

Bids sought for King Coal Highway bridge

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BLUEFIELD, W.Va. Five years after construction halted, West Virginia is seeking bids to resume work on the King Coal Highway.

West Virginia Department of Transportation spokesman Brent Walker says the agency expects to award a contract for a 20 (m) million-dollar bridge in late spring. Walker says the project will take about two years to complete.

The bridge will span U-S 19 in Mercer County. Work will begin at the K-A Ammar Interchange in Bluefield, where construction on the highway stopped five years ago.

King Coal Highway supporters hailed yesterday's announcement.

Nelson Walker is executive director of the Interstate 73/74 Corridor Association. He says southern West Virginia needs the four-lane highway.

When completed, the 95-mile highway will run from Bluefield to Williamson, where it will join the Tolsia Highway. The two highways will be part of Interstate 73/74.

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