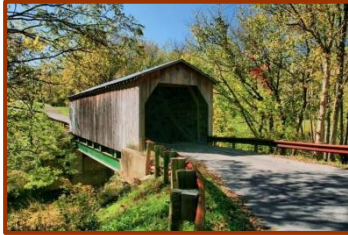




Bridging Kentucky Program Begins Restoration of Two Dozen Bridges



A quick-start approach pioneered by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet this summer has resulted in an unprecedented six-year program to restore more than 1,000 critical bridges across Kentucky. Work is starting on

about two dozen bridges, and the Bridging Kentucky program is laying the groundwork for 2019 to be one of the busiest bridge-building years in the state's history.

Since the program was launched in June, teams have evaluated more than 1,100 bridges. Bridges are prioritized based on need and cost-effective solutions. Twelve bridges have entered the construction phase – with rehab and replacement work under way or about to start. This fall, more than a dozen additional bridges will go to construction.

“Communities across the state will soon begin to see the benefits of this transformational program as we reopen bridges and reduce weight limitations that have affected school buses, emergency vehicles and many other travelers,” said Kentucky Transportation Secretary Greg Thomas. “It’s been a busy few months getting the program off the ground, and it’s time to start restoring the bridges that connect the Commonwealth.”

Bridging Kentucky is one of the nation’s most aggressive bridge rehabilitation and replacement programs. It represents an unprecedented commitment by the state to prioritize investments to improve the safety and soundness of bridges throughout Kentucky.

The estimated investment of approximately \$700 million over six years is the result of a data-driven, priority-setting approach led by Gov. Matt Bevin and backed by the 2018 Kentucky General Assembly. This list of critical structures includes state, county and municipal bridges that have fallen into disrepair and are rated in poor condition. More than 60 of those bridges currently are closed to traffic.

Construction, bridge site work

A dozen Bridging Kentucky projects already have moved to the construction phase for bridge improvements in Garrard, Jefferson, Johnson, Kenton, Laurel, Madison, Metcalfe, Pike, Scott and Union counties, and the first of these projects will be completed this fall. In the coming months, additional bridge projects will move to construction in Breathitt, Casey, Hardin, Harlan, Jefferson, Kenton, Knott, Madison, Mason, Metcalfe, Muhlenberg and Washington counties.

To read more visit: <https://transportation.ky.gov/NewsRoom/Bridging%20KY%20begins%20restoration%20of%20two%20dozen%20bridges.pdf>



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About The DBE Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (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 self-sufficient. Additionally, CEI provides supportive services by assisting prime contractors and consultants with identifying DBEs for subcontracting opportunities on priority projects.

Translating Super-Busy into Super-Profitable

4 reasons why integrated estimating tools can help you be more profitable & productive



Owners and contractors today have their hands full. According to the 2018 AGC/FMI Risk Management Study, on average, they are running a 6-month backlog of projects and many are booked through the remainder of 2018

and into 2019. However, will being super-busy translate into being super-profitable?

It's hard to know if your project is priced correctly if you can't easily refer to historical data from past projects. Whether you're a concrete contractor or a drywall construction firm owner, you're probably using software tools for accounting, project management and/or estimating. But, are your software tools integrated or mainly siloed, one-off solutions? Transferring data between spreadsheets and keeping up with version control when your tools don't integrate can really slow you down—not to mention cause more than a few headaches.

Get More Done with Digital-Level Control

When owners, GCs, estimators and project managers have digital-level control over construction input, costs, processes and relationships, they can be more successful in using technology to complete day-to-day tasks.

In fact, today's contractors are choosing more tools that integrate and are using fewer solutions. JBKnowledge's 2017 Construction Technology Report showed that only 16.6 percent of those surveyed were using six or more software tools, while 22.5 percent—the largest group—reported using only two software applications. Five years ago, more than 20 percent were using six or more solutions.

Conquer Change Orders with Ease

It's common knowledge that the construction industry has been slow to embrace tech tools. However, an emphasis on productivity and efficiency is driving the need for integrated, digital solutions in a big way. According to a 2017 McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) report, construction was reported to be the second-least digitized sector. In fact, if construction productivity were to catch up with the total economy, it could boost the sector's value by an estimated \$1.6 trillion.

When it comes to streamlining construction workflows, integrated solutions offer the benefit of creating repeatable processes so change orders don't fall through the cracks and labor and costs are bid accurately every time. Making sure requests for changes are routed through the proper channels can be challenging without consistent workflows. Integrated workflows make it easier to keep everyone on the same page—from the field to the office.

Integrated Workflows Deliver Cost Savings

While the trend points to more efficient, integrated software solutions, many contractors resist going all in by staying tied to manual processes like paper or spreadsheets and communicating changes over the telephone or by email. In fact, the Construction Technology Report found the workflows most dependent on software were accounting at 85% percent, followed by estimating with 60 percent and project management and scheduling both reporting 50 percent.

By comparison, experts say automating how construction projects get designed, planned and built could result in cost savings as high as 20 percent annually. No doubt, greater predictability in construction timelines will deliver significant cost savings.

To read more: <https://www.constructionbusinessowner.com/sponsored-not-gated/translating-super-busy-super-profitable>

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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.

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