

The need for improved safety and cross-river mobility between Louisville, Ky., and Southern Indiana was evident for decades. Helping to fill that need is the Louisville – Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges Project, completed in late 2016. This was one project, but two bridges with Kentucky overseeing work on the Downtown Crossing. The success of this nearly \$1.3 billion project is the epitome of operations excellence.

The transformative project finished on budget and ahead of schedule and is providing a safer, faster and more reliable transportation system for the entire region. Before the project, access from Indiana to Louisville was limited to two aging interstate bridges, with no or reduced shoulder widths, and a local-access bridge that opened in 1929.

The Downtown Crossing was built in the heart of downtown Louisville and Jeffersonville, Ind., and included a new I-65 bridge, extensive improvements to the existing I-65 bridge (which is 53-years old) and improved interstate connections on both sides of the river.

The new Abraham Lincoln Bridge was built just 100 feet away from the adjacent Kennedy Bridge. Where there had been seven lanes of congested, bi-directional traffic on the Kennedy, there are now twelve lanes of I-65 flowing freely over the Ohio River.

That's only the beginning of the improvements. The most significant work with the Downtown Crossing involved reconfiguring and rebuilding the interchanges of I-64, I-65 and I-71. Tight curves are gone, short merges are eliminated and traffic is enjoying the benefits of full shoulders for the first time in decades.

In total, more than 50 miles of new roadway and more than 60 overpasses and bridges were built in connection with the Downtown Crossing. The work has delivered dramatic improvements in cross-river mobility, reduced congestion, improved safety and will change the economic landscape of the entire region for decades to come.