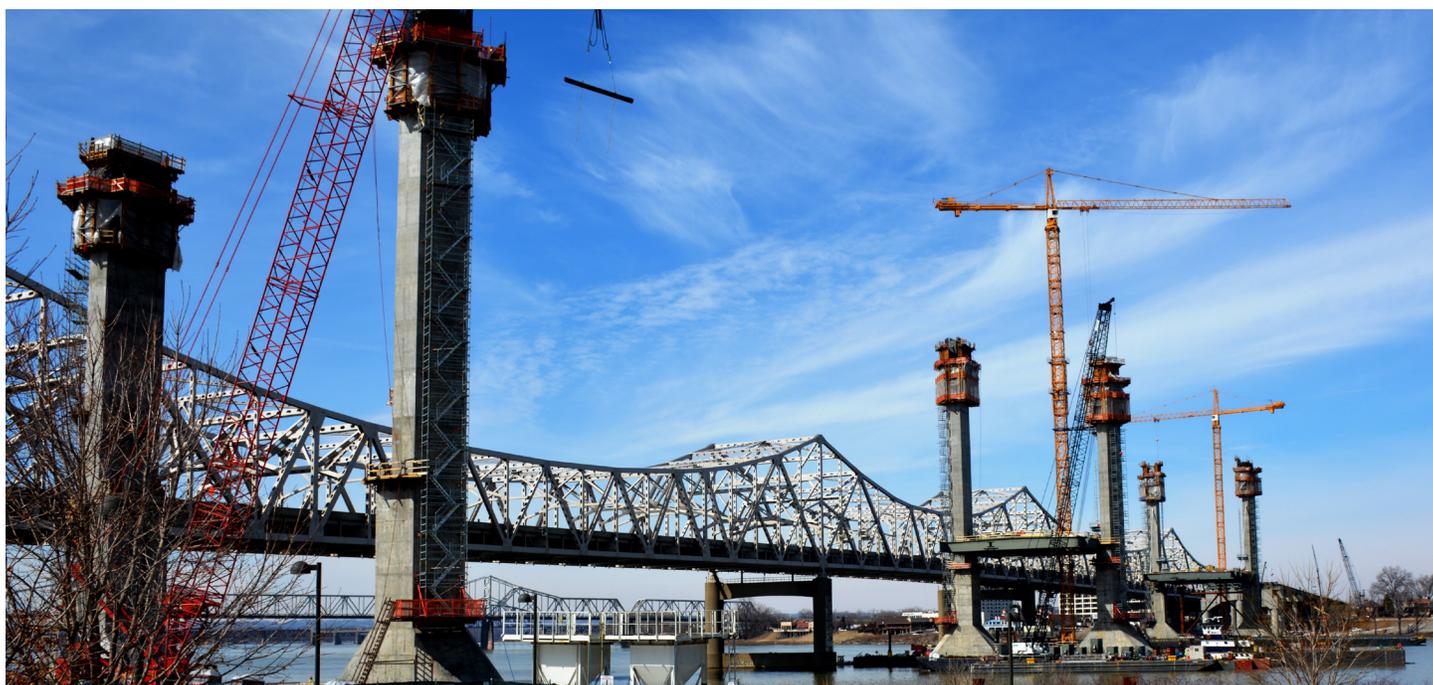




# THE OHIO RIVER BRIDGES DOWNTOWN CROSSING



## Downtown Crossing Annual Construction Guide

March 2015



## ***Moving at an Accelerated Pace***

2015 started with a big announcement from Gov. Steve Beshear – the new Downtown bridge will open to traffic three months ahead of schedule. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is accelerating construction of the bridge, part of the Downtown Crossing portion of the Ohio River Bridges Project, to allow for more extensive improvements that will extend the life of the 51-year old John F. Kennedy Memorial Bridge.



Motorists will drive on the new bridge by January 2016. The entire Downtown Crossing – the new bridge, an improved Kennedy Bridge and interstate connections – will be complete by December 2016. Construction of the Downtown Crossing started in July 2013.

***“Drivers will see the benefits of the investment for decades to come.”***

Gov. Steve Beshear



By January 2016, motorists will drive on the new bridge being constructed alongside the Kennedy Bridge.

## Work in Downtown Louisville

New roadways, ramps and overpasses are being constructed as crews continue the massive job of reconstructing the Kennedy Interchange, untangling the many weaves of Spaghetti Junction where I-65, I-64 and I-71 converge. Two lanes of interstate traffic, in each direction, are being maintained during peak hours throughout the project. To make that possible, crews must first build new overpasses and roadways to carry the traffic. Once work is complete, traffic is shifted to allow for the old connections to be demolished and new ones built.



### Traffic Highlights for 2015

#### Spring

- I-65 North traffic accessing I-64 East/I-71 shifts to new roadway.

#### Summer

- Ramp from I-65 North to I-64 West reopens to traffic (closed February 2015).
- New ramp carrying I-65 South traffic to I-64 East/I-71 North opens to traffic.

#### Late 2015

- Ramp from I-64 East to I-65 South reopens to traffic (closed in July 2013).
- Ramp from I-64 East to I-65 North closes to traffic (will be closed until late 2016).





## Work on the Downtown Bridge

2015 will be a year of even faster progress on the Downtown bridge, with the schedule accelerated to allow for more extensive improvements to the adjacent Kennedy Bridge. The new bridge will be carrying northbound and southbound I-65 traffic by January 2016. When the entire project is completed in December 2016, the new bridge will carry six lanes of northbound traffic and the Kennedy Bridge will carry six lanes of southbound traffic.

### Towers

Tower 5, closest to the Indiana shore, is near its full height of 230 feet.

Tower 4, the center tower, will reach its full height of 280 feet by this summer.

Tower 3, closest to the Kentucky shore, is expected to top out at 230 feet this summer.

### Steel and Cables

The new Downtown bridge will continue to take shape throughout 2015 as crews prepare to open it to traffic by early next year. Progress will be very noticeable as crews continue to set structural steel, install stay cables and eventually pour the deck for the new bridge. The stays are the steel cables that support the deck and give the cable-stayed bridge its dramatic look.



# Work in Southern Indiana

Crews in Southern Indiana will spend 2015 completing the approach to the new Downtown bridge and building connections to the new river crossing. The “Big Squeeze” remains in place, with lane restrictions along a nearly 1 ½ mile section of I-65 in both directions from the Kennedy Bridge to Brown’s Station Way. Traffic will shift later this year as crews complete work on the new lanes of I-65 North that will connect to the new Downtown bridge.

## Traffic Highlights for 2015

### Spring

- 9th Street from Indiana Avenue to Marriott Drive will reopen to traffic (closed in late 2014 in order to build new lanes of I-65 North).

### Summer

- Work will be completed on the new lanes of I-65 North connecting to the new Downtown bridge, with traffic shifting to the new roadway. When traffic shifts, drivers on I-65 South will no longer be in a split configuration.

- The new I-65 roadway will temporarily carry both northbound and southbound traffic, with two lanes of traffic in each direction from the Kennedy Bridge to Brown’s Station Way. The move will allow construction to begin on new lanes of I-65 South.

- 9th Street, from Indiana Avenue to Marriott Drive, will close again for several months to build new lanes of I-65 South.

### Late 2015

- New flyover ramp from US 31 North to I-65 North will open, allowing drivers crossing the Clark Memorial Bridge direct access to I-65 North.





## Downtown bridge by the numbers

- Nearly 16 million pounds of steel
- 50,000 cubic yards of concrete
- 88 stay cables
- 1.4 million feet of steel strand