

structurally  
sound

## LINCOLN LINK



Louisville-Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges Project

**INTERSTATE 65** has a new route for crossing the Ohio River.

The new Abraham Lincoln Bridge opened to traffic in December. Designed by engineer Buckland and Taylor and fabricated by Prospect Steel (AISC/NSBA Member/Certified fabricator), with Walsh Construction acting as the general contractor, the 2,100-ft-long, 100-ft-wide cable-stayed bridge connects Louisville, Ky., and Jeffersonville, Ind., across the Ohio River and carries three lanes of traffic.

The cable-stayed portion of the new bridge uses 6,000 tons of structural steel in all. About 800 ironworkers worked on the crossing and assembled more than 650 pieces of steel, which required about 76,000 bolts. Horizontal steel plate girders form the foundation of the bridge deck. The edge girders were approximately 45 ft long and 6 ft deep, and the floor beams were approximately 98 ft long with a center depth of 5 ft, 10 in. There were a total of 94 heavy plate girders, weighing a combined 2,092 tons. Additionally, the steel cables that extend from the three towers to the deck of the bridge required 1.4 million ft of steel strand, enough to stretch from Louisville to Chicago.

Crews set the first piece of structural steel for the new bridge in October 2014. The last piece of steel was set one year later. ■