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Mr. John Sacksteder
Community Transportation Solutions
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RE: SEIS Public Comment

To the Ohio River Bridges Project management team:

I'd like to express support for the efforts of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the State of Indiana to build the Ohio River Bridges Project, which includes the construction of two new bridges to connect Kentucky and Indiana, and the re-building of an improved interchange of I-65, I-64, and I-71.

The Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) demonstrates that the project's purpose and need has not changed. This community is still plagued by traffic congestion, accidents, injury, and delay, and we do not have adequate cross-river mobility.

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. The modified project will deliver all three needed components, two new bridges and a rebuilt Kennedy Interchange, at significantly lower cost. In addition, there will be less need for right-of-way and property acquisition and less impact on Waterfront Park and other important assets.

I understand and accept that tolling will be used as part of the funding of the Bridges Project. Our community is already paying a high toll in terms of time lost in traffic, accidents, and injury, as well as excess fuel costs and pollution.

With the recent closure of the Sherman Minton Bridge, the need for new cross-river infrastructure in our region is glaring – a constant reminder that without reliable bridges our regional community and economy will come to a screeching halt.

These congestion and safety issues are already hindering the region's 147,000 jobs that rely on transportation, manufacturing, and logistics. And the impact is felt far beyond this community. As a vital transportation gateway from north to south, and with Louisville serving as nationwide center for logistics and distribution, our current congestion is harming interstate commerce. If the Bridges Project does not move forward, our region's congestion issues will further choke our economy and our future.

We thank you for your work with the Bridges Project and ask that the SEIS be finalized and approved to move the project forward as quickly as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kevin A. Grove, CCIM
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