

Update on Bells Mill closure Nov. 17

FRANKFORT — Sen. Mike Nemes, R-Shepherdsville, shared updated information today regarding the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's (KYTC) project to replace the KY Highway 1526 (Bells Mill Road) bridge over Floyds Fork in Bullitt County. The bridge will close on Monday, November 17, and will remain closed through May 14, 2026.

Nemes said he requested a full briefing from KYTC after hearing concerns from residents who were surprised by the closure date and limited public notice.

"The number one priority here is public safety, but people deserve to know what is happening on their roads and why," Nemes said. "I want to make sure every family affected by this

closure has clear information and a place to get updates. I appreciate the cabinet keeping the public updated on the status of this project, and I am in communication with them to address other questions and concerns my constituents have raised."

KYTC District 5 maintains a weekly webpage with traffic impacts and project updates, which includes this closure. Residents can view current information at the KYTC District 5 Roadshow site.

PROJECT DETAILS

The project will take place on KY Highway 1526 (Bells Mill Road) at mile point 14.35 and will involve replacing the bridge superstructure over Floyds Fork. Hall Contracting of Kentucky, Inc. is carrying out the \$ 2.5 million project. According

to KYTC, the closure is necessary because the existing superstructure has reached the end of its service life and requires complete replacement to meet modern safety standards.

DETOUR ROUTES

Westbound on Bells Mill Road

Turn left onto KY 61 (Preston Highway) toward Shepherdsville.

Turn left onto KY 44 (East 4th Street) to reconnect with Bells Mill Road.

Eastbound on Bells Mill Road

Turn right onto KY 44 (East 4th Street) through Shepherdsville.

Turn right onto KY 61 (Preston Highway) to reconnect with Bells Mill Road.

Drivers should obey

signage, follow the detour, and plan for additional travel time.

ADDRESSING RESIDENT CONCERNS

Nemes said he has shared constituent questions directly with KYTC, including: local concern about the short notice of the closure and the need for routine updates, the expected impact on KY 44 traffic and whether law enforcement has been alerted, questions about heavy truck traffic on Bells Mill Road and whether weight restrictions should be reviewed, road shoulder deterioration and whether repairs can be incorporated while the bridge is closed, and community rumors about

wildlife-related timing

Nemes also requested confirmation from KYTC District 5 on whether the current project scope includes only the bridge replacement or if additional improvements along Bells Mill Road can be incorporated during the closure. He said he has asked KYTC to provide clear answers and a consistent communication plan.

Further technical details about the project will be provided by KYTC District 5, and Nemes said he is prepared to request addi-

tional clarification from the district as needed.

"Families want transparency, and I understand that," Nemes said. "They want to know what is happening, why the timeline is set, and how the state will manage traffic and road conditions during the closure. I'm working to make sure those questions are addressed. I have also asked the cabinet to consider whether additional repairs can be made while the bridge is closed in order to avoid a second closure."



Thomas J. Barr

Family and friends gathered about Jessica's Garden.

GARDEN

FROM PAGE A1

responsible for her death. He was also responsible for child molestation.

The march on Saturday served an opportunity to remember Jessica but to also give those who have suffered, are suffering or know someone who is suffering a place they can reflect.

Jessica's Garden is located just north of the baseball fields in the city park.

Organizer DeAnna O'Connell, who is Jessica's cousin, was inspired to develop a quiet place that individuals could gather.

In the garden, there are phone numbers for agencies that can help those who are suffering from abuse.

Jessica's mom, Edna, thanked those who came out to dedicate the garden in her daughter's honor.

"We grow stronger," O'Connell told the family and friends. "We'll remember the good and happy times."

She thanked mayor Jose Cubero, the city council and the community for their support in establishing the garden.

Cubero said that city workers would make sure flowers are planted each spring in a long remembrance of Jessica.

"Jessica will never be forgotten," said Cubero.

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DEADLINE TO SUBMIT LETTERS will be on Friday, Nov. 28

Youngsters can send individual letters. Be sure they are signed.

School teachers in K-3, send in letters for your class (can be class letter or individual letters). School Letters should be sent in WORD format as a group to editor@pioneernews.net

Be sure to include name of student and the class name, school and grade

Individual letters can be sent to editor@pioneernews.net or mailed to:
The Pioneer News, P.O. Box 98, Shepherdsville, KY 40165.

ALL LETTERS WILL BE SENT TO SANTA at the NORTH POLE

Space is limited. Letters will NOT be edited. They are run "as is."
Letters will be published on Dec. 11 and Dec. 18 and will be sent to the North Pole shortly after the Nov. 28 deadline.