Proclamation

by

Steven L. Beshear
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky

To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:

WHEREAS, the capacity and structural integrity of Kentucky's highways are of vital importance to the commerce and economic growth of our state, and to the daily lives all the citizens of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, insuring the safety of our roadways is a moral and ethical imperative of Kentucky government; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky stands on the precipice of breaking ground on the Ohio River Bridges Project, the most anticipated transportation project in decades of enormous importance to our state, to Indiana, and to the region; and

WHEREAS, this long awaited project has become a reality as the result of months of bipartisan, good faith negotiations between the chief executives of Indiana and Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, highway maintenance and construction create jobs and bolster the economy in every county of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, these opportunities cannot be realized, nor can these obligations be met, without the passage by the General Assembly of a budget for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet which funds the Biennial Highway Plan; and

WHEREAS, in the regular session of the 2012 General Assembly, the House of Representatives passed a Transportation Cabinet Budget in the form of HB 266, pursuant to agreement reached between both chambers of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Senate President David Williams refused to permit HB 266 to be considered by the full Senate, thus leaving the Commonwealth without a means to sustain even the most basic functions of the Transportation Cabinet, such as snow and ice removal and bridge inspections, much less advancing and improving the infrastructure so critical to the state's future; and

WHEREAS, the scourge of prescription drug abuse has reached epidemic proportions in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, depriving our workforce of healthy, productive workers and filling our jails, hospitals and treatment centers with its victims; and

WHEREAS, one of every three adults reports having a friend or family member who is afflicted by prescription drug misuse; and

WHEREAS, every day, nearly three Kentuckians die from drug overdoses: a rate of 82 per month, which is more than the number of people who lose their lives on Kentucky highways; and

WHEREAS, effectively battling this blight requires dynamic policies and coordination of efforts across a variety of disciplines from law enforcement to professional licensure to addiction treatment; and

WHEREAS, a measure that would have provided such a multifaceted approach to strengthen and enhance our existing efforts to combat this epidemic enjoyed strong bipartisan support in both chambers and was poised for passage pursuant to agreement between both chambers of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Senate President David Williams refused to permit this bipartisan legislation to move forward, once again allowing his rank partisanship to block the path of a measure so vital to the health and wellbeing of Kentucky's citizens, its economy, and its future; and

WHEREAS, Senator Williams' refusal to permit these bills to come to the Senate floor for a vote once again requires me to call the General Assembly to convene in extraordinary session to address issues that demand immediate attention; and

WHEREAS, the fact that agreement had been reached between both chambers of the General Assembly on legislation to address both of these critical issues, and both pieces of legislation were ready for passage and enactment, should require only the minimum number of days that the taxpayers must bear the cost:

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the power vested in me by Section 80 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, I, Steven L. Beshear, Governor, do hereby issue this proclamation convening the Kentucky General Assembly in Extraordinary Session at the Seat of Government, Frankfort, Kentucky at 12:00 Noon (EDT), Monday, April 16, 2012, for the sole purpose of considering the following subjects:

1. The enactment of legislation to provide financing and conditions for the operations, maintenance, support and functioning of the Transportation Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky for the 2012-2014 biennium.

2. The enactment of legislation to enhance and expand tools and resources critical to Kentucky's continuing efforts to address the scourge of prescription drug abuse that plagues our citizens.

3. Under the authority of Section 80 of the Kentucky Constitution and Stickler v. Higgins, 106 S.W. 2d 1008 (Ky. 1937), the provisions of this Proclamation and the designated subjects to be considered by the General Assembly, may be amended hereafter to include additional specific subjects to be considered by the General Assembly.

DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort, this the 13th day of April, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twelve and in the year of the Commonwealth Two Hundred and Twenty.

STEVEN L. BESHEAR
Governor

ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES
Secretary of State

RECEIVED AND FILED

DATE April 13, 2012

ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES
SECRETARY OF STATE
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BY