Ohio River Bridges



1. Asset information

The Ohio River Bridges – East End Crossing project is a large-scale availability-based PPP project with the Indiana Finance Authority. The fully operational project opened to the public in December 2016. The project greatly improves connectivity, public safety and economic growth for residents, businesses and visitors in the Southern Indiana region.

Transport

The signature twin-towered, cable-stayed Lewis and Clark Bridge that stretches 760 m across the Ohio River. The project also includes a 500 m long, twin bore tunnel, 19 smaller-scale bridges and associated roadway infrastructure, including a 5 km extension of I-265 in Kentucky and a 6.5 km extension of I-265/SR 265 in Indiana.

2. Impact

Reliable and resilient transport and reduced travel time for c.11 million vehicles per year.

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3. Awards and certifications

- P3 Awards Best Road/ Bridge Project – Silver (2014)
- Partnerships Bulletin Gold Medal Best Road Project (2014)
- Projects Grand Prix – Gold Award (2014)
- Envision Platinum Award from the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure - exceptional achievements in sustainable infrastructure design, construction, and operations. (2016)

4. Environment

GHG emissions



The ORB project has a strict no idling policy in order to reduce greenhouse gases and to minimize the use of fossil fuels.

Portfolio company has made significant investments in the last years and bought a new state of the art hybrid truck with the latest emission control technology and a fully electric F-150 patrol vehicle.

The O&M facility was outfitted with ultra-efficient solar panels on the roof, virtually eliminating its energy consumption.

Climate risk

The project was screened to evaluate the potential physical impacts from climate change based on 'Paris-aligned' (RCP2.6 ~+1°C) and 'High emissions' (RCP8.5 ~+3.7°C) scenarios across three time periods (2020, 2050 and 2100). The project maintains a Low physical climate risk score under the Paris-aligned scenario as of 2050.

Waste & Water

The portfolio company recycles as much waste as possible from their own consumables and from debris that is collected along the roadway. From cardboard to plastics and tires to asphalt.

The ORB pavement rehabilitation plan has been designed to minimize the amount of rehabilitation works with high performance concrete put in place for most of the highway and the structures thereby minimizing the use of construction material over time.

The portfolio company continues to monitor waste and water consumption and is actively exploring opportunities to reduce them wherever possible.

Biodiversity

The asset is built in compliance with local environmental regulations. During the concession period, the Portfolio Company focuses on promoting restoration efforts to improve degraded or removed ecosystems that act as natural carbon sinks and can improve resilience to climate-related damages, such as:

- Planting several acres of native wildflower species to promote sustainable bee habitats with future expansions contemplated.
- Donating staff time to actively restore vegetation in environmentally affected areas.

Additionally, the Portfolio Company has a Biodiversity policy in place.



Noise and air quality

The project actively monitors noise along the motorway and surrounding neighbourhoods.

The portfolio company has a strict no-idling policy in place and through several carbon reduction initiatives promotes air quality improvement.

5. Social

Health & Safety

Health and safety is on the agenda each board meeting. Our asset managers work actively with the Portfolio Company or its management service providers, to promote a strong health and safety culture, facilitate the sharing of best practices.

We endorse a zero-tolerance approach to occupational health and safety incidents. Additionally, the Portfolio Company has a Health & Safety policy in place and regularly conducts a fire or health and safety audit.

Diversity

The Portfolio Company strives to create a workplace environment where everyone has an equal opportunity to perform at the highest levels, realise their potential and be recognised for it. Additionally, the Portfolio Company has a Diversity policy in place.

Impact for local communities

Portfolio Company sponsors "Newspapers in Education" (NIE). This is an international program that promotes children's literacy by using the newspaper as a teaching tool. NIE is a unique way for schools, businesses and the local newspaper to work together in a partnership now and in the future. Through the use of daily news, editorial and features, students at all grade levels learn math, geography, meteorology, history and current events. All while improving reading comprehension.

6. Governance

Delegation & oversight

The Portfolio Company directors review on a quarterly basis comprehensive board report, including both general project management and financial management. The project has a rigorous governance structure in place with quarterly board meetings, ad-hoc meetings when required and an authority delegation matrix to the management services provider.

The Portfolio Company has robust ESG policies and procedures in place and clear board-level responsibility to monitor their application. The ESG standard policies include:

- Biodiversity policy
- Code of Conduct, including anti-bribery, anti-corruption and non-discrimination
- Conflict of interest
- Cyber-security
- Diversity
- ESG
- Health and safety (workplace accident prevention)
- Anti-slavery & Human Trafficking policy (Modern Day Slavery)
- No-idling
- Rapid escalation
- Responsible contractor
- Tax
- Whistleblowing

The Portfolio Company holds frequent meetings with the public sector client to promote collaboration, coordination and integration of operations.

Reporting

The Portfolio Company uses a quarterly board pack, reporting to the board of directors on the operational and financial performance of the project and compliance with its obligations and regulation/legislation, including the policies.

Additionally, the Portfolio Company reports annually into BBGI's ESG KPI survey, which composed of 100+ data points, covering all aspects of ESG oversight.

Cyber security

Portfolio Company and its subcontractors continuously monitor that the cyber security policy is in place and perform information risk analysis and develops mitigating measures. They have a robust and comprehensive IT backup system in place. Additionally, the Portfolio Company has a Cyber security policy in place.

Contact

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