



TRANSPORTATION CABINET

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GOVERNOR

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Rebecca Goodman
SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Prequalified Contractors

FROM: Rachel Mills, P.E. *Rachel Mills*
Director, Division of Construction Procurement

DATE: June 8, 2026

SUBJECT: Advance Notice to Industry – US 51 Bridge Replacement

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is providing advance notice to the construction industry regarding an upcoming procurement associated with the replacement of the US 51 Bridge between Wickliffe, Kentucky, and Cairo, Illinois. This notice is intended to provide industry with sufficient time to establish partnerships, obtain required prequalification, and prepare for future bidding opportunities associated with this significant bi-state transportation project. KYTC will procure this project utilizing the traditional Design-Bid-Build procurement method in two phases.

The larger project includes the following major components:

- Construction of approximately 2.8 miles of US 51 roadway, bridge approaches, and ramps extending from Minor Slough in Kentucky to a new intersection with the Ohio River Scenic Byway in Illinois.
- Replacement of the existing US 51 Ohio River Bridge with a new two-lane tied-arch bridge with steel plate girder approach spans.
- Demolition of the existing US 51 Bridge.

Phase I will include foundation testing and site preparation activities needed to support final bridge construction performed in Phase II.

PHASE I - Procurement

Phase I work will generally consist of:

- Pile load testing, including installation and testing of 48-inch diameter pipe piles on land and 72-inch diameter pipe piles in the river.
- Ground modification verification testing utilizing grout rigid inclusions.

- Embankment construction and permanent ground improvements associated with the proposed Kentucky abutment.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE (Dates are subject to change)

Date	Activity
June 8, 2026	Notice to Industry
July 8, 2026	Phase I Advanced Letting Industry Forum (Held at Murray State University, Paducah Campus)
November 5, 2026	Phase I Advertisement Date
November 19, 2026	Phase I Pre-bid Meeting (Mandatory) - (Held at Murray State University, Paducah Campus)
December 10, 2026	Phase I Letting Date
2028	Anticipated Phase II Industry Forum
2029	Anticipated Phase II Bridge Replacement Letting

CONTRACTOR PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Contractors wishing to place a bid on this project will need to be prequalified to perform the following major items of work:

KYTC Required Qualification

Bridges - E5

INDUSTRY FORUM

KYTC and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) invite contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, and consultants interested in participating in the project to attend an Industry Forum on July 8, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CDT (2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. EDT) at Murray State University – Paducah Campus Room 143, 4430 Sunset Avenue, Paducah, KY 42001. Doors open at 1 p.m. CDT (2 p.m. EDT).

The Industry Forum will provide attendees with an overview of the project, anticipated procurement schedule, contractor qualification requirements, and an opportunity to discuss potential teaming and partnering opportunities.

MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING

Attendance by the prospective prime contractor at the Phase I Pre-Bid Meeting is mandatory.

If you have questions regarding this project, please contact the Division of Construction Procurement at (502) 564-3500.