



## NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

### **Selection Process Delayed for Downtown Crossing of Ohio River Bridges Project Due to Lack of Transportation Funding**

*Announcement of three finalists, release of RFP was planned today*

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (April 16, 2012)**– The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is postponing today’s planned selection of three finalists competing to build a new Interstate 65 bridge over the Ohio River in downtown Louisville and rebuild the interstate connections in both Kentucky and Southern Indiana.

The Kentucky General Assembly adjourned last week without passing the two-year transportation budget, which provides the necessary funding for construction of the Downtown Crossing of the Bridges Project. Gov. Steve Beshear has called a special session to address transportation funding beginning today.

“The Transportation Cabinet and the design-build teams are ready to move forward with the procurement process,” said Transportation Secretary Mike Hancock. “But without legislative approval, unfortunately this project is on hold.”

A team of evaluators from the Transportation Cabinet spent the last two weeks reviewing the qualifications of five contending teams of bridge- and road-building professionals. The Transportation Cabinet had planned to narrow the list to three teams today and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP).

The teams will invest millions of dollars over the next few months to develop detailed proposals that will include innovative concepts, technical designs and cost details. The project will create more than 4,000 construction-related jobs over the next six years.

The current schedule calls for the winning team to be selected in October, allowing preliminary construction work to begin before year’s end. Hancock said he’s optimistic the project can remain on schedule if the legislature acts quickly to appropriate transportation funding.

The massive construction project – which includes a new downtown I-65 bridge, overhauling the existing Kennedy Bridge, rebuilding the downtown Louisville interchange and new interstate connections in southern Indiana – is scheduled for completion on or before June 2018.

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