



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Sherman Minton Bridge Repair to Require 135 Work Days**

*Hall Contracting of Kentucky awarded \$13.9 million contract*

**INDIANAPOLIS** – Governor Mitch Daniels today announced the award of a \$13.9 million contract to Louisville-based Hall Contracting of Kentucky for expedited repairs of the Sherman Minton Bridge. As part of its bid, Hall Contracting committed to completing the repairs necessary to reopen the bridge in 135 work days.

“I’m very, very proud of the highway professionals of the state of Indiana who moved this at warp speed and structured a contract that will get things back to normal faster than most of us anticipated,” Daniels said.

On September 9, Daniels ordered closure of the Interstate 64 bridge over the Ohio River between New Albany and Louisville after maintenance workers discovered a crack in a critical load-carrying element of the bridge. Additional bridge testing revealed other weld defects at numerous locations, which confirmed that closing the bridge was the appropriate decision for public safety.

The contract awarded today will attach 2.4 million pounds of reinforcing steel plating along both sides of the bridge ties, which run horizontally along the upstream and downstream sides of the 1,600-foot structure. The repairs will increase the bridge’s safety and reliability, and with regular maintenance, extend its useful life at least 20 years.

“Advancing both states’ commitment to minimize the bridge closure, Indiana completed a bidding and award process today that typically requires two weeks,” said Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner Michael B. Cline. “The repair clock should begin tomorrow once contractors have full authorization to begin work.”

An incentive of \$100,000 will be offered for each day the winning contractor safely reopens the bridge earlier than the 135 work days in its bid. The incentive is capped at \$5 million or 50 days. Contractor payments will be reduced by a similar \$100,000 for each day the bridge remains closed beyond 135 work days.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued their concurrence with today’s contract award. FHWA announced on Sept. 30 it is contributing 25 percent of repair costs. The remaining costs will be split evenly between Indiana and Kentucky, which intend to seek matching federal funds.

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**EDITORS NOTE:** A paper version of this release distributed during this morning's news conference had incorrect information about the FHWA contribution announced on Sept. 30. FHWA is contributing 25 percent of repair costs with a cap of \$5 million.