



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Matthew G. Bevin, Governor

Greg Thomas, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Naitore Djigbenou  
502.782.4829  
Naitore.Djigbenou@ky.gov

### **Kentucky Transportation Cabinet provides update to local leaders on status of US 641 expansion project**

*Secretary Thomas briefs Caldwell, Crittenden and Lyon County officials*

**PADUCAH, Ky. (Dec. 17, 2018)** – Kentucky Transportation Cabinet officials briefed elected leaders from Caldwell, Crittenden and Lyon counties today to update them on the status of potential routes for an improved US 641 between Fredonia and Eddyville. The proposed expansion would connect with a recently completed US 641 improvement project between Fredonia and Marion.

The Cabinet has not selected a preferred route and has not set a timetable for the start of construction on the project. KYTC officials have received feedback from local leaders and the public to guide the selection of the ultimate route and will inform the public when the current phase of studies is completed.

“There has been some confusion and misinformation about this project in recent months, and KYTC wants to ensure that all of our county leaders in the area have the latest and most accurate information regarding this key Western Kentucky corridor,” said Transportation Secretary Greg Thomas. “We’ve evaluated more than a dozen alternatives in the past decade and made modifications over the years based on valuable public and local input. Our team of transportation experts are committed to finding the best solution to deliver a safe route that balances taxpayer dollars, and limits impacts on homes, farms, businesses and private lands in Caldwell, Crittenden and Lyon counties.”

KYTC initially studied widening and improving the US 641 corridor from Fredonia to Eddyville in 2004 but did not move the project forward due to a lack of available funding. In recent months, the state has resumed its engineering studies to assess the region’s current needs and select a preferred alternative.

In addition to the communities of Eddyville and Fredonia, a rerouted US 641 likely could impact a major quarry, large wetlands and the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex. Cabinet officials have been in discussions with the Kentucky Department of Corrections about the potential impacts a high-volume road might have on the medium security institution, which houses male and female felons.

Currently, US 641 serves about 4,000 vehicles per day. With its expansion, that number could grow to more than 5,300 vehicles per day by 2030 based on a KYTC traffic study.

Citizens seeking the latest information about the project or wanting to provide feedback should visit

<https://transportation.ky.gov/DistrictOne/Pages/US-641-Project.aspx>.

###