

## Ohio River Bridges Project Underway



*Commissioner Michael B. Cline, along with Gov. Mitch Daniels and other officials, spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony.*

August 30 was a historic day as Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear, Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez and others broke ground on the first construction phase of the Ohio River Bridges project. That first development is a 3,000-foot extension of Old Salem Road in Utica.

“Decades of waiting for greater convenience and quality of life in the metro area will soon be over, but that’s only part of what’s ahead: Southern Indiana has tremendous economic prospects, and these new bridges are the key to making them real,” said Daniels.

The project will improve cross-river mobility and increase safety in one of the nation’s most congested and important highway corridors. In the process, it will create thousands of jobs, both in short-term construction and in long-term economic development.

Each state is responsible for procuring and overseeing construction of a portion of the \$2.6 billion project. Indiana is responsible for the East End Crossing, and Kentucky is responsible for the Downtown Crossing. When the East End Crossing opens to traffic in 2017, Old Salem Road will be the first exit on the Indiana side of the river, providing improved access to the River Ridge Commerce Center and the Port of Indiana-Jeffersonville.

By year’s end, Indiana and Kentucky are expected to select contracting teams that will build each state’s portion of the Ohio River Bridges project. Construction on both bridges is slated to begin in 2013. The East End Crossing is expected to open in 2017, and the Downtown Crossing in 2018.

For more information, please visit [www.kyinbridges.com](http://www.kyinbridges.com).