



Collector-Distributor System

Improving Traffic Flow, Local Access and Safety in the Brent Spence Bridge Corridor

What is a collector-distributor system?

It's a network of roads alongside a highway that streamlines traffic flow as it enters and exits the highway. The name implies the system "collects" traffic exiting from a highway and "distributes" it to local roadways. Similarly, it "collects" traffic from local roadways and "distributes" it onto the highway. Connecting highways and local streets, collector-distributor (C-D) systems can be one or more lanes. The purpose is to reduce the number of exit and entrance points on the highway while providing access to and from local roads.

How will the C-D system improve traffic flow and safety?

It will separate through and local traffic lanes, keeping them apart for longer distances. This eliminates weaving, which can disrupt traffic flow and potentially result in crashes. Furthermore, traffic will enter and exit the local street grid from the C-D system at lower speeds, making these movements easier and reducing the potential for crashes.

Where will C-D roads be built?

They will be built at these locations:

- **Northbound between Dixie Highway and Kyles Lane interchanges (KY).** Northbound motorists traveling to either Dixie Highway or Kyles Lane will exit I-71/I-75 onto the new C-D road just south of Dixie Highway (see decision point diamond #1). Vehicles will either exit onto Dixie Highway



from the C-D road or continue on and exit onto Kyles Lane (note yellow dots on map). Local drivers may enter the C-D road at either Dixie Highway or Kyles Lane to head northbound and merge onto I-71/75. This allows drivers to exit and enter local roadways without disrupting through traffic on the highway.

- **Southbound between Kyles Lane and Dixie Highway (KY).**
Mirroring the northbound C-D roadway, southbound motorists heading to either Kyles Lane or Dixie Highway will exit I-71/I-75 onto the new C-D road just north of Kyles Lane (see decision point diamond #2). Drivers will either exit onto Kyles Lane or continue on the C-D road, where they can exit onto Dixie Highway. Local traffic will also be able to enter the C-D road at either Kyles Lane or Dixie Highway southbound and eventually merge with I-71/75 southbound.
- **Northbound from north of St. Elizabeth Hospital (KY) to north of Freeman Avenue (OH).**
Northbound motorists traveling to Covington or downtown Cincinnati will exit I-71/I-75 onto the new C-D road near the bottom of the cut-in-the-hill (see decision point diamond #3). From the C-D road, drivers will be able to access MLK Jr. Blvd./ W. 12th St., Pike St., W. 9th St., and 5th St.. Drivers traveling to Cincinnati will continue over the existing Brent Spence Bridge to access W. 2nd St., I-71 North, W. 5th St., W. 6th St., and Winchell Ave., in Ohio. Local drivers may also enter this C-D road heading northbound from these exits in Covington and downtown Cincinnati and eventually merge onto I-75 just north of Freeman Avenue.
- **Southbound from north of Ezzard Charles Drive (OH) to south of West 5th Street (KY).**
Southbound motorists traveling to downtown Cincinnati and Covington will exit I-75 onto the C-D road just north of Ezzard Charles Drive (see decision diamond point #4). From there, drivers can access W. 7th St., W. 3rd St., and W. 2nd St. in Ohio. Those traveling to Covington will continue on the existing Brent Spence Bridge to access W. 5th St., W. 9th St., Pike St., W. 11th St., and W. 12th St./MLK Jr. Blvd. in Kentucky. Local drivers may also enter the C-D road and head southbound from downtown Cincinnati across the Brent Spence Bridge to merge onto I-71/I-75 south of W. 5th St. in Kentucky. Drivers from Covington can access southbound I-75 near the bottom of the cut-in-the-hill via an extended frontage road along Bullock Street.

How will the collector-distributor system cross the Ohio River?

The C-D system will cross the Ohio River on the existing Brent Spence Bridge. The bridge will be restriped to provide three lanes with standard shoulders, and the speed limit will be lowered to 45 miles per hour.

Where do drivers who want to stay on the interstate go?

Travelers who want to stay on the I-71/75 interstate will cross the Ohio River on the new companion bridge, which will be five lanes in each direction at a speed limit of 55 miles per hour. These lanes will not have access points to go on and off the highway, which will provide more consistent traffic flow and better capacity.

How will drivers access I-71 in Ohio?

Traveling northbound, motorists can access I-71 from both the through-traffic interstate lanes and the C-D system. Traveling southbound, traffic can access I-71 from the through-traffic interstate lanes and from the C-D system via W. 2nd Street.

In Covington and Cincinnati, where do travelers have to decide whether to stay on the interstate or exit to the collector-distributor system to access local roads?

Traveling northbound, drivers will decide whether to remain on I-71/I-75 or to exit to the C-D system at the bottom of the cut-in-the-hill near St. Elizabeth Hospital. Motorists will be able to access I-71 from both the through and local lanes. Traveling southbound, drivers will decide whether to remain on I-75 or exit to the C-D system just north of Ezzard Charles Drive. Refer to decision diamonds on map.

What will happen if drivers accidentally exit to the C-D system?

They will be able to stay on the C-D road across the Brent Spence Bridge and ultimately re-enter the highway.