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### **Authority targets 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter to kick off procurement process**

Members of the Louisville and Southern Indiana Bridges Authority voted to target the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2011 to begin the process of selecting a lead contractor for the project.

A presentation outlining the pathway to procurement was shared with the Authority during a briefing by Ed Crooks and Tim Wilschetz of KPMG, the Authority's strategic advisor. Steve Schultz, executive director for the Authority, explained that final selection of the lead contractor and project delivery model is subject to completion of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) development process that is currently underway by Indiana and Kentucky transportation agencies and the Federal Highway Administration.

According to the schedule, a preliminary step involves the issuance of a Request for Information in September. During this phase, firms will be invited to share their perspective on advancing the financing and construction of the project. Following this outreach, teams will be asked to respond to a Request for Qualifications expected to be issued in the fourth quarter of 2011, with responses due by January 2012. A short-listed group of the top firms will subsequently be invited to submit proposals that include schedule and pricing information. Schultz noted that approvals from the Federal Highway Administration and both states will need to be obtained before construction can begin under the selected delivery model.

"It is important to note that our work parallels the work being done by the states and is dependent upon, among other things, the completion of the SEIS review that is currently underway," said Schultz. "The Bridges Authority's timetable is designed to ensure that the financing and construction approach is in place when the final federal approvals are received, enabling the project to move forward as quickly as possible."

Schultz also noted that the final selection of a delivery model and the launch of the procurement process will require close coordination with the General Assemblies and various agencies in both states to identify any legislative action that may need to occur, as well as to ensure compliance with existing statutes.

Authority members also received an update on the on-going interest in the project by the private sector.

"The finance and construction industries are eagerly preparing for the opportunity to participate in this project and are taking steps to partner with leading international and U.S. based firms," said Schultz. "In the end, competition of this kind offers the potential of the private sector to complete this project faster, better and cheaper, and to fulfill the Authority's commitment to keeping tolls as low as possible while producing a financial plan that is fair, sound and doable."

Gary Valentine, project manager for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, provided an update on the SEIS process and the series of meetings that were held last month. Valentine said that over the past four weeks, eight sessions designed to receive public comment have been held across the Kentuckiana area. During this time, over 700 people attended the public sessions and more than 350 comments have been received. Valentine reported that a summary of the comments will be made available.

Kellie Watson, chairwoman of a workforce advisory group that was recently created by the states and the City of Louisville, outlined work that will be done by the task force to ensure women and minority owned and small businesses are included in the Bridges Project. The group will also focus on ways to better use existing state assets as well as opportunities to forge partnerships with the private sector.