

Partnering Conference 2026
(Theme: Creating Opportunities from Challenges)
Wednesday Agenda (Day 1)

11:00 **Registration Open**

12:30 **Welcome and Opening Comments**
Bob Yeager, Chief District Engineer, Covington

12:45 **FHWA Updates**
Steven Jacobs, Finance and Program Management Team Leader

1:00 **KYTC Updates**
Jason Siwula, Deputy State Highway Engineer

1:15 **The Stars Finally Aligned - Highway Design Manual**
Amanda Desmond, Location Engineer, D1 and D10

1:45 **Beyond the Peak**
Bastian Schroeder, Director of Research and Innovation, Kittelson and Associates

2:30 **Break**

3:00 **ROW Panel Discussion- Impacts of HB 542**
Dean Loy, Director, Division of Right of Way, Utilities & Rails
Will Fogle, Executive Director - Office of Legal Services KYTC General Counsel
Ben Coomes, Location Engineer, D6 and D12
Kevin Blain, TEBM, Project Development, Elizabethtown
Moderated by **Jason Siwula**, Deputy State Highway Engineer

4:00 **Benefits of Early Contractor Involvement**
Emily Deason, Project Manager, I-69 ORX
Aric Skaggs, Project Delivery TEBM, Jackson
Cory Wilson, Project Manager, KY 8 PDB
Amanda Desmond, Alternative Delivery Design Lead
Moderated by **Erika Drury**, Alternative Delivery Program Manager

4:45 **William S. Gulick Project Excellence Awards**

5:00 **Welcome Reception**

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Session & Time	Meeting Room No.'s 1 & 2	Meeting Room #3	Meeting Room No.'s 4 & 5	Meeting Room #6	Meeting Room No.'s 7 & 8	Meeting Room #10	Meeting Room #11	Meeting Room #12	Meeting Room #13
8:00 – 8:50	Standards in Motion: Updates for Standard Drawings <i>Jeff Jasper, KTC; Corinne Schurman, KYTC</i>	Utility Relocation Domestic Materials (BA & BABA) <i>Jennifer McCleve, KYTC</i>	Safer Streets, Better Connections: US 27 (Fayette) <i>Chase Wright and Rance Paxton, Strand; Casey Smith, KYTC</i>	US 421 Progressive Design Build in Harlan County <i>Travis Carmack, HMB; Greg Combs, KYTC</i>	Reducing Construction Conflicts <i>Kevin Wolfe, Haydon Bridge; Joseph Van Zee, KYTC</i>	Kentucky's ATR Expansion Project <i>Robert Brown and Melissa Brown, KYTC; Gregory Hawk and Mei Chen, KTC</i>	Because One Bridge Isn't Enough <i>Talya Caudill, KYTC; Craig Klusman, AECOM; Will Banik, Walsh/Kokosing</i>	Seeing the Unseen: Environmental Thermal Imaging <i>Calvin Andries, Egis</i>	Beyond the Curves: Improving Roadway Departure Safety <i>Kevin McKeel and Diana Mitchen, Burgess and Niple; Mike Yeager, Compass Infrastructure</i>
9:00 – 9:40	RCUT Intersection Guidance <i>Travis Thompson and Duane Thomas KTC; Mike Vaughn, KYTC</i>	Utility Relocation Inspection Standards <i>Lisa Johanningsmeier and Allen Rust, KYTC</i>	Thinking Beyond the Intersection and Project Limits <i>Brian Aldridge, Stantec; Austin Hart, KYTC</i>	Communication During Project Development <i>Jennifer Golson and Lori Hogg, Lochner; Keith McDonald, Palmer; Cecil Smith, KYTC</i>	Right Units, Right Hours, Right Work <i>David Gormley and Matt Sipes, KYTC</i>	KYTC Dam Assessment Study <i>Len Harper and Robert Hatton, Stantec; Brian Schroeder and Stephen De Witte, KYTC</i>	Collision Data Tool Evolution at KYTC <i>Ed Harding, KYTC</i>	Vibration Monitoring for Adverse Effects <i>Stephanie Lechert, KYTC; Rachel Kennedy, Stantec; Jared Bloom Walsh/Kokosing</i>	Phased Construction and Use of Temporary Bridges <i>Bobby Steele, E & B Paving</i>
10:00 – 10:40	Empowering the Plan Set: Models Matter <i>Blake Combs, Cam Brunty and Dave Greenwell, KYTC</i>	"You Can't Sit with Us!" How Planning and Maintenance are Partnering <i>Stephen De Witte, KYTC</i>	Right of Way Jeopardy <i>Ken Fleetwood and Kenny Stephenson Egis; Kelly Divine, KYTC</i>	Safe System Approach: Why? How? What? <i>Jason Hyatt and Mike Vaughn, KYTC</i>	Successful Utility Coordination in District 11 <i>Kevin Damron, Palmer; Sherri Chappell and Cody Smith, KYTC</i>	Safety Through Resurfacing <i>Andrea Cull, Gresham Smith; Bob Yeager, KYTC</i>	US 62 Over Simpson Lake: From Risk to Repair <i>Bryan Robbins and Drake Moulton, HDR; Aaron Wallace, KYTC</i>	Louisville's Main Street Safety Project <i>Justin Hina, Gresham Smith</i>	KTC Research Roundup <i>Bryan Gibson, et. al, KTC; Brian Eaton and Jackie Jones, KYTC</i>
10:50 – 11:30	Empowering the Plan Set: CADD Policy <i>Cam Brunty, Dave Greenwell and Matt Sipes, KYTC</i>	I-65 Corridor – KY's 1st CM/GC Project <i>Greg Groves, Brian Meade and Josh Carter, AECOM; Natalie House-Lewis, KYTC</i>	Winchester: Boone Ave Quick Build Highlights <i>Jared Jeffers and Casey Smith, KYTC; Brian Sewell, City of Winchester; Brandi Peacher, LFUCG</i>	Creating the New KYTC SUE Schema for Digital Delivery <i>Pat Eckert, Lauren Meighn and Emily Eising, KYTC; Ben Shinabery, Qk4; Corey Napier, JMT</i>	Advancing Projects Under Eminent Domain Changes <i>Tom Boykin, Jill Pierce, John Schleck, Dean Loy, Shannon Dearing and Eric Monhollon, KYTC</i>	Tools Change, Principles Endure <i>Glen Kelly, Qk4</i>	AI: Tools That Actually Save You Time <i>Anna Klenke and Michael Kuhns, Michael Baker</i>	Just a Little Bridge Project...With Coordination <i>Chris James and Andrew Logsdon, KYTC; Jason Littleton, WSP</i>	Approaching Permits in a Roundabout Way <i>Chris Smith, HDR; Kevin Blain and Chris Hampton, KYTC</i>

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3:00 – 3:40	Empowering the Plan Set: Models Matter <i>Blake Combs, Cam Brunty and Dave Greenwell, KYTC</i>	"You Can't Sit with Us!" How Planning and Maintenance are Partnering <i>Stephen De Witte, KYTC</i>	Right of Way Jeopardy <i>Ken Fleetwood and Kenny Stephenson Egis; Kelly Divine, KYTC</i>	Safe System Approach: Why? How? What? <i>Jason Hyatt and Mike Vaughn, KYTC</i>	Getting in Front of the Issue with Early Utility Accommodation <i>Emily Eising and Jennifer McCleve, KYTC</i>	Safety Through Resurfacing <i>Andrea Cull, Gresham Smith; Bob Yeager, KYTC</i>	US 62 Over Simpson Lake: From Risk to Repair <i>Bryan Robbins and Drake Moulton, HDR; Aaron Wallace, KYTC</i>	Louisville's Main Street Safety Project <i>Justin Hina, Gresham Smith</i>	KTC Research Roundup <i>Bryan Gibson, et. all, KTC; Brian Eaton and Jackie Jones, KYTC</i>
3:50 – 4:30	Empowering the Plan Set: CADD Policy <i>Cam Brunty, Dave Greenwell and Matt Sipes, KYTC</i>	I-65 Corridor – KY's 1st CM/GC Project <i>Greg Groves, Brian Meade and Josh Carter, AECOM; Natalie House-Lewis, KYTC</i>	Winchester: Boone Ave Quick Build Highlights <i>Jared Jeffers and Casey Smith, KYTC; Brian Sewell, City of Winchester; Brandi Peacher, LFUCG</i>	Creating the New KYTC SUE Schema for Digital Delivery <i>Pat Eckert, Lauren Meighn and Emily Eising, KYTC; Ben Shinabery, Qk4; Corey Napier, JMT</i>	Advancing Projects Under Eminent Domain Changes <i>Tom Boykin, Jill Pierce, John Schleck, Dean Loy, Shannon Dearing and Eric Monhollon, KYTC</i>	Tools Change, Principles Endure <i>Glen Kelly, Qk4</i>	AI: Tools That Actually Save You Time <i>Anna Klenke and Michael Kuhns, Michael Baker</i>	Just a Little Bridge Project...With Coordination <i>Chris James and Andrew Logsdon, KYTC; Jason Littleton, WSP</i>	Approaching Permits in a Roundabout Way <i>Chris Smith, HDR; Kevin Blain and Chris Hampton, KYTC</i>

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Friday Agenda (Day 3)

- 8:00 **Welcome and Comments**
Corey Napier, President, American Council of Engineering Companies of KY
- 8:15 **ACEC Federal Legislative Update**
Matt Reiffer, ACEC Vice President and Advocacy Counsel
- 8:45 **Engineering the Road to Zero: A Panel Discussion**
Joe Plunk, Chief District Engineer, Bowling Green
Wendy Southworth, TEBM, Division of Highway Design
Lauren Meighan, Design Section Supervisor, Lexington
Stephen De Witte, TEBM, Division of Planning
Blake Jones, Design Section Supervisor, Flemingsburg
Matthew Holder, Project Manager, HSIP
- 9:30 **Break**
- 10:00 **I-69: ORX 1, 2 and Beyond**
Emily Deason, ORX Project Manager, KYTC
Amanda Spencer, Assistant State Highway Engineer, KYTC
- 10:30 **US 460 from Planning to Ribbon Cutting: A PM's Perspective**
John Michael Johnson, Project Manager, Pikeville
Kevin Damron, Project Manager, Palmer
- 11:00 **Recognition of Project Honorees**
- 11:15 **Closing Remarks**
FHWA's Remarks
Shundreka Givan, Division Administrator
- State Highway Engineer's Remarks**
James Ballinger, State Highway Engineer
- Cabinet Secretary's Remarks**
Rebecca Goodman, Secretary
- Dismiss**