

From: [John Sacksteder](#)
To: ["Cindy Kowalski"](#)
Subject: FW: SEIS Public Comment
Date: Monday, January 09, 2012 3:50:10 PM

From: McGowan, Dr. Joseph J. [mailto:jmcgowan@bellarmine.edu]
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2012 3:46 PM
To: 'jsacksteder@ctsgec.com'
Subject: SEIS Public Comment

Mr. John Sacksteder
Community Transportation Solutions
305 N. Hurstbourne Parkway, Suite 100
Louisville, KY 40222
Email: jsacksteder@ctsgec.com

RE: SEIS Public Comment

To the Ohio River Bridges Project management team:

Bellarmine University supports the Ohio River Bridges Project, which is to include two bridges (downtown and East End) as well as reworking Spaghetti Junction.

This project is long overdue, and the need has increased during the project's delay. Our community is disrupted and held back by accidents, injuries, traffic jams, increased pollution and lost productivity. The Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement demonstrates this regional city's dire need for vastly improved cross-river mobility.

This unmet need in efficient transportation impacts not only the regional city's commerce, but also education and quality of life. A city that is located on a mile-wide river and that relies on transportation, manufacturing and logistics for at least 147,000 jobs must have excellent cross-river routing in order to thrive. This fact was brought into sharp relief by the closing of the Sherman Minton Bridge on Sept. 9, 2011. Bellarmine University, for one example, has been forced to provide free housing at considerable expense to Southern Indiana student commuters so that they could continue to pursue their degree programs on this side of the river.

The Bridges Project, with the revisions proposed in the 2011 modified alternative, clearly will meet the community's most pressing need of safety and mobility.

Bellarmine University also understands, accepts and supports the idea that tolling will be required to help fund this project. Many thriving cities and states, including Louisville and Kentucky, have relied on tolls as the only way to complete the funding formulae major public works projects. The

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argument against tolling for this project is without merit. We are already paying a higher toll in lost time, higher fuel costs, increased pollution, accidents and injuries.

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Please finalize and approve this project and move it forward now!

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Sincerely,

Joseph J. McGowan
President