

**PROGRAMMING STUDY
CLARK-ESTILL-POWELL COUNTIES
POWER PLANT CONSTRUCTION
TRANSPORTATION IMPACT STUDY**



Prepared by the
KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET
DIVISION OF PLANNING
March, 2006

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
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The purpose of this Programming Study was to (a) evaluate the roadway network anticipated to be most affected by the proposed construction of power generating plants at Trapp in southeast Clark County and northwest of Irvine in Estill County; (b) determine possible alternatives to improve safety and traffic flow that can be used for future programming documents; (c) provide data to be used when and if the project enters the design phase; (d) provide background information that can be utilized in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation for the project.

Two specific goals were envisioned to be achieved by the completion of this project:

- Provide system connectivity between the Mountain Parkway and proposed power generating facilities at Trapp and Irvine;
- Improve safety by correcting horizontal and vertical curvature deficiencies and bridge weight restrictions, and by providing lane and shoulder widths that meet current standards.

Data on the existing conditions of area roadway segments were taken from the Division of Planning's Highway Information System (HIS) database and analyzed. Separate meetings with local elected officials were held in Estill, Powell, and Clark Counties. Public information meetings were held on June 23, 2005 and June 27, 2005. Early agency coordination letters were sent to various resource agencies, interested organizations, local officials, and internal Cabinet offices to obtain input and comments regarding the potential impacts associated with this project. An extensive file inventory of known environmental features was prepared. Cost estimates for improvements to various roadway segments were generated as part of this planning study.

Priority staging of improvements is recommended to be as follows:

1. Bridge Rehabilitation of KY 89 Bridge at Clark-Estill County line: This structure currently has a weight restriction of 62,000 pounds for tri-axle trucks (the standard weight limit is 68,000 pounds). Rehabilitation of the existing structure would likely be preferred from an aesthetic perspective (though the structure is not a historic bridge); however it may be more cost effective to replace the existing structure with a new one. An approximate estimate for this project is \$5 million.

2. Spot improvements to KY 89 from MP 4.8 in Clark County (KY 974 East at Trapp) to MP 14.5 in Clark County (Winchester Bypass), a distance of 9.7 miles. Estimated cost to match segments previously improved: \$19.2 million.
3. Reconstruct KY 82 from MP 4.6 in Estill County (the end of the curve revision at Salem Church) to MP 2.1 in Powell County (KY 15), a distance of 2.5 miles. Data indicate this is the more deficient of two sections of KY 82. This segment of KY 82 combined with the segment identified as priority #4 below were recently ranked as the 6th highest priority unscheduled project in the seventeen county Bluegrass Area Development District region and the 8th highest priority unscheduled project in the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's District 7. Estimated cost for this project is \$7.1 million.
4. Reconstruct KY 82 from MP 0.0 in Estill County (junction with KY 89) to MP 4.5 in Estill County (the beginning of the curve revision at Salem Church), a distance of 4.5 miles. This section will complete the improvements of KY 82 from KY 89 at Hargett to KY 15 at the Mountain Parkway. Estimated cost for this project is \$13.3 million.
5. Reconstruct KY 89 from MP 17.9 in Estill County (KY 82 at Hargett) to MP 22.5 (south end of bridge over Red River), a distance of 4.6 miles. Data indicate this is the most deficient section of KY 89 between Irvine and Winchester. Estimated cost: \$30.0 million.
6. Reconstruct KY 89 from MP 0.0 in Clark County (north end of the bridge over Red River) to MP 4.6 (entrance to Trapp plant), a distance of 4.6 miles. This section will complete the improvements on KY 89 from KY 82 at Hargett to the entrance to the Trapp plant. Estimated cost: \$28.8 million.
7. Reconstruct KY 89 from MP 17.9 in Estill County (KY 82 at Hargett) to MP 14.6 in Estill County (2000 feet north of Estill County High School), a distance of 3.3 miles. This section will complete the improvements to KY 89 from KY 82 at Hargett to the entry road to the Irvine plant. Estimated cost for this project is \$21.6 million.