



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

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Greg Thomas, Secretary

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### Transportation Cabinet issues half a million in riverport improvement grants

*Six riverports receive funding to improve public safety*

**FRANKLIN, Ky. (July 10, 2019)** – Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) Secretary Greg Thomas has approved the issuance of \$500,000 in riverport grants to improve multimodal transportation in Kentucky. The KYTC's Division of Planning administers the Kentucky Riverport Improvement (KRI) Program to fund improvements at riverports.

"From roadways to riverports, investing in all modes of transportation keeps Kentucky moving and supports our growing economy," said Secretary Thomas. "We're pleased to award these grants that will fund key improvements at six public riverports to enhance operations for the safe transportation of freight."

With \$500,000 allocated to KRI from the General Fund, the Water Transportation Advisory Board recommended six eligible requests submitted in May to be awarded grants. Awardees must match 50% of the total cost of the project.

Improvements range from railroad maintenance and repairs to improve safety to the purchase of a heavy equipment for the riverport to serve new customers.

#### Grant awardees:

Owensboro Riverport Authority: Railroad Maintenance and Repair Project

- This project involves replacing 575 deteriorated crossties and 60 deteriorated switchties in an effort to maintain reliability of the port rail loop and maintain rail access.
- **Project Cost:** \$200,203 **Grant Award:** \$100,101

Henderson County Riverport Authority: Forklift Project

- This project involves purchasing a permanent 30,000 pound heavy equipment forklift to serve two new customers the riverport serves that requires the handling of heavy metal coils.
- **Project Cost:** \$275,000.00 **Grant Award:** \$137,500

Eddyville Riverport and Industrial Development Authority: Realignment of Agri-Chem Access Road Project

- This project involves the realignment of the access road that runs along Agri-Chem. An existing conveyor structure and concrete pad will be removed and the existing access road realigned to better

facilitate truck movement. The second phase of the project involves resurfacing the scale road due to damage caused by loaded trucks.

- **Project Cost:** \$99,560.00 **Grant Award:** \$49,780.00

Owensboro Riverport Authority: Compact Track Loader (Skid Steer) Project

- The project involves replacing one of two skid steers currently used in daily material handling operations. Skid Steers are used to gather material in barges for unloading by cranes. Both skid steers are in contact with corrosive materials and one skid steer needs to be replaced to ensure continued operations.
- **Project Cost:** \$68,960.00 **Grant Award:** \$34,480

Louisville-Jefferson County Riverport Authority: Riverport Rail Tie Replacement #6

- This project involves replacing 1,900 deteriorated crossties in an effort to maintain reliability of the port track. The crossties maintain the required gauge between the rails. As the ties lose the ability to hold the spikes, the gauge of the rail can change, causing track closures or possibly derailment. Replacing the ties will significantly improve the reliability of the track and maintain rail access.
- **Project Cost:** \$300,000 **Grant Award:** \$150,000

Henderson County Riverport Authority: Roof Replacement Main Warehouse Project

- This project will replace portions of the main warehouse roof, built in the 1980s, with a synthetic sheet material. Two portions of the 42,000 square foot roof originally have already had to be replaced with synthetic sheet material due to leaking. The project would replace an additional approximately 8,000 sq. ft. of roofing in the areas assessed to be the most critical.
- **Project Cost:** \$240,000 **Grant Award:** \$28,139

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