

Regional Corridor Study Components

Transportation Network

Field visits and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data will be used to identify transportation network issues and opportunities in the study area. Items for consideration include: highway systems, geometric characteristics, bridge data, existing and future traffic conditions, high crash locations and other highway improvements planned for the study area.



Public involvement meetings

Public and Agency Input

A series of meetings and coordination activities will occur throughout the course of this study to inform and obtain input from local officials, public agency representatives, other stakeholders and the general public.

It is anticipated that two rounds of meetings will take place during the study: 1) to seek input on preliminary project issues and ideas and 2) to present the evaluation and analysis of identified improvement options.

To assist in keeping the public and agencies informed, information will be added to the KYTC's Division of Planning website: <http://www.kytc.state.ky.us/planning/index.shtm>

This website will be updated on a regular basis as new information becomes available.

Collect Environmental Data

Through field surveys, agency input, and other data sources, a preliminary environmental overview of the project corridor will be completed.

This overview will identify major environmental factors that could affect the location of the new extension, such as: nature areas, cultural sites, special populations, geotechnical issues or hazardous areas.

Christy Creek



Overpass along I-64

Development and Analysis of Alternatives

Using the gathered input from all sources, a series of KY 645 alternative corridors will be identified and evaluated based on a set of criteria: traffic impacts, environmental issues, public and agency input, cost, constructability, and/or others. A recommended corridor for the KY 645 extension will be the result of this planning process.

Contact Information

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You may also look for project information at:

www.kytc.state.ky.us/planning/index.shtm



Regional Corridor Study

KENTUCKY
TRANSPORTATION
CABINET

Preliminary project Goals

The following were identified as preliminary goals for the project:

- Develop the project based on a regional service concept.
- Provide a corridor that serves the most traffic.
- Develop a corridor that considers all area interests equally, including industry, education and tourism.



Existing KY 645 east of US 23

New Route Extension of KY 645

From US 23 to Interstate 64

Lawrence, Elliott, Rowan and Carter Counties
Six-Year Highway Plan, Item No. 12-115.00

645

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The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is undertaking a regional corridor study for a new highway route that would extend KY 645 from US 23 to some location along Interstate 64 between Morehead and the Industrial Parkway. Portions of this new highway may pass through parts of Lawrence, Elliott, Rowan and Carter Counties. This study will identify and evaluate potential alternatives, environmental factors, and social and economic constraints, as well as document and consider public and elected officials' comments, suggestions, and insight.

The existing KY 645 corridor is a four-lane roadway through mountainous terrain with 12-foot lanes and 10-foot shoulders. The speed limit is 55 mph along the entire length of the route. This roadway is heavily traveled by coal trucks, other heavy vehicles as well as the general public.

Lawrence County

Traffic counts in the area have recorded high volumes along KY 645 east of US 23, and on US 23 near the KY 645 intersection. It is anticipated that the extended route could ease travel heading north along US 23 and US 52, potentially making it a safer and more direct connection for traffic that is destined to the new industrial complexes or westbound on I-64.

Elliott County

Extension of KY 645 into Carter or Rowan County may direct the new route through Elliott County. Special consideration will be given to providing connectivity within the area while avoiding issues of concern. Opportunities for improvement of existing routes, such as KY 32, could be explored as part of this study.

Rowan County

With the project terminus in Rowan County, an extended route would serve to improve access for students and local residents, as well as to serve business and economic development needs. Coordination with planned improvements in the study area, including a potential connector route between US 60 and I-64, will be an important consideration for the new extension study.

Carter County

Termination of the extended route in eastern Carter County would serve economic opportunities related to industrial sites as well as connectivity for local traffic. Coordination with local officials and economic development interests in the area will be an important aspect of this project's development.

On the west side of Grayson, a new route would provide improved connections to the surrounding lakes, recreational areas and local residents. Traffic counts in the area have recorded high volumes along I-64 near the KY 67/Industrial Parkway interchange.

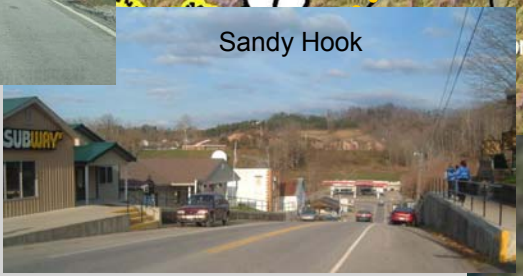
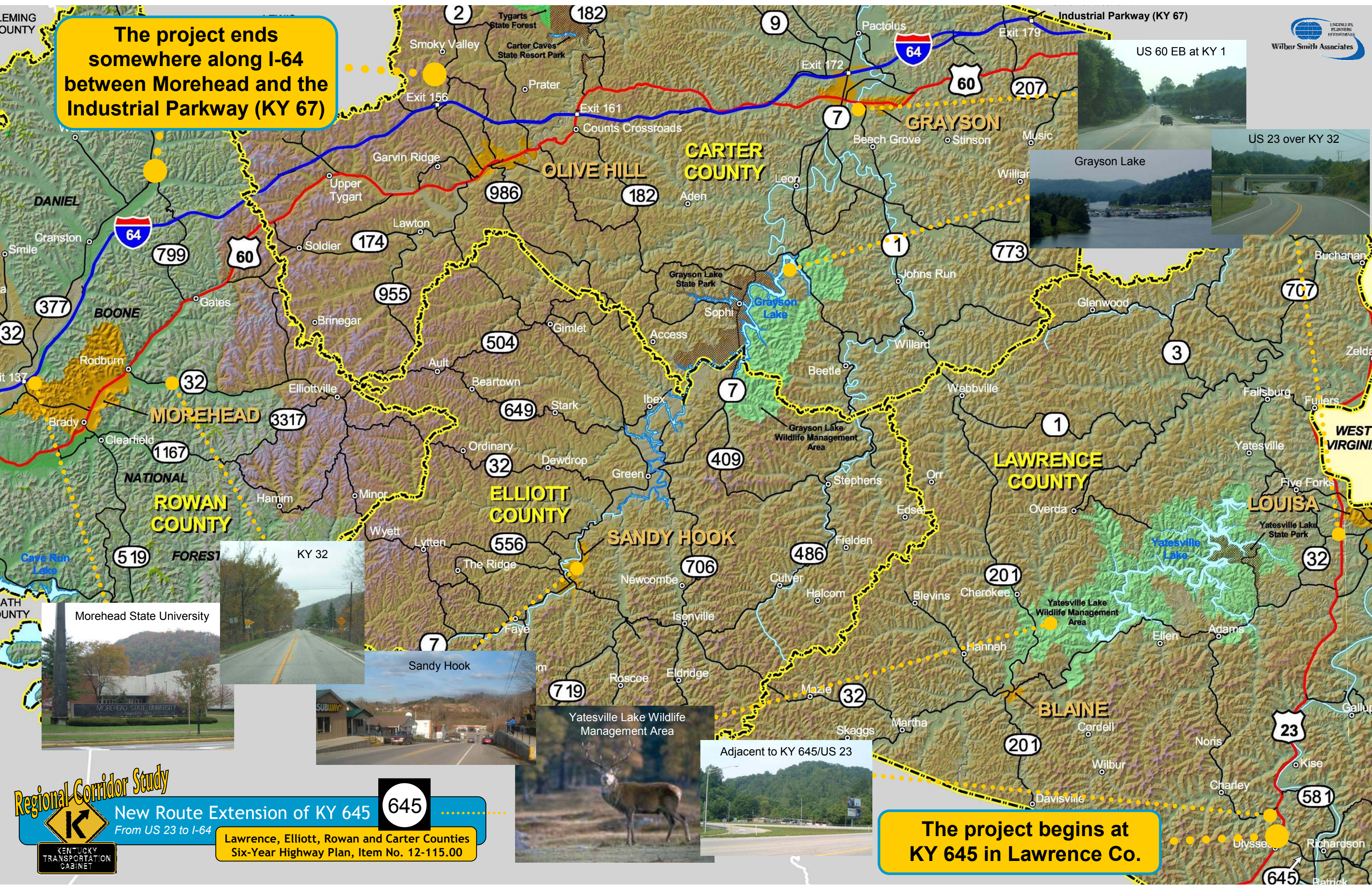
Special Considerations

Special considerations in the area include Yatesville Lake State Park, Grayson Lake State Park, the Little Sandy River, Blaine Creek, threatened and endangered plants and animals, geologic issues such as oil and gas wells, and surface and subsurface mine locations.



Grayson Lake

The project ends
somewhere along I-64
between Morehead and the
Industrial Parkway (KY 67)



New Route Extension of KY 645
From US 23 to I-64
Lawrence, Elliott, Rowan and Carter Counties
Six-Year Highway Plan, Item No. 12-115.00

The project begins at
KY 645 in Lawrence Co.