

I was referred to you by Louisville architect, Steve Wise, who just contributed an op-ed piece to the Courier Journal supporting the renovation of the K&I bridge in Louisville to allow auto access. He thinks this is necessary to ensure access to cross river transportation in the case of an emergency. I replied to him that I think a more reasonable and effective bridge location would be at the terminus of the Gene Snyder freeway near West Point and Dixie highway. This area is prime for development, ie; Riverport, and the recent construction of the Ford and SK plants in Hardin county. This bridge would complete the ring loop that is only partially complete now, connecting 265 in KY to 265 in IN and I-64 too. Trucks and hazmat shipments could be routed this way to avoid downtown Louisville and heavily populated parts of southern IN. Cincinnati and NO. KY completed their 275 ring loop years ago and if completed this would give our region two complete ring roads, and spur economic growth. Hopefully your department will also support the recent study of another ring road that would run through Bullitt and Nelson county. If Kentucky really wants to be competitive with our neighboring states we must think proactively and with purpose.

Regarding the Southwestern I-265 Loop, a new highway connection between I-64 near Corydon, Indiana, and KY 841 west of US 31W in Jefferson County, Kentucky, is an interesting concept. As you may know, the Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency (KIPDA) is the local Metropolitan Transportation Organization (MPO). As the designated MPO, KIPDA is responsible for considering any long-range transportation planning initiatives for the Louisville area. We suggest you contact KIPDA through their online portal (<https://www.kipda.org/contact-us/>) and share your thoughts.

The I-65 to I-71 Regional Corridor Study outlined two concepts that could be considered for advancement. These conceptual cost estimates range between ~\$690M to ~\$950M. The Kentucky General Assembly is responsible for the enactment of the highway plan. The highway plan outlines what projects KYTC is authorized to spend funds on within a two-year timeframe. We continuously work with our legislative partners to identify funding opportunities to implement categorized improvements. Find out more about the I-65 / I-71 Regional Corridor Study here:
Thank you.

Matt DeCamillis

https://www.wdrb.com/news/kentucky-state-fair-board-floats-idea-of-tunnel-linking-downtown-louisville-and-expo-center/article_24718fda-7186-11ed-a135-87e4f607c0b4.html

The above tunnel proposal from downtown to the Fairgrounds could give us a competitive advantage in competing with other peer cities and also improve access for local residents. Thank you.