

History of KY 44 Improvements

KY 44 serves as a key east–west route connecting Jefferson County to Anderson County, originally constructed in the 1930s. As the surrounding region has grown and developed, so too have its transportation needs.

Initial designs for the section between US 31E and Kings Church Road were completed in 2009, featuring various lane configurations. From 2007 to 2012, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) conducted a planning study to identify long-term, short-term, and spot improvements within Bullitt and Spencer Counties.

In 2022, KYTC began design work for the segment from Kings Church Road to the Spencer County line. That same year, a programming study covering KY 61 in Shepherdsville to the Spencer County line was launched and completed in 2023.

Now, KYTC is taking a holistic approach to reimagine KY 44 — **and we want your input!**

This effort aims to improve safety, mobility, and connectivity for both residents and visitors along the corridor by incorporating:

- **Updated traffic needs**
- **New development patterns**
- **Modern intersection solutions**

Questions? Contact Us

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KY 44 Roadway Improvements

KYTC Item # 5-347.10

Previous KY 44 Public Involvement

Two public meetings were held in **January and February 2009** to gather input and present preliminary design concepts. During these meetings, **three alternative roadway designs** were shared with the public for review and feedback.

Key feedback from the 2009 public meetings included:

- **Safety and Functionality Concerns**
- **Phased Implementation Preference (if required by funding)**
- **Segment Prioritization:** Attendees were asked to prioritize sections of the corridor: **1) US 31E to Bullitt East High School, 2) Bullitt East High School to Hubbard Lane, and 3) Hubbard Lane to Kings Church Road**
- **Feature Prioritization:** The public also ranked preferred roadway features in the following order: **1) School entrance improvements, 2) Turn lanes, 3) Intersection improvements, and 4) Curb and gutter**
- **New Traffic Signals Requested**

Updated Design Approach

Since the 2009 meetings, new alternatives have been developed to reflect the **current needs and development patterns** along the corridor. The input gathered during the 2009 meetings remains a valuable foundation for guiding the KY 44 roadway improvements, and public feedback will continue to play a critical role as the project progresses.



BURGESS & NIPLE



2007

2008 - 2009

2009

2012

2022

2022 - 2023

2024

2025

Planning Study
& Design Began

Public
Meetings

Original Design
Finalized

Planning Study
Finalized

Additional Design
Area Added

Programming
Study

Original Designs
Updated

Public
Meeting

Existing Conditions

Located in Bullitt County, KY 44 is a two-lane minor arterial. The posted speed limit transitions from 45-mph in the urban area to 55-mph in the more rural area. The project also includes a 35-mph school zone near Bullitt East High School.

Existing Crash Data

During the five-year period of 2019 to 2023, a total of 311 crashes were reported to police. Rear end crashes were the most common, 51% of all crashes, while crashes involving turning vehicles accounted for 28% of collisions. The crashes are clustered around intersections, with the KY 44 and US 31E intersection experiencing nearly a quarter of all crashes.

Existing Geometrics

The road has inadequate horizontal geometries (curves) and vertical geometries (hills/valleys) leading to inadequate sight distance. Inadequate geometries can make it difficult to see vehicles ahead who may be traveling slower or stopping, as well as impact ability to see when entering or exiting side streets and driveways.

Traffic Volumes

Traffic volumes on KY 44 are highest near the US 31 E intersection and taper off toward Spencer County. Volumes are projected to increase, but a two-lane section is still sufficient for projected volumes for the majority of the corridor for the next 20+ years. Wait times at intersections will continue to increase if intersection improvements are not made.

Proposed Alternatives

US 31E to Kings Church Road

Alternative A

- Five-lane to Three-lane section
- Construction Cost: **\$\$\$**
- Utility Impacts: **Medium**
- Signalized or uncontrolled intersections
- Right-of-way Impacts: **High**
- Safety Improvement: **Low**

Alternative B

- Roundabout Corridor
- Construction Cost: **\$\$\$**
- Utility Impacts: **Medium**
- Raised Median
- Right-of-way Impacts: **High**
- Safety Improvement: **High**

Kings Church Road to Spencer County

Alternative X

- Spot Improvements Only
- Construction Cost: **\$**
- Utility Impacts: **Low**
- Two Lanes
- Right-of-way Impacts: **Low**
- Safety Improvement: **Medium**

Alternative Y

- Shifted Location Roadway
- Construction Cost: **\$\$**
- Utility Impacts: **Medium**
- Two Lanes
- Right-of-way Impacts: **High**
- Safety Improvement: **Medium**