

Level 1 Screening

The Level 1 Screening began with 16 alternatives put forward by the public. These alternatives were grouped into three categories as shown on the three Level 1 figures:

- (A) Corridors connecting directly with the East Bypass**
- (B) Corridors connecting with the East Bypass in the North and the Western Kentucky Parkway in the South**
- (C) Corridors connecting to KY 259 north of the East Bypass in the north and with the Western Kentucky Parkway in the south**

These corridors were then subjected to a preliminary feasibility level screening. Corridors determined to have major flaws were altered combined or replaced with an equivalent corridor. The end result was 14 corridors that were recommended for further analysis in Level 2. These corridors are shown at the next station.

Level 2 Evaluation

The Level 2 Screening process began with the 14 corridors coming out of the Level 1 analysis. These corridors were subjected to a detailed evaluation, considering a broad range of traffic, community, environmental, and economic benefits and impacts. For example, traffic projections, environmental features, and relative costs were taken into account as part of this effort. Alternative corridors were then compared to each other to determine which corridors were the most promising. The major benefits and drawbacks for each corridor are shown on the figures at this station along with key topographic and environmental features. Based on this analysis, the four most promising corridors were advanced to the third and final level of analysis as shown on the boards at Station 7.

Level 3 Evaluation

The Level 3 Evaluation provided a very detailed analysis of the four final alternative corridors. This included additional analysis in the areas of traffic, environment, community, and construction. A summary of the key factors is presented in the evaluation table at this station. Traffic forecasts for each of the final four alternatives as well as the no-build condition are also presented.

The result of the evaluation was the PRELIMINARY recommendation of the A3 bypass corridor, as well as a second phase project to add an interchange to the Western Kentucky Parkway as shown at Station 8.

Preliminary Recommendation

Based on the analysis and public input to date, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has selected Corridor A3 as the preliminary recommendation for the project. The Cabinet also proposes a new interchange on the Western Kentucky Parkway at KY 187 with improvements to KY 187 and US 62 connecting it with the new bypass as a separate longer term project. This preliminary recommendation is based on the assessment of expected facility use, project benefit, project cost, and potential impacts compared to the other corridors. However, this is only a preliminary recommendation and public input will be taken into consideration in the selection of the final study recommendation. Therefore, we ask you to please fill out a comment form before you leave today to give us your feedback on this preliminary recommendation.

Comparison of Project Goals to Preliminary Bypass Recommendation

1. **Improve Traffic Flow** – Removes traffic from congested sections of KY 259 and US 62 in and near town. Reduces travel time west of town.
2. **Improve Safety** – Removes traffic from high crash sections of KY 259, US 62, and KY 54 near town. New highway will meet current design standards and will better accommodate bicycles and pedestrians.
3. **Economic Development** – Opens new, undeveloped land for potential economic development.
4. **Improve Highway for Trucks** – Provides a new roadway to the industrial parks in the north and quarries in the west, built to current design standards.
5. **Improve Access** – Improves access to and from destinations in the north and west such as the high school, new developments, and the industrial park.
6. **Enhance System Efficiency and Connections** – Improves connections between KY 737, KY 54, US 62, and KY 259. Completes a full circle around Leitchfield allowing east-west and north-south travel without going through town.