

Kentucky chooses design-build team for \$180 million transportation project

The state of Kentucky has found its design-build team for its largest transportation project since the Ohio River Bridges wrapped up.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has hired Hall Contracting of Kentucky Inc. and American Engineers Inc., both of Louisville, as the design-build team for I-Move Kentucky, a four-year project that will include widening Interstate 71 and Interstate 265 as well as major improvements to the I-64/I-265 and I-71/I-265 interchanges.

KYTC announced <u>the \$180 million project</u> in April and said it will enhance safety and reduce traffic congestion on some of the largest roadways in Jefferson and Oldham counties. Preparatory work is now set to start later this year.

The cabinet said earlier this year that combining the road work into a single, large construction project will allow the state to move more quickly and efficiently in making these upgrades.

The I-265 widening is the state's top transportation priority and calls for the creation of a 12-foot lane in each direction to create six lanes between I-71 and Ky. 155 (Taylorsville Road). I-71 also will be expanded to six lanes between I-265 and Ky. 329 in the Crestwood and Pewee Valley area. The interchange improvements will involve the creation of a collector-distributor lane on southbound I-71 to ease the movement onto ramps to and from I-265.

Meanwhile, KYTC says it will reconstruct the I-64 and I-265 interchange to ease traffic flow. Parts of the area affected by the reconstruction are between Blankenbaker Parkway and English Station Road on I-64 and between Pope Lick Road and the U.S. 60 interchange on I-265.

"I-Move Kentucky is a bold transportation initiative that will provide motorists and businesses significant benefits – reduced congestion, increased safety, and greater mobility," KYTC Secretary Greg Thomas said in a news release this week. "Combining these projects into one will significantly accelerate construction and reduce the amount of time travelers will be impacted by our work."

Construction on the project will start in 2020. KYTC said it will work with the design-build team to develop a detailed construction schedule. The release said work on the I-71/I-265 interchange improvements will start in early spring and should be finished by the end of next year. Construction also is slated to start in 2020 on segments of the I-71 widening. Meanwhile, The I-265 widening and I-64/I-265 interchange projects are expected to start in 2021, the release said.

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About The KYTC

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on KYTC contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

• Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.

• Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.



About The Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with KYTC as the statewide provider of the federally funded Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Supportive Services Program. We want to increase the number of certified DBEs participating in highway and bridge construction, as well as assist DBEs in growing and eventually becoming selfsufficient. Additionally, CEI provides supportive services by assisting prime contractors and consultants with identifying DBEs for subcontracting opportunities on priority projects.

The right healthcare plan is an investment in your employees—and your business

When it comes to maximizing the profitability of your business, a quality health plan can make all the difference. Rather than simply being a cost of running a company, it's actually an investment in the well-being of your employees, which can translate to a healthier bottom line. And by choosing the right plan, you can help improve employee health, increase productivity, boost company morale, and potentially better manage health plan costs, so your business can thrive.

What to look for in a health plan

With so many healthcare options available today, how do you know which plan is the most beneficial for your company? Well, here are a few factors you should evaluate:

- Efficient, high-quality care
- Convenient access to care
- Cost effectiveness
- Continuous innovation
- Proven track record

In an integrated care model, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other clinicians provide team-based care. Kaiser Permanente's electronic health record (EHR) system fosters team-based care by linking providers across all specialties and locations, so they can immediately access vital medical information, consult with colleagues, and quickly implement care plans and treatments. This can lead to improved quality and cost management through efficiency and a potential reduction in duplicative services. In cases where patients have multiple chronic conditions that require numerous medications, the ability of all providers to see what medications and dosages have been prescribed can help reduce medication errors.

Clinical outcomes also have an impact on health plan costs. Through the EHR, Kaiser Permanente doctors are prompted to screen for potential chronic illnesses before they become acute. If members have a condition like heart disease, high blood pressure, or asthma, they are automatically enrolled in the appropriate disease management program. A study performed by Human Capital Management Services found that annual health care costs for the top 5% of patients (typically, those with multiple chronic conditions), who drive 50% of overall health care costs, were an average of \$8,000 less annually for Kaiser Permanente members than for non-Kaiser Permanente members. According to a 2017 Human Capital Management Services analysis of medical and pharmacy claims for large employers between 2013 and 2016, health care cost inflation was 13% for employers with other health care plans compared with only 7.2% for employers with Kaiser Permanente.

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CEI is an educational organization providing the highest quality construction training in the industry. Over 100,000 owners, estimators, project managers, field supervisors, office support staff, foremen, laborers, and key management personnel have attended courses that are offered nationwide. The courses provide students with construction skills training and the critical information needed to be effective within their companies and organizations.