



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

TRANSPORTATION CABINET

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Kentucky's 'Best Maintained' Rest Area Awarded to Hart County I-65 Northbound

Perfect scores earned for staff demeanor and baby changing stations

FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 13, 2026) – Kentucky's 2025 Best Maintained Rest Area award has returned to the state's facility on northbound Interstate 65 in Hart County. While all rest areas across the state received at least an 'A' rating, the location between Horse Cave and Munfordville distinguished itself by consistently providing premier attention to cleanliness and grounds maintenance – no matter the season or time of day.

"Well-rested drivers are safe drivers," said Transportation Secretary Rebecca Goodman. "Providing safe, clean, reliable areas for drivers to stop and rest is a key component of Team Kentucky's comprehensive approach to roadway safety."

National studies have shown use of designated rest stops can help increase driver alertness and reduce drowsy driving, which was a factor in 2.4% of all fatal crashes nationwide from 2011 to 2015, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

It is the second time in the award's 26-year history that the Hart County rest area has received the honor. The facility is also one of the largest in the state, with more than 100 well-lit parking spaces, clean restrooms, stocked vending machines, picnic areas and other accessible and pet-friendly amenities serving passenger vehicle and commercial drivers who rely on I-65 as a major travel corridor.

"The Best Rest Area award is a recognition of the great work being done at this great facility," said State Highway Engineer James Ballinger. "It's also a commitment to travelers that our investment in maintaining quality places where they can comfortably rest will help keep them safe on and off the road."

Each year, the Transportation Cabinet judges the Best Maintained Rest Area award based on seven categories that examine the entire grounds – from the lobby and restrooms to the vending machines and staff. All of the state’s rest areas undergo 12 unannounced inspections, with each of the three staff shifts receiving a quarterly evaluation throughout the year.

“We’re committed to excellent public service in everything we do, from paving roads to maintaining rest areas,” said KYTC’s District 4 Chief District Engineer Brad Bottoms. “This award is a great way to demonstrate the attention to detail and dedication by our contract crews and our Roadside Environmental Team in the Department of Highways who have worked to make this the best rest area in Kentucky to stop and recharge.”

Community Services Project Inc. (CSP), a nonprofit that trains and employs about 400 disabled workers in Kentucky, operates the Hart County rest area and others across the commonwealth. Contract employees with CSP, Velocity and Cleaning by Regina and Associates maintain Kentucky’s 16 rest areas, six welcome centers and four truck rest havens.

CSP employees and employees of the Department of Highways District 4 were presented with certificates commemorating the award. In all 12 inspections, the evaluation of the staff received perfect scores.

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Editor’s note: Photos of the facility will be available at this [link](#) today.

