



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
TRANSPORTATION CABINET  
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Andy Beshear  
GOVERNOR

Jim Gray  
SECRETARY

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**Gov. Andy Beshear Announces \$500,000 in Grants to Four Kentucky Riverports  
for Infrastructure Improvements, Equipment**

*Well-maintained riverports are essential to Kentucky economy, standard of living*

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 5, 2023)** – Gov. Andy Beshear, whose top priorities have included elevating Kentucky’s multimodal transportation system, today announced the awarding of \$500,000 in grants to four Kentucky riverports for needed infrastructure and equipment upgrades to improve operations and access to riverports.

“An efficient transportation system in all its modes – highway, air, rail and water – is essential to our economy and standard of living,” Gov. Beshear said. “Our Kentucky riverports play a unique role in that system. We’re pleased to be able to support these strategic investments.”

The funding, which was legislatively appropriated and must be locally matched, was awarded for six separate projects at four riverports. Kentucky Transportation Secretary Jim Gray approved the awards at the recommendation of the Kentucky Water Transportation Advisory Board, which reviewed the applications.

“The grants will help these riverports meet a range of needs for both operations and capacity,” Secretary Gray said.

“State investment is beyond critical to the preservation of all public ports across the Commonwealth to provide efficient and cost-effective multimodal access to our thriving Industries,” Brian Wright, Owensboro Riverport Authority president, said. “The Owensboro Riverport Authority serves the growing aluminum industry in Kentucky by handling over 500,000 short tons of aluminum annually. These state funds will provide a portion of the necessary dollars needed to replace aging handling equipment utilized daily to promote our mission of multimodal optimization across the state. Riverports are essential to Kentucky's economic development success.”

The following projects received grant funding:

**Eddyville Riverport and Industrial Development Authority:**

- \$184,061 toward the purchase of a CAT 330 excavator to provide redundancy for material loading/unloading and to help expand operations.

**Owensboro Riverport Authority:**

- \$115,859.60 toward the purchase of a 25,000-pound forklift to handle aluminum and steel loads.
- \$31,399.83 toward the purchase of a new and more efficient compact track loader for handling material.
- \$16,159.57 toward a new 10,000-pound forklift for unloading aluminum and steel from barges and railcars.

**Henderson County Riverport Authority:**

- \$122,000 toward a new truck scale and widening and adding access drives to allow more efficient truck movement.

**Paducah-McCracken County Riverport Authority:**

- \$30,510 toward the replacement of two deteriorated entranceways and aprons to provide increased access to storage yards.

Last June, Gov. Andy Beshear also announced \$500,000 in grants to four riverports for eight projects.

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