



Commonwealth of Kentucky
Kentucky Department of Highways,
District 10
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Public Meeting

KY 15 Improvements in Powell & Wolfe Counties

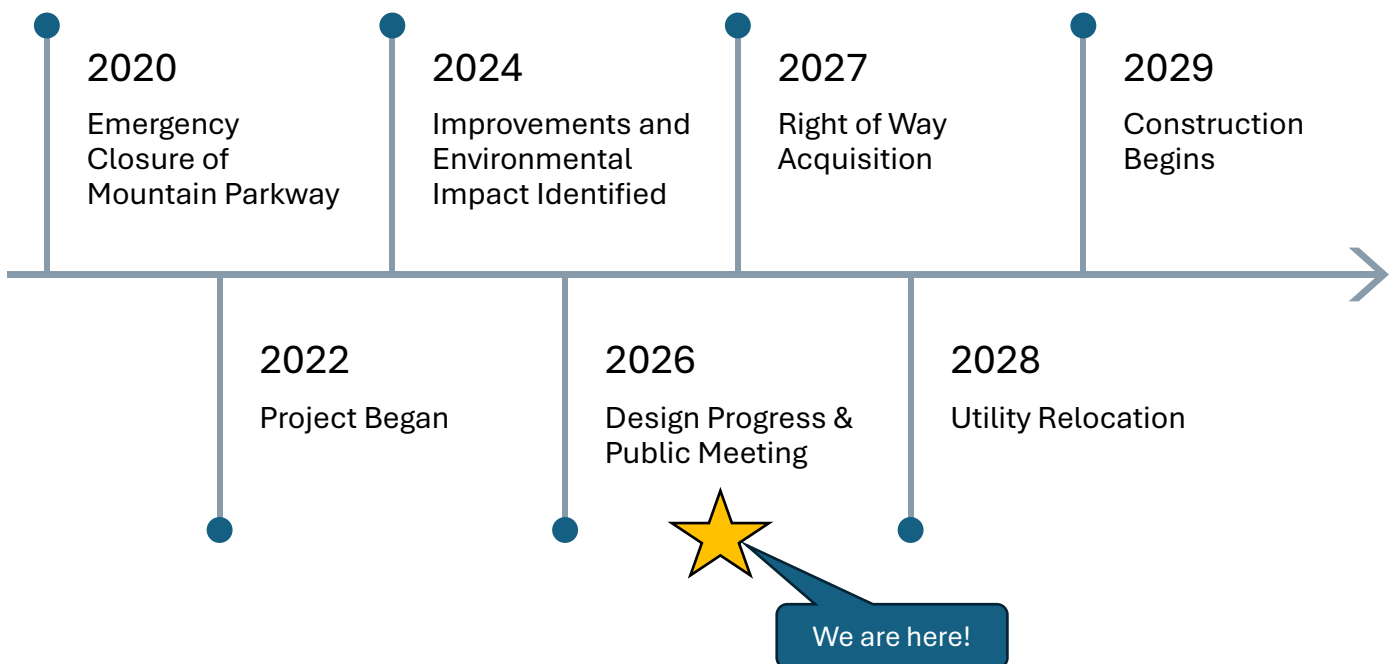
KYTC Item # 10-176.00 & 10-177.00

Thank you for attending this public meeting to view and discuss the proposed improvements along KY 15 in Powell and Wolfe Counties! There are several areas around the room with exhibits detailing the proposed improvements on this section of KY 15 between Exit 33 and Exit 40. If you have questions, please let us know!

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to provide redundant travel through this region of eastern Kentucky. This section of KY 15 connects Clay City and Campton by way of Slade and Pine Ridge and is the alternate means of travel should the Mountain Parkway become impassable for any reason between Exits 33 and 40. As seen during the 2020 closure of the Parkway near the Powell-Wolfe county line which required complicated separate detours for eastbound and westbound traffic, a modern facility is needed to facilitate two-way traffic on KY 15. Additionally, safety focused improvements are proposed throughout the corridor, including within Pine Ridge and near the intersection of KY 15 and KY 715 South.

Tentative Project Timeline



Timeline as of Enacted Highway Plan (2026 – 2032)

Project Improvements

The following improvements are proposed throughout both Powell & Wolfe Counties:

Improved Curve Warning Signs

Increase the visibility of signs, help motorists select appropriate speeds, and navigate the curve.



Image Source:
FHWA

Minor Widening

Provide additional recovery area, provide recoverable roadside slopes and minimize pavement dropoffs.



Image Source:
FHWA

In addition to the corridor-wide improvements mentioned above, the following location specific improvements are proposed:

The tight switchback curves of Slade Hill will be **reconstructed** to modern standards, facilitating two-way travel for all vehicles.

At Tunnel Ridge Road in Powell County, a **parking lot** will provide a dedicated space for visitors to the region to safely stop outside of the roadway. For those wishing to hike through the Daniel Boone National Forest and visit the waterfall at Whittleton Arch, a **Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon**, or **RRFB**, and **marked crosswalk** will be installed to help enable safer crossings of KY 15 to the trailhead just southeast of Tunnel Ridge Road and the new parking lot.

Within Pine Ridge, a more urban environment is proposed, with **curb and gutter** and **sidewalk** to help reinforce the transition to an area of increased activity and the reduced speed limit. An **improved crosswalk** at the Dessie Scott Children's School will feature an **RRFB** and **signs in advance**. The hillside to the northwest of Pine Ridge Subdivision Road will be cutback, providing a clearer **sightline** to the left.

Near the intersection of KY 15 and KY 715 South in Wolfe County, the existing curve to the east will be **widened**, creating a **buffer** in the middle of the road to separate vehicles and reduce crashes within this tight curve. Similar improvements have been already made along KY 15 east of this project! To help warn motorists of other vehicles turning from or onto KY 715, an **Intersection Conflict Warning System** will be installed at this intersection. Featuring connected "smart" warning signs, motorists will be alerted when another vehicle is approaching the intersection, allowing them to know of an oncoming vehicle even when it's out of sight around the curve.

Questions? Contact us and the Project Manager, **Ethan Adams**, at 606-666-8841.