

## KY 185 PROJECT INFORMATION

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is presenting two alternatives for the Reconstruction/Relocation of KY 185 from just north of the Jack Simmons Road to approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile south of the bridge over the Green River. The purpose of this meeting is: 1) to present the two alternatives; 2) to gather any additional or new information on the alternatives; and 3) to discuss project goals. Comments on the alternatives and their potential impacts are requested from the general public to further assist in the continuing development and design of this project.

Your involvement is very much appreciated. We encourage you to visit the KYTC KY 185 project website, <https://transportation.ky.gov/DistrictThree/Pages/default.aspx>, that shows each of the two alternate alignments and typical section. KYTC recognizes that a vital part of the design process comes from public involvement. Please take the time to review this information, the two alternative displays, and submit the "Comment Form" provided. Please complete and email the "Comment Form" on-line or print and mail-in the provided form. All written comments will be accepted until October 8, 2021.

### Project Summary

The existing KY 185 roadway from the beginning point of the project to the Green River Bridge was originally constructed in 1932 and consists of two 10-foot lanes with grass shoulders. There are several horizontal and vertical curves throughout this section of KY 185, especially north of the Mt. Pleasant Church of Christ, that do not meet current design guidelines. Reconstructing this roadway (and adding a truck climbing lane) would improve safety and provide better travel time reliability for a segment of the Butler County population that drives KY 185 into Warren County daily for their jobs, local residents accessing both their homes and churches located along KY 185, school buses along the route, and recreational traffic to Shanty Hollow Lake.

It was the recommendation of the Project Team that the new roadway facility should be realigned for the following reasons:

- To provide a 55 mph design speed.
- To provide sight distance to current guidelines.
- To provide grades that meet current guidelines.
- To eliminate the need to relocate multiple homes adjacent to the existing roadway for the required clear zone widths needed for safety and vehicle recovery. (my understanding is that the ROW folks prefer the term "relocate" instead of "acquisition")
- To minimize the disruption of existing traffic .
- To minimize utility impacts.

A study of the history of the number and type of crashes along KY 185 north of KY 1320 was completed in 2018. One of the recommendations was to reconstruct this section of KY 185. Preliminary design of two alternatives, west and east of the existing roadway, were studied and are being presented as part of this public meeting. The first alternative is shown along the west side of KY 185 from just north of Austin Raymer Road to approximately ¾ mile south of the Green River Bridge. The second alternative is shown along the east side of KY 185 from just north of Jack Simmons Road to approximately ¾ mile south of the Green River Bridge.

Alternative Costs

Estimated Year 2021 costs at the Preliminary Line & Grade Stage for the alternatives are:

PHASE	Western Alternative	Eastern Alternative
Right-of-Way Acquisition	\$875,000	\$725,000
Utilities Relocation	\$410,000	\$435,000
Construction	\$5,225,000	\$4,636,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,510,000</b>	<b>\$5,796,000</b>

KY 185 is classified as a Rural Collector. For this class of highway, the posted speed limit would be 55 mph. The travel lane widths would be two 11-foot lanes with 4’ shoulders (2’ being paved). Truck climbing lanes would be added where warranted. The recommended typical section for the new roadway is shown as an attachment to this handout.

Project Goals

During the early stages of a project’s evaluation, the Project Development Team identified goals for the project. These project goals included:

- To increase safety and reduce crashes.
- To improve capacity and level of service of the roadway.
- To accommodate the forecasted increase in automotive and commercial truck traffic on KY 185. (Year 2016 - 3800 vehicles per day with 11% trucks; Year 2036 – 6400 vehicles per day with 11% trucks)
- To facilitate the movement of goods and services reinforcing economic development efforts in Warren and Butler Counties, while minimizing adverse economic, environmental and community impacts in a most cost-effective

manner.

- To provide a roadway facility that meets current design standards.

### Next Steps

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, KYTC is unable to host a large gathering for a public meeting. As an alternative, anyone who prefers can call or email to schedule a one-on-one meeting with KYTC representatives. These meetings can be scheduled for anytime during the month of September. These meetings will be held at the KYTC District Three Office located at 900 Morgantown Road in Bowling Green.

Please contact Jim Hudson, Project Manager, at KYTC District 3 Office in Bowling Green either by phone at 270.746.7898 or by email at jim.hudson@ky.gov or Andrew Stewart, Project Development Branch Manager, at 270-746-7898 or andrew.stewart@ky.gov to discuss the project or schedule a meeting.

Project information can also be accessed online at <https://transportation.ky.gov/DistrictThree/Pages/default.aspx>

The next steps to be taken for this project are as follows:

1. The Project Team will meet to review and consider all comments received from this public meeting.
2. A final alternative will be selected.
3. Final design of the selected alternative will likely begin late 2021 or early 2022.
4. It is anticipated that the acquisition of right of way will begin in the Fall of 2022. Relocation of utilities will follow.
5. Bids will be solicited, and a construction contract awarded whenever construction funds become available. The earliest this project would likely be ready for construction would be in 2024.

Thank you for any input that you may provide for this important highway project.