



Kentucky Transportation Cabinet • District 1

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U.S. 51 Ohio River “Cairo” Bridge Between Wickliffe and Cairo Remains Closed; Repairs Pending

PADUCAH, Ky. (July 7, 2026) – The U.S. 51 Ohio River “Cairo” Bridge connecting Wickliffe, Ky., and Cairo, Ill., remains closed until further notice.

For public safety, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) District 1 closed the bridge mid-morning Monday, July 6 for a special inspection.

The inspection was completed late Monday. Early findings indicate a repair is needed on the approach to the Kentucky side.

Engineers are meeting with the contractor this morning to determine a timeline for repairs.

At this time, motorists should expect the bridge to remain closed until the necessary repairs have been completed.

Motorists can detour via the Interstate 24 Ohio River Bridge between Paducah and Metropolis at the Kentucky-Illinois State Line.

Please note: The I-24 Ohio River Bridge is reduced to one lane in each direction, in a head-to-head pattern carrying traffic in the westbound lanes. A bridge rehab project, led by the Illinois Department of Transportation, is underway. A 10-foot, 6-inch lane width restriction is in effect.

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To get traffic advisories and alerts for KYTC District 1 counties via email, please go to <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/KYTC/signup/13651>. Click on the District 1 counties you regularly drive through, or on any of the specialty corridors you travel. Check your SPAM filtering to ensure Gov Delivery is on your approved list.

Timely traffic advisories for the 12 counties of KYTC Highway District 1 are available by going to www.facebook.com/kytcdistrict1. Please LIKE or FOLLOW District 1. You do not have to be a Facebook member to access this page.



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