

RESOLUTION NO. 13-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT OPPOSING THE USE OF TOLLS AS A FUNDING MECHANISM FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION AND/OR REPLACEMENT OF THE BRENT SPENCE BRIDGE AND ITS ATTENDENT APPROACHES, CALLING ON THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THIS NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANCE PROJECT

WHEREAS: The I-75 Brent Spence Bridge was constructed by the federal government and serves as a primary transportation connector between the State of Ohio and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, which has been determined to be a major corridor for the transportation of goods and services essential to the overall economic stability of the United States, and;

WHEREAS: Federal fuel taxes are collected along the I-75 corridor for the purpose of providing funds for the maintenance and construction of the federal highway system, and;

WHEREAS: Engineering analysis have determined the I-75 Brent Spence Bridge is structurally sound, but functionally obsolete and in need of replacement, and;

WHEREAS: The I-75 Brent Spence Bridge project is estimated to cost \$2.5 billion dollars, and;

WHEREAS: The New Bridge is expected to cost \$730.2 million dollars in addition to alterations to the current I-75 Brent Spence Bridge which is expected to cost and additional \$73.5 million dollars, and;

WHEREAS: The actual construction cost within the State of Ohio for the OHIO Roadway is projected to be \$896.7 million dollars along with the cost of the Western Hills Viaduct which is estimated to be \$141.8 million dollars, for a combined total project cost of \$1.038.5 billion dollars within the state of Ohio and;

WHEREAS: The actual construction cost within the Commonwealth of Kentucky Roadway is projected to be \$641.4 million dollars, or more specifically \$397.1 million dollars less than the amount being spent within the City of Cincinnati, County of Hamilton, State of Ohio corridor, and;

WHEREAS: According to the Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) it is estimated that usage of the bridge to "Local" volume of traffic consists of 65% Kentucky residents compared to 35% Ohio residents using the bridge on a daily basis, and

WHEREAS: The residents and business owners of Kenton County, will be severely harmed by carrying the majority of any toll because of its proximity to the new bridge considering its population of 160,000 residents which comprises less than 8% of the total population living within the OKI regional network of 9 counties, which is a significantly higher cost per capita than any other county within the Greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky Southeastern Indiana region, and;

WHEREAS: Residents in surrounding counties in Kentucky, such as Boone County (population 121,737), to the west of Kenton County have an existing bridge connecting them to I-75 corridor, via I-275 at Dearborn County, Indiana likewise Campbell County, (population 90,940), to the east which connects directly to downtown Cincinnati via I-471 through Newport Ky., and connecting again via the Combs-Hehl Bridge at I-275, to eastern Hamilton County in Ohio and the I-75 corridor, these neighboring county residents will be able to avoid tolls;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Kenton County Fiscal Court hereby calls on the members of the Kentucky General Assembly and particularly the Northern Kentucky Caucus to reject all efforts to proceed with the placement of any/all tolls for the construction, reconstruction, and/or replacement of the I-75 Brent Spence Bridge, and calls on the members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, elected to represent the citizens of the State of Ohio and Commonwealth of Kentucky, to recognize this as a High Priority Commerce Corridor and the I-75 Brent Spence Bridge project as a Project of National Significance, and thus qualify it for funding at a rate of 80% federal participation, and 20% to the State of Ohio and Commonwealth of Kentucky.

This resolution shall be in full force effect upon passage.

Signed:

STEVE ARLINGHAUS

KENTON COUNTY
JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

Date: _____

Attest: _____

MELANIE MORRIS