infrastructure. The daily congestion caused by our outdated bridges is threatening critical industries in our region. We know, because we live it every day.

As chairmen of the Greater Louisville Advanced Manufacturing and Logistics Network, we represent 120 companies that employ thousands of workers across Kentucky and Indiana. We are encouraging everyone who cares about jobs and business growth in our community to support the Ohio River Bridges Project.

How can you do that? Right now, Kentucky lawmakers are considering legislation to put bridge construction on the fast track. They need to hear your support.

In fact, we ran an ad on the pages of this paper Sunday. More than 65 local companies with logistics and distribution operations — including major employers UPS, Ford, GE and Brown-Forman — have come together to urge support for two new bridges and a redesign of Spaghetti Junction. These companies know how important the project is to the jobs our community depends on.

Consider it our region's own economic stimulus plan. Construction of the Bridges Project will create 56,000 jobs with a payroll of \$2 billion — and that doesn't even include the thousands of jobs that will be created (and saved!) when the project is complete. Another return on investment? A safer, greener, more reliable cross-river network.

Our region is a national leader in logistics and production, with a hub of hundreds of companies employing 144,000 workers. We've achieved this because north, south, east and west all converge with Interstates 71, 65 and 64 in downtown Louisville.

Unfortunately, what was once the crossroads of industry is now its pinch point.

Our highway network is starting to fall apart, with bridges that are overcapacity and don't meet current safety standards. As a community, we have upgraded our airport, and modernized our lock and dam system. But we haven't built a new bridge in nearly 50 years.

The logistic and distribution industries are long-time supporters of the Bridges Project. But the current economy has made it more important than ever to take action now. Call your state legislators. Ask them to support bridges legislation during this week's Special Session. Let them know community jobs depend on it.

Every company in our region bears the burden of employees, goods and commerce caught in a web of traffic. It's time to get moving. It's time for new bridges.

JEFF ULIGIAN

Genentech Kentucky

Distribution Center

FRANK FINLEY

Paradigm Engineers

& Contractors

Co-Chairmen

Greater Louisville

Advanced Manufacturing

and Logistics Network

Louisville 40202
