

5.0 PAST AND FUTURE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

An understanding of the region's past transportation projects and future plans is important for study context and decision-making. Plans analyzed for this study include:

- Recommended KYTC Six-Year Highway Plan FY 2005 – FY 2010 (February 2004)
- KYTC Statewide Transportation Plan FY 1999 – FY 2018 (December 1999)
- KYTC District 1 Unscheduled State Highway Plan Needs (May 2002)

Past Transportation Projects – A number of transportation projects have been completed in or near the study area during the past several decades. The projects mainly include spot improvements to structures and bridges such as widening, replacements and rehabilitation and some work to sections of highways such as paving shoulders, grading, drainage, etc. Most of the projects have been done for safety and/or operational reasons and have not added capacity.

Future Transportation Projects – A review of relevant planning and programming documents indicates that there are two projects that are programmed in the current KYTC Six-Year Highway Plan in Carlisle County. Only one is of consequence in the Bardwell study area. The project is in the western portion of the study area and involves replacing the bridge over Truman Creek on KY 123 one mile west of US 51.

Another planned project in the study area is an eastern bypass of Bardwell which is included as a long-range project (2005 to 2018) in the KYTC Statewide Transportation Plan. The proposal identifies the bypass length as approximately 2.7 miles at a cost of \$10.0 million. The Statewide Transportation Plan does not include any other projects in or near the Bardwell study area.

There are three other projects that have been proposed in the study area, but are not included in the Six-Year Highway Plan or the Statewide Transportation Plan. They are:

1. US 51 – Construct turn lanes at the site of the proposed Bardwell industrial park;
2. US 51 – Reconstruction to 2-lane standards through Bardwell with urban section and turn lanes; and
3. US 51 – Reconstruction to 2-lane standards from proposed Bardwell eastern bypass to Illinois Central railroad bridge at Wickliffe

The current US 51 Study at Bardwell is examining the proposed eastern bypass project as well as potential improvements to US 51 in Bardwell.

Another significant and relevant project is the I-66 project. I-66 is proposed as a new interstate-type highway facility that would possibly traverse the southern portions of Kentucky. KYTC is considering four major segments of I-66. The westernmost section may begin in the vicinity of I-24 near Paducah and run north and/or west into either Missouri or Illinois. A number of different corridors have been evaluated as part of an on-going I-66 planning study for the westernmost section, including some that pass through Carlisle County, north of Bardwell.