COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
TRANSPORTATION CABINET
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gov. Beshear Announces $15.1 Million Investment for Public Riverports

Projects in seven counties will improve freight movement and support Kentucky's economy

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Nov. 12, 2026) – Today, Gov. Andy Beshear announced a $15.1 million investment to enhance freight capacity and support economic activity through Kentucky's waterways. Awards from the Kentucky Public Riverport Construction and Maintenance (KPRCM) program will fund 15 projects which include equipment upgrades and replacement, warehouse and storage expansion, increased capacity for barge staging, safety improvements, and more.

"Our riverports play a key role in transporting goods across the commonwealth," said **Gov. Beshear**. "These investments will help boost capacity and support good-paying jobs for our people for years to come."

It is the fifth time KPRCM funding has been issued, with its last round announced in January 2026. Each grant project is reviewed and recommended by the state's Water Transportation Advisory Board based on safety, preservation, transportation and economic development impact and other factors. The program provides funds that improve riverport facilities and infrastructure through new construction, major replacement or repair projects, and requires no local match.

"Moving freight on our waterways means we are able to move commerce in whatever way businesses need," said **Transportation Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Goodman**. "Not only does that create stronger transportation overall, but it also helps preserve roadways that Kentuckians depend on every day."

KPRCM funds were awarded to seven of Kentucky's public riverports.

Eddyville Riverport and Industrial Development Authority

- $1,954,101 to supplement previously awarded federal grant funds for new seawall construction and support adjacent warehousing and industrial developments
- $754,425 to supplement previously awarded state grant funds to build mooring dolphins to handle additional barges

Greenup Boyd County Riverport Authority

- $1,661,875 to build a 10,000-square-foot warehouse and freight staging facility

Henderson County Riverport Authority

- $1,779,326 to build a 1.75-acre paved laydown yard and upgrade another 1 acre
- $525,875 for grain belt loading system and safety upgrades
- $319,729 for a new front-end loader

Hickman Fulton County Riverport Authority

- $2,687,746 to supplement previously awarded state and federal grant funds to replace a 40-year-old conveyor system to boost capacity

Owensboro Riverport Authority

- $926,250 to purchase an industrial lift for containers
- $154,062 for asphalt roadway and entrance upgrades
- $86,611 toward the purchase of a barge cover lifter

Paducah McCracken County Riverport Authority

- $1,250,000 to build a 20,000-square-foot warehouse
- $525,000 to build a new bulk storage dome
- $375,000 to replace a front-end loader
- $100,000 to purchase two new forklifts

West Kentucky Regional Riverport Authority

- $2 million to rebuild a 15,000-square-foot warehouse destroyed by a storm

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