



Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, District 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Transportation Cabinet announces \$2 million in federal funding for traffic flow improvements in Oldham County

LOUISVILLE, KY (April 2, 2019) – Governor Matt Bevin and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) announce \$2 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds have been awarded for traffic flow improvements on Interstate 71 in Oldham County. KYTC Secretary Greg Thomas made the announcement today during a listening session with the Oldham County Fiscal Court.

CMAQ is a federally funded reimbursement program administered through the KYTC's Office of Local Programs. These funds will be used to widen the exit ramp from Interstate 71 North to KY 53 in LaGrange (Exit 22).

"We are grateful for this significant federal CMAQ investment to benefit Oldham County," said Gov. Bevin. "Funds from this program enable local communities to implement important transportation projects that improve safety and traffic flow while promoting a healthier environment for citizens."

CMAQ is a transportation improvement program focused on funding innovative transportation projects or programs that will reduce congestion and improve air quality. Kentucky receives CMAQ funds each year for areas designated as non-attainment or maintenance for National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Nine projects statewide were selected for the award.

CMAQ funds are available to state and local government agencies as well as private entities through public-private partnerships. Nonprofit organizations may also apply in partnership with a state or local government agency. Recipients provide a 20% local match and are responsible for executing the project.

“These funds support the Cabinet’s priority to provide a safe, efficient and environmentally sound transportation network,” said Secretary Greg Thomas. “CMAQ funds help reduce transportation-related emissions and traffic congestion. The project improves access to commercial establishments, the local hospital and some major businesses in this growing area.”

The project at I-71 North to KY 53 will widen the exit ramp from one to two lanes increasing traffic capacity. A right turn lane and a left turn lane will be built to create dual right and dual left turn movements. The existing traffic signal will be upgraded to match the intersection improvements. New pavement striping and way finding signs for lane assignments will be installed to guide drivers to the correct lane for turning or thru traffic movements at the intersection.

“Not only will the improvements relieve congestion at the I-71 northbound exit ramp at KY 53, but it will prevent traffic queuing onto mainline I-71,” said Matt Bullock, Chief District Engineer for KYTC’s District 5 office in Louisville. “This ramp has seen a significant increase in traffic volume in recent years, particularly during peak hours. The additional lane will provide the opportunity for right turning traffic to bypass the left turn queue thus moving more vehicles off the interstate.”

Design work on this project will begin in the coming months, followed by the acquisition of any needed right-of-way and relocation of utilities. Construction is expected to start in 2021.

This project will complement a 2016 CMAQ award at the southbound I-71 ramp to KY 53, which will add a right turn lane at the intersection. A left turn lane will also be added on KY 53 at Crystal Drive. Construction on these improvements is currently scheduled to begin in the summer of 2020.

These two projects together would increase the overall capacity and safety of the interchange satisfying the primary goal of eliminating traffic backups on mainline I-71. It would also alleviate intersection congestion at KY 53.

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