



ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Secretary of State
Frankfort
Kentucky

2026-176
April 3, 2026

STATE OF EMERGENCY

On March 31, 2026, an open hole abandoned mine subsidence was detected on I-69 in Hopkins County, Kentucky, near mile point 111, and the open hole subsidence is along the shoulder and extending under the northbound fast lane of Interstate 69 ("I-69"). Upon detecting the open hole, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet ("KYTC") closed the I-69 Northbound fast lane at mile point 111. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Central Office Geotechnical Staff was directed to begin drilling to conduct geotechnical subsurface investigations of the subsidence area.

I-69 is a major north-south route across the Kentucky/Tennessee state line at Fulton, Kentucky, to the Kentucky/Indiana state line at Henderson, Kentucky, and Evansville, Indiana.

The open hole subsidence on I-69 endangers public safety and has caused damage to public infrastructure, and has adversely impacted the movement of goods and commodities within interstate commerce, which will continue until the damaged portion of I-69 is replace and/or repaired.

Under 23 U.S.C. § 125, the Commonwealth may receive emergency federal funding for the repair or reconstruction of highways or roads that the United States Transportation Secretary finds have suffered serious damage as a result of catastrophic failure from any external cause. That federal statute requires the Governor declare an emergency before the federal government will provide emergency funding, and also requires concurrence by the federal Transportation Secretary.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, having been given the authority pursuant to the Constitution of Kentucky and by Chapter 39A of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, do hereby declare that a state of emergency exists in the areas impacted by the I-69 open hole abandoned mine subsidence



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and in order to adequately respond to the emergency situation, hereby ORDER and DIRECT the following:

1. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet shall seek out and explore all avenues to expedite the replacement/repair of the I-69 open hole subsidence area, to include all available funding sources that can be requested for said replacement/repairs.
2. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet shall identify alternative means of transportation which may be necessary until such time as the I-69 open hole abandoned mine subsidence area shall once again be serviceable and funding for said transportation.
3. All state, county, and local officials shall assist the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet in the efforts to return I-69 to full use and operation.
4. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet shall take all necessary steps it may identify in its efforts to replace/repair I-69 open hole abandoned mine subsidence.
5. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet shall request assistance from all relevant federal agencies as necessary and appropriate to address the adverse effects of this situation and to accomplish the steps outlined above.
6. The Finance and Administration Cabinet is directed to fund the urgent operational or response costs of responding agencies incurred in response to this emergency and in executing the provisions of this Executive Order.

This Order shall be effective April 3, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Beshear".

ANDY BESHEAR, Governor
Commonwealth of Kentucky

The seal of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, featuring a circular design with the text "COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY" around the top and "UNITED WE STAND" around the bottom. In the center is a figure of a person standing next to a plow.
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael G. Adams".
MICHAEL G. ADAMS
Secretary of State

RECEIVED AND FILED

DATE April 3, 2026

MICHAEL G. ADAMS

SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OF KENTUCKY

Katherine Ellis