

Andy Beshear GOVERNOR

Jim Grav SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Naitore Djigbenou

502.782.4829

naitore.djigbenou@ky.gov

Contact: Chuck Wolfe

502.892.9038

chuck.wolfe@ky.gov

Governors Beshear and DeWine Submit Second Federal Funding Request for **Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project**

Additional funding will support bridge and roadway improvements that will grow the economy and invest in local communities

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Aug. 10, 2022) - Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear and Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced today that a second federal funding application was submitted jointly by the two states to support bridge and roadway improvements along the eight-mile Brent Spence Bridge Corridor from the Western Hills Viaduct in Ohio to Dixie Highway in Kentucky.

The current funding request is through the Bridge Investment Program, which follows the May funding request through the Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant Program. Ohio and Kentucky articulated in both applications that a total of \$1.66 billion in federal grant funding is needed regardless of which discretionary grant program awards funds to the project. The states are applying to multiple grant programs to give themselves the best chance of receiving maximum funding, in keeping with the pledges of Govs. DeWine and Beshear to pursue every available federal dollar.

"The time for us to act is now," said Gov. Beshear. "Kentucky and Ohio are working with our partners to ensure we have the funding we need to complete improvements along the Brent Spence Bridge corridor. There is a tremendous sense of urgency surrounding this project because we recognize how important it is for the people we serve. I want us to be able to break ground next year."

Plans call for the construction of a companion bridge to the west of the existing Brent Spence Bridge, as well as improvements to the current bridge and the roadway network that ties into each river crossing. Ohio and Kentucky will share the cost of the new bridge equally, and each state will be responsible for the needed work on its side of the river.

"Now, more than ever, our national economy depends on the efficient movement of people, goods, and services on our federal Interstate System," said Gov. DeWine. "The Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project is long overdue, and our residents deserve to have these highway infrastructure upgrades

become a reality. Ohio and Kentucky continue to work closely with our federal partners to secure the funding we need to invest in our future through the transformation of this critical corridor."

As the project moves closer to full funding, the pace of activity has picked up to ensure construction readiness. The bi-state project team is prioritizing the following activities while the federal funding requests are under review:

- Updating the financial plan to align with existing funding opportunities and anticipated project needs, including evaluation of the potential impacts of inflation on the funding plans for each state;
- Continuing development of the revised concept for the new companion bridge, which significantly improves safety by separating through and local traffic;
- Analyzing potential options for construction using the design/build process; and
- Performing environmental field work, including updating air and noise evaluations.

About the Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project

Fueled by bipartisan cooperation and community engagement, the <u>Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project</u> will invest in local communities and help grow America's economy. Spanning eight miles between the Western Hills Viaduct in Ohio and Dixie Highway in Kentucky, the project will address the second-worst truck bottleneck in the nation by improving safety and travel on the interstate connection that carries more than \$700 billion worth of freight every year.

In addition, the project will improve access to the central business districts of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Covington, Kentucky, and will also support local businesses and underserved communities in historic neighborhoods on both sides of the river. Ohio and Kentucky are working together to deliver this transformative project that will improve the quality of life for the millions of Americans who use the federal highway system to travel between the two states and beyond.

###

