



Andy Beshear  
GOVERNOR

## TRANSPORTATION CABINET

200 Mero Street  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Jim Gray  
SECRETARY

August 1, 2025

The Honorable Sean P. Duffy  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE,  
Washington DC 20590

Re: Letter of No Prejudice, Interstate 65 (I-65) Bridge Bundling Project, FY 26 Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant

Dear Secretary Duffy,

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) respectfully submits this request for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approval of pre-award authority, through this Letter of No Prejudice (LONP), to incur \$17.015 million towards Bridge Investment Program (BIP) eligible expenses associated with advancing the I-65 Bridge Bundling Project, for which KYTC has submitted an application for FY 26 BIP (funding opportunity # 693JJ323NF00019) Large Bridge grant.

### **Eligible Activities to Occur Prior to Grant Obligation:**

**Public Outreach:** KYTC has identified an outreach strategy that will provide an opportunity for engagement in the project during the design phase. Because of the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) delivery method for the project and as the schedule refines, considering construction impacts and closures early in the project will avoid or mitigate negative impacts. Obtaining this feedback in Q4 of CY 2025 and Q1 2026 is critical to drive overall sequencing strategy. As the project develops, continued engagement will ensure that all phases of the project are informed by stakeholders and public feedback.

**Design:** KYTC has identified key stakeholders that will help the project team resolve issues related to current geometric design, under clearances, ramp and local street access, safety, and mobility within the project area. Conceptual designs have been identified for each of the 15 bridges in the project area. New methods for reducing spans and overall bridge deck square

footage will be leveraged, and final design will balance schedule, budget, and user needs. It will be critical to advance the design work in concurrence with the public outreach described above.

Utility Coordination and Right-of-Way Acquisition: KYTC has identified all utility owners/operators and will coordinate with them to identify potential conflicts and relocate utilities, as needed. If required, KYTC along with the design team will coordinate with parcel owners to secure any temporary and/or permanent right-of-way needed for the project.

**Impact of No LONP:**

KYTC is utilizing the CM/GC delivery method for this project and has already procured a CM/GC Contractor and designer to advance the FY26 BIP I-65 Bridge Bundling Project, which will be delivered in two bundles. For this project, achieving maximum efficiency with the bundling strategy promoted by FHWA will require that design and outreach activities are contemporaneous for all the bridges in the project scope. Design and outreach for the 15 bridges are likely to be further delayed without the pre-award authority, resulting in a delayed construction schedule, almost certainly adding cost due to lost efficiency, cost escalation, and a longer construction impact for the project area.

**Estimated Costs for Eligible Activities:**

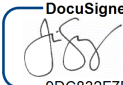
KYTC estimates \$17.015 million in eligible expenses to advance the activities described in this letter through June 30, 2026 (estimated grant obligation milestone).

**Financial Capacity to Support LONP Costs**

KYTC has sufficient financial capacity to support the estimated \$17.015 million cost of the activities through Q2 of CY 2026. KYTC has committed approximately \$83.37 million in state funding and \$125.05 million in NHPP funds to this project, funding that is available to advance preliminary engineering activities.

**Conclusion**

With FHWA concurrence through a Letter of No Prejudice, KYTC can advance the I-65 Bridge Bundling Project at the full scope assumed in the grant application. Proceeding with the Project as described in the grant application will allow KYTC to address the state of good repair for 15 bridges in central Louisville along I-65 in the Project area.

Sincerely,  
DocuSigned by:  
  
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Jim Gray  
Secretary