



US 51 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021

US 51 PROJECT TEAM UPDATE

Here's an update on the US 51 Bridge Project

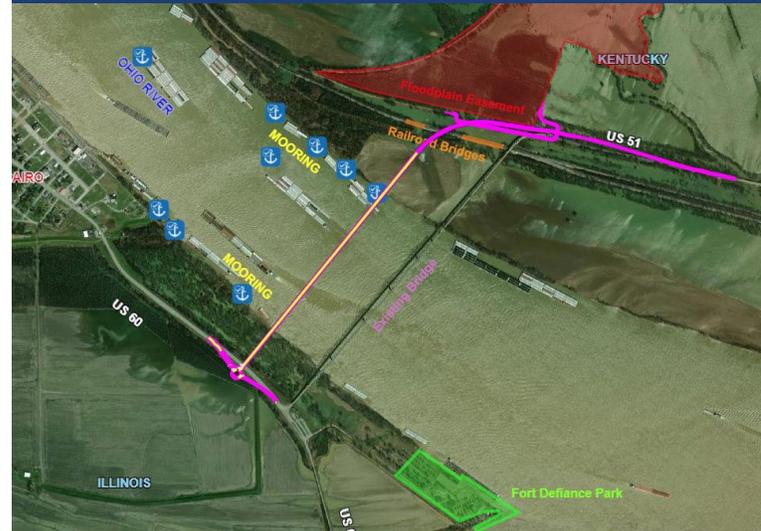
We appreciate your continued interest in the US 51 Bridge Replacement Project. The COVID-19 outbreak prevented us from meeting in person with you last year; however, the pandemic didn't keep us from listening to you and sharing information to obtain your valuable comments and input as work behind the scenes continued.

Story Map - Online Public Engagement

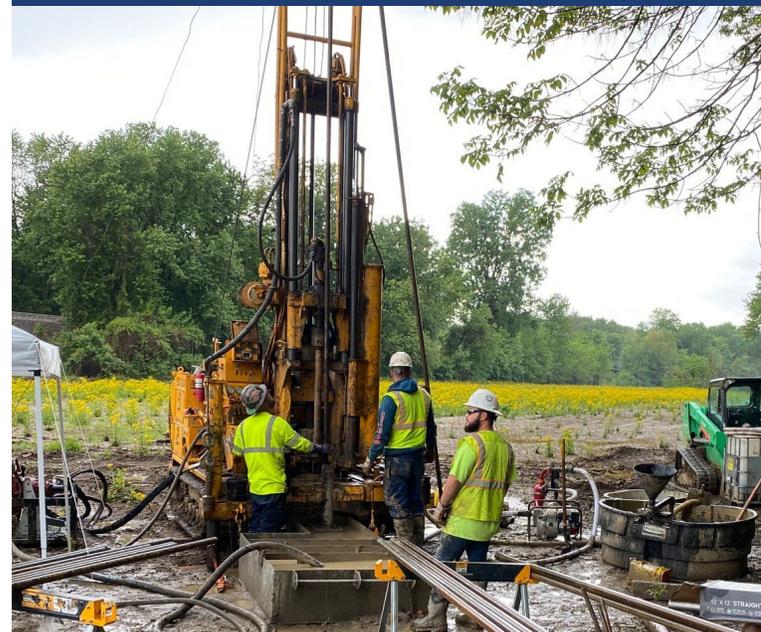
- In October 2020, we had an online public information presentation in the form of an informative and interactive "Story Map." Interested members of the public viewed the exhibition and provided comments over a 15-day comment period.
- The Story Map was a self-paced presentation with a video tutorial from KYTC Project Manager Chris Kuntz. Included in the presentation were a history of the project, exhibits that showed the project stages, and next steps. An additional video presented the recommended alternatives for bridge replacement noted above.
- To encourage and ensure participation, 2,941 postcards were distributed to residents and businesses within the project area. KYTC announced and publicized the online engagement on the US 51 Bridge website through press releases, social media, and emails. Information also was provided at local libraries. The public could request a hard printed copy of the presentation as well.
- A survey allowed the public to voice their opinions, make comments, suggestions, and share ideas or concerns. One hundred twenty-five (125) responses and comments were received. Most comments pertained to the proposed number of lanes on the bridge. The second-highest number of comments were in support of Alternative 2. Please review the Meeting Summary at [US51Bridge.com](https://www.US51Bridge.com) and click on [US 51 Public Notebook](#) and proceed to page 8 for additional information.
- Comments are closed; however, you can still review the Story Board at the website www.US51bridge.com. Click on the [Public Involvement](#) link and then the [StoryMap Virtual Presentation](#).

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) and Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Recommendation

Based on the work completed to date, KYTC and IDOT recommended that Alternative 2 move forward as the preferred alignment. Alternative 2 proposed the US 51 bridge be located 900' upstream of the existing bridge and be 1.94 miles long. The new bridge will have two 12-foot lanes and two 8-foot shoulders. Traffic forecasts did not support four lanes for the bridge replacement.



Preferred Alignment Alternative 2



Spring 2021 Geotechnical Investigation



JUNE 2021 – US 51 PROJECT TEAM UPDATE CONTINUED

Past and Current Preliminary Engineering and Geotechnical Work

- The preliminary roadway engineering for the project concluded in late 2020.
- Final meetings for the environmental analysis coordination occurred in April 2021. The environmental documents are targeted to be approved before the end of this year.
- You may have seen personnel in the field during May and June 2021 conducting geotechnical work. Crews used a large drill rig on tracks taking subsurface soil drillings on the shoreline. The rigs drilled down to 200-feet, collecting samples to determine the strength and stability of the soils and determine the response to seismic activity such as possible soil liquefaction.
- The geotechnical information also assists in engineering the design for the bridge foundation and determining the bridge cost estimate.
- Engineers are currently developing the “roundabout” alignments on the Cairo side. The roundabout is the preferred intersection for efficiently handling traffic and allowing for additional future traffic capacity. Such an intersection also provides a focal point for Cairo’s future growth and development.
- Over the next 14-months, engineers will develop and evaluate the various feasible bridge types that will meet geotechnical requirements.
- IDOT and KYTC assessments of historical sites in Cairo determined no impacts exist. Public comments were taken into consideration to make the determination.



Spring 2021 Geotechnical Investigation

Public Engagement Look Ahead to 2022

After the bridge type study is completed, a public engagement meeting will be held to gather input on the preferred type. There will be a presentation and public comment period in the *Summer of 2022*.

Newsletter updates will continue throughout the project.

We sincerely appreciate your interest and your commitment to assisting us in keeping everyone informed about the US 51 Bridge Replacement over the Ohio River.

Please help us by sharing this information and update with your family, friends, and interested members of the public.



<https://us51bridge.com>



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If you are interested in learning more about the US 51 Bridge Replacement project or would like to comment on the project, please contact us.

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