

US 51 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Phase I Contractors' Information Meeting July 8, 2026

KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET | WICKLIFFE, KY TO CAIRO, IL

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The purpose of the US 51 Bridge Project is to improve cross-river mobility between Wickliffe, Kentucky and Cairo, Illinois, by addressing the safety and reliability issues caused by the narrow lane widths, lack of shoulders, and tight curve of the existing bridge and its approaches.

The project will be delivered in two phases.

PHASE I GOALS

1. Determine geotechnical response through Pile Load Testing Program.
2. Demonstrate installation and drivability.
3. Measure performance of Ground Improvements and establish acceptance criteria for installation at Kentucky abutment.
4. Complete embankments to allow settlement and provide project staging areas for Phase II.

PHASE I SCOPE OF WORK

Pile Load Testing

- Static, dynamic, and pseudo-static testing
- 48" and 72" pipe piles
- Tests with and without constrictor plates

Ground Improvements

- Rigid inclusions (high strength cementitious columns)
- Verification Program with 5-ft and 6-ft CTC Spacing: Installation Depth of 70 ft
- Permanent Installation at Future Kentucky Abutment

Embankment Construction

- Illinois side: ~120,000 CY
- Kentucky side: ~190,000 CY

PREQUALIFICATION & WAGE RATES

Prequalification

- 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
- Subconsultant requirement: Appropriate KYTC prequalification category or Specialty Subcontract if none are applicable
- Personnel required to hold KEPSC-RI certificate. The earthwork contractor is required to have qualification to inspect and monitor BMPs
- Encouraged: IDOT Erosion Control Class



KY EROSION PREVENTION & SEDIMENT CONTROL (KEPSC)



IDOT EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL CLASS

Wage Rates

- Phase I contract will include both Illinois and Kentucky prevailing wage rates and be administered by state line.
- Phase II TBD

KEY SITE CONSIDERATIONS

Flooding

- Seasonal river and overbank flooding expected

Environmental Restrictions

- Tree clearing in Illinois from April 1 - September 30, and Kentucky from May 15 - July 31
- USCG coordination required
- Illinois Riverbank Protection/ACM
- Do not disturb areas in navigation path

Access Constraints

- Controlled access areas; contractor access zones defined in Phase I
- Existing route must remain open
- Fort Defiance State Park entrance - no impact
- USDA parcel - no permanent impact and no additional temporary impact other than small area on the corner of the parcel



IN COLLABORATION WITH:



Illinois Department of Transportation



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Preliminary, subject to change

US 51 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

WHY THIS PROJECT?

- Narrow lanes and lack of shoulders
- Tight roadway geometry
- Current closure detour: 90 miles/~2 hours
- Traffic maintained during construction

PHASE II KEY PROJECT ELEMENTS

New Cross-Section

- Two 12-foot lanes with 8-foot shoulders

Main Span: 900-Foot Vertical Tied Arch

- Selected for cost, constructability, long-term maintenance

Approach

- Multi-span steel plate girder units 1, 3-5
- Roundabout intersection on Illinois side

MORE INFORMATION

Project Website:

www.US51bridge.com

KYTC Construction Procurement:

transportation.ky.gov/Construction-Procurement

Information is preliminary and subject to change



KEY DATES

Information is preliminary and subject to change

Nov. 5, 2026: Phase I Advanced Letting Advertisement Date

Nov. 19, 2026: Mandatory Phase I Advanced Letting Pre-Bid Meeting (at Murray State University, Paducah Campus)

Dec. 10, 2026: Phase I Advanced Letting Date

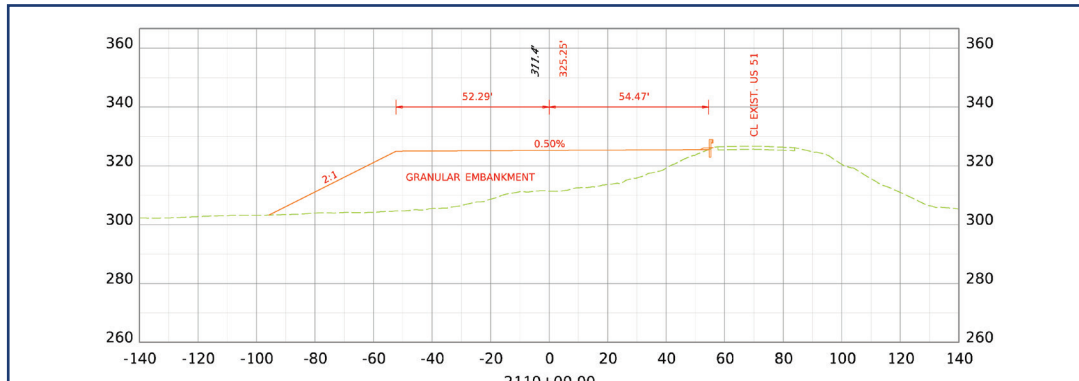
Dec. 31, 2027: Phase I Advanced Letting Load Test Program and Ground Test Verification Completion (including reports)

Feb. 28, 2028: Phase I Advanced Letting Project Completion

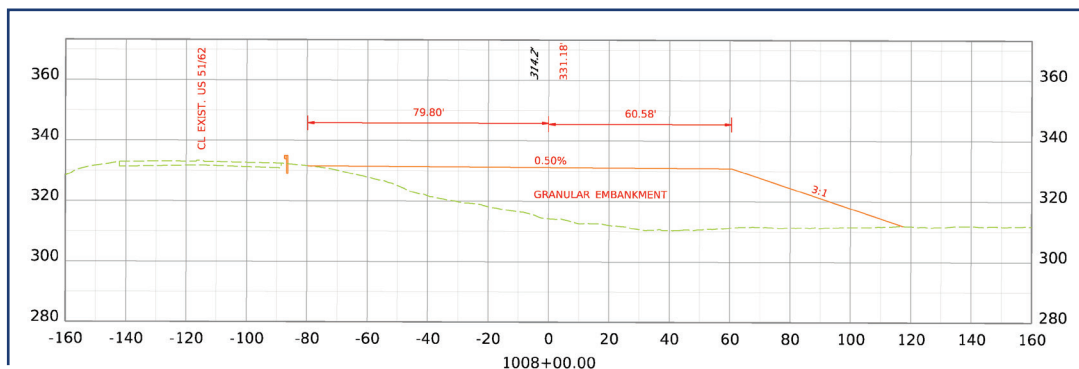
Summer 2028: Anticipated Phase II Bridge Replacement Letting Industry Forum

Q1 2029: Anticipated Phase II Bridge Replacement Letting

KENTUCKY EMBANKMENT CROSS-SECTION



ILLINOIS EMBANKMENT CROSS-SECTION



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