



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALL TRAVEL LANES ARE OPEN ON THE BRENT SPENCE BRIDGE
Full-time lane closures on the Brent Spence Bridge are complete;
temporary overnight closures will resume in September

(Covington, KY – August 25, 2017) The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) today announced that the routine maintenance work requiring full-time closures across multiple lanes on the Brent Spence Bridge has been completed. In time for Friday morning's rush hour, all lanes of travel on the northbound (lower) deck of the Brent Spence Bridge were reopened, along with the access ramp from 4th Street in Covington to northbound I-71/75. This follows the opening of all lanes of travel on the southbound (upper) deck of the bridge earlier in the week, as well as the opening of several ramps in Ohio and Kentucky that provide access to the bridge and support travel in the area.

"We are grateful to the drivers of Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky who were incredibly cooperative and patient during this two-month work period," said Bob Yeager, Chief District Engineer for KYTC in Covington. "We know that many people adjusted their daily travel patterns to avoid driving across the bridge, when possible, which helped to reduce delays on the bridge during our work."

Maintenance contract successfully structured to ensure timely completion

"We set a very aggressive schedule to get this work completed in the two-month time frame we established before this project started," continued Yeager. "Hard work by our professional team and good weather allowed us to meet our deadline and restore the regular pattern of traffic on the bridge in advance of Labor Day travel."

Yeager noted the importance of the bridge for both local and national travel and said that KYTC took a unique approach to this work to ensure timely completion. "Typically, a maintenance project of this size and scope would have significant impacts over the course of an entire construction season," said Yeager. "Recognizing the important connection the Brent Spence provides for many who travel to and through the Greater Cincinnati area, we structured our contract with Hall Contracting of Kentucky, Inc., to complete this maintenance work as efficiently as possible, and we are pleased that this approach was successful in reducing the length of time that required major impacts to traffic."

Yeager also noted that this maintenance project was part of a regularly-scheduled maintenance program that supports safe and ongoing use of the bridge. "The Brent Spence Bridge was built to support approximately 80-100,000 vehicles per day; currently, it carries twice that volume," said Yeager. "The bridge is inspected annually. It is structurally-sound and will remain viable for long-term use. Discussions regarding construction of a new bridge, which would add capacity

to our regional transportation network, are unrelated to this maintenance project and based on current plans, the existing bridge will continue to be operational whether or not a new bridge is built.”

Ongoing maintenance work with minor overnight traffic impacts will continue through November

While the work necessitating full-time closures on the bridge has been completed, the routine maintenance project will continue through mid-November, with temporary closures confined to overnight periods. KYTC expects that temporary overnight lane closures could begin as soon as Tuesday, September 5, 2017, but specific information will be posted on the project website – BrentSpence2017.org – and on the project’s social media channels. KYTC officials encouraged the public to stay informed about what is happening on the bridge by continuing to consult these information resources.

During the next phase of work, crews will complete routine repairs to the concrete columns of the bridge, make minor steel repairs, complete work to upgrade the lighting system on the bridge and finalize other minor maintenance items. Once work resumes, single lane closures are expected to begin around 9 p.m., with double lane closures possible at midnight. All lanes of travel will be restored by 5 a.m.

About the Brent Spence Bridge Maintenance Project

The Brent Spence Bridge is a major thoroughfare for both local and national traffic, connecting two states that are critical to the movement of people, goods and services. The bridge carries I-71 and I-75 traffic over the Ohio River and has four lanes of traffic on each of the upper and lower decks. During the two-month summer closure period, crews successfully replaced the concrete surface on the bridge, began work to upgrade lighting and drainage systems, repaired steelwork and completed other general maintenance tasks. Ongoing work that does not require full-time lane closures on the bridge will continue for approximately three months.

About KYTC

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