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In Re: Proposed tolling of Ohio River Bridges

I am a newly-elected councilman representing the Town of Clarksville and want to make my concerns known regarding the proposal to toll all or part of the Ohio River Bridges project: specifically Interstate 65 as it crosses the Ohio River.

In my estimation, tolls will have a pronounced negative effect on the local community in that they create a barrier for traffic entering Indiana. They will reduce traffic to local hotels, restaurants, tourism attractions and retail businesses in Indiana reducing the economic climate and negatively impacting taxes paid to both local and state governments in Indiana.

D.19

The tolls are unfair for a number of reasons:

1. The project being built is not the project the community wants. It has been selected by an elite group of people who do not appear to understand what the community is telling them. That is that they want a one bridge solution with construction of the East End Ohio River Bridge.
2. Nearly one third of the cost of the project as proposed will go to rebuild Spaghetti Junction, yet that segment of the project is not being tolled. The Spaghetti Junction rebuild, if it is included in the project should pay for itself through tolls instead of passing that financial burden to Hoosier who must cross the bridge to work in Louisville.
3. The tunnel segment of the East End Bridge project appears to many as an abuse of federal historic designation in an attempt to escalate the cost of the overall project in hopes of making it so expensive it cannot be constructed. Eliminating the historic designation afforded the Drummanard Estate and eliminating the cost of the tunnel would bring the project within the scope of being able to be financed without tolls.

C.11
C.24

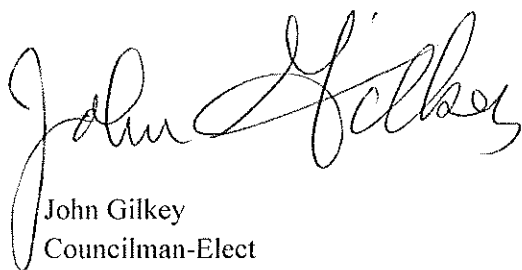
C.26
E.3

For years it has been said that there is an "invisible wall" in the middle of the Ohio River dividing our community. Recent efforts by groups such as Leadership Louisville and One Southern Indiana have

started to tear down that invisible wall. But tolls will destroy those efforts and instead create an economic barrier that will persist for decades to come as the cost of the bridges is retired.

I urge you to look at the wishes of the community. Time after time in public hearings with regard to this project you have heard this community say it does not want the project being forced upon it. Instead, this community wants one East End Bridge and no tolls.

The future of this community is in your hands. You will decide if we will grow as one community on both sides of the Ohio River or become a community divided. I urge you to think about what the community is telling you instead of a small group of people who are determined to press forward with the wrong project and at any cost.



John Gilkey
Councilman-Elect
Clarksville Town Council

C.11