

Brief Overview

The Ohio River Bridges Project was initiated to address the long-term cross-river transportation needs in the Louisville-Southern Indiana region. After a detailed analysis that included extensive public outreach and involvement, culminating in the publication of a Final Environmental Impact Statement, the Federal Highway Administration authorized the Ohio River Bridges Project in September 2003.

Bridge Type Selection Phase

The project is now in the Bridge Type Selection Phase. During this phase, decisions will include types of bridges to build and the design guidelines that need to be followed in order to ensure that the East End Bridge blends in well with the surrounding environments on both sides of the river.

Officials on both sides of the river have committed to a bridge type selection process that entails sharing design concepts with the community as they are developed and offering the public several opportunities to provide feedback. Taking into consideration public input, cost and engineering feasibility, an executive oversight committee with bi-state representation will ultimately select the final designs.

The East End Bridge Design Team

The team, led by Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB), will design concepts for the East End Bridge, with oversight by the Bi-State Management Team, which consists of representatives from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the Indiana Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

The East End Bridge team is currently developing bridge design guidelines. Future work will include creating initial design concepts and refining those concepts to a set of bridge type alternatives. At each stage of the bridge selection process, the East End team will present its work for comment at public meetings and at meetings with Area Advisory Teams and the Regional Advisory Committee. The team will use public feedback throughout the design process so that the designs developed are consistent with the committees' character and wishes.

The process to select the bridge type for the East End Bridge is estimated to take one year. The East End Bridge design team will work with the approach design teams on each side of the river to ensure that the designs of the approaches and bridge structures are coordinated.

Upcoming Events for East End Bridge Project

East End Bridge AAT/RAC Tentative Meeting Schedule

Bridge Type Selection Step 2 - Meeting #3: November 17, 2005
Site TBD

Bridge Type Selection Step 3 - Meeting #4: Winter 2006

Bridge Type Selection Step 4 - Meeting #5: Spring 2006

East End Bridge Tentative Open House Schedule

Bridge Type Selection Step 2 Open Houses: December 13 & 15, 2005
Sites TBD

Bridge Type Selection Step 3 Open Houses: Winter 2006

Bridge Type Selection Step 4 Open Houses: Spring 2006

1. How will the designs for the new Downtown Bridge and East End Bridge be selected?

After a one-year design process involving several public meetings and advisory team meetings, an executive oversight committee will select the bridge designs by taking into consideration public input, cost and engineering feasibility. Membership of the executive oversight committee has not been determined as of yet. Each of the two bridge design teams will work with the approach design teams on each side of the river to ensure that the designs of the approaches and bridge structures are coordinated. The design teams will use public feedback throughout the design process in an effort to develop bridge designs that are consistent with the communities' character and wishes.

2. How will the public be involved in the selection of the bridge designs?

At each stage of the process, the design teams will present their work for feedback at public meetings and at meetings with the four Area Advisory Teams and the Regional Advisory Committee. Individuals and/or stakeholder groups are encouraged to comment in one of several ways: at public meetings, through written comment forms submitted to the project team or via an on-line comment form on the project Web site.

3. Will there be a bike path or a sidewalk on the new bridges?

Yes. Plans for both new bridges include a pedestrian and bike path. The final design of that path will be influenced by public input.

4. Why not just build a new downtown bridge only?

After a detailed analysis that included extensive public outreach and involvement, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) concluded in the 2003 Record of Decision that the two-bridge option was needed to address the project's purpose and need. A downtown bridge alone does not solve the region's long-term cross-river transportation needs. Both an East End Bridge and new Downtown Bridge are needed to adequately relieve traffic congestion and address safety issues.

5. How soon will construction on the project begin?

Construction is estimated to begin in 2007 and be completed by 2020. The project schedule is dependent on funding availability.

6. How much will this project cost?

The project is estimated to cost \$2.5 billion (in year-of-expenditure dollars). Kentucky's portion of the cost will be \$1.7 billion, or about 68 percent of the overall cost. Indiana's share will be \$800 million, or about 32 percent.

The Bridges



Bi-State Management Team

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Section 5 East End Bridge Team

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Let Us Know What You Think!

Please leave the completed form with a Project Team member tonight or mail/fax to:

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Do you have any further comments to add to the discussion tonight about Bridge Design Guidelines?

Do you have any suggestions for our future Open Houses: time, location, other comments?

Other ideas/suggestions?

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(RETURN ADDRESS)

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