



We're leading the movement to build a bicycle-friendly America for everyone

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July 28, 2022

The Honorable Eric Holcomb
200 W. Washington St., Rm. 206
Indianapolis, IN 46204.

The Honorable Andy Beshear
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Governors Holcomb and Beshear,

I am writing today on behalf of the League of American Bicyclists in regards to the I-69 Ohio River Crossing (I-69 ORX) project. Since 1880, the League of American Bicyclists has been the national organization promoting bicycling for fun, fitness, and transportation. We are an organization of 200,000 members and supporters, 350 state and local organizations, and 600 bike clubs nationwide working to improve lives and strengthen communities through bicycling and create a bicycle-friendly America for everyone.

The I-69 Ohio River Crossing project has great potential to connect and strengthen communities. It is critical for our public roads to be accessible to all, regardless of their mode of transportation. Whether an individual is traveling by bicycle or by foot to work, to run errands, or for other reasons, they should not find themselves cut off from key locations simply because they are not operating a motor vehicle. In addition, outdoor recreation and tourism, such as long-distance cycling, has increased greatly in recent years. Your states will likely miss out on tourism and recreation opportunities and revenues if bicyclists and pedestrians are barred from reaching their destinations.

Including bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is indisputably possible from an engineering perspective. There are many examples of major river crossings that accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians, including the I-74 River Bridge spanning the Mississippi River connecting Iowa and Illinois and the Woodrow Wilson Bridge connecting VA and MD, near Washington DC across the Potomac River.

We ask you to work to revise the current plans to ensure that individuals, no matter what mode of transportation, have safe access through this significant public investment. Ideally this would mean updating the I-69 ORX Bridge Project Design Plan to include a safe, separated, and protected pedestrian and bicycle facility. While revising the bridge design may require additional time and resources, this is the kind of opportunity that only happens once in a generation and it is vitally important to get it right. It is worth the investment in our public infrastructure to make it inclusive and accessible. This project, if done well, can significantly enhance the region and expand opportunities. We ask that you do what you can to ensure this investment you are making into this project will work for all people and visitors of your respective states. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bill Nesper
Executive Director

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