

APPENDIX C – Public Information Meeting Summaries

Public Information Meeting Summary

Monday, November 26, 2001

Statewide Corridor Planning Item No. 2-0138.00 US 62

A Public Information Meeting was held on Monday, November 26, 2001. The meeting was held at the Muhlenberg North High School cafeteria, in Greenville, KY from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There were 21 citizens who attended the meeting. A sign in sheet was posted, and handouts were given to the attendees. The handouts included the following information:

- The Study Purpose
- Corridor Issues
- Draft Statement of Project Goals
- Contacts
- A postage-paid Public Comment Survey Form
- A map showing Project Limits

Information about the project was presented with an audio/video presentation that ran on a continuous loop in the rear of the cafeteria, as well as through maps and other data displayed throughout the room.

The meeting was conducted in an "open house" format. Attendees were directed to an exhibit area where thirteen representatives from the Cabinet, the Pennyriple Area Development District, and HNTB were on hand to answer questions and to receive input from the attendees. The attendees were given a postage-paid Public Comment Survey form that they could either complete at the meeting or return to the KY Transportation Cabinet, Division of Planning by December 10, 2001. The exhibits provided the attendees the following information:

- Maps of the Project Area
- Accident Locations
- Traffic Volumes
- Levels of Service
- Environmental Overview (to date)

Attendees were encouraged to write any comments they had on flipcharts near the display area. The following are the comments they expressed:

- A bypass is needed on the South side of Greenville
- How many accidents occurred on Tuesday morning from Flea Market traffic
- The issue of drainage is addressed in design
- A stoplight is needed at the intersection of 171 and 62 with a turning lane if possible

- A south by-pass is needed beginning at 189 and crossing 171, 181, and ending at 176
- Two new lanes are all that is needed. Twelve foot lanes with no curb and gutter with turn lanes in a few areas.

Five (5) Public Comment Surveys were completed and returned. The survey asked what benefits would occur if US 62 were improved. Only one (1) person responded to this question by saying that the benefit would be improved visibility of curves and better traffic flow.

Question 2 asked to identify and discuss any critical issues or concerns they had about the project area. All five (5) people responded to this question. Their comments are as follows:

- Adding more lanes to Highway 62 will not solve the problem. It will increase traffic and the speeding problem
- It will make getting on and off the highway more difficult
- Businesses and churches will have to relocate and people will lose their homes
- Will the curve at the African American Cemetery be improved
- Drainage needs to be improved
- The addition of emergency or walking lanes are need for pedestrians traveling on this road

Question 3 asked whether or not they feel improvements to US 62 are needed. Four (4) respondents said, "Yes" and one (1) said "No". It went on to ask what specific areas needed improvement. The responses were:

- A stoplight is needed where highway 171 joins US 62
- A bypass from Highway 189 crossing 171, then from 181 to 176
- Keep large truck traffic from coming into town from 171
- Hopkinsville street should be by-passed
- A turning-lane into the hospital would be a benefit
- Fix large curve near US 62
- A stoplight or 4-way stop at US 62 and 181

The next section asked whether or not there were any sites along the project area that should be avoided. The combined responses were:

- Many historic homes, businesses, a school, and a church are very close to the street
- The 4-way stop at Hopkinsville Street and Main Street (or 181)
- The African American Cemetery, the funeral home, and the church

The public was asked how they heard about this Public Information Meeting. Three(3) said from the newspaper. One (1) said from a friend, and one (1) from another meeting.

Respondents were asked to make any additional comments they may have about the project. Two (2) people chose to do so. Their comments and concerns are as follows:

- Their family lives on this street and they also own two properties.
- Want the coal truck traffic to be routed somewhere else
- Don't want buildings and homes torn down
- A southern bypass is the only rational answer to ease the traffic burden
- The curve at the African American Cemetery needs improving ASAP
- Road improvement is way overdue, don't wait another 10 years to start improvements
- The roadway cannot handle the current traffic volume

The following comment was made by State Representative Brent Younts regarding the project: "The Scope of the proposed HWY 62 project I believe, is non-doable because of the intensity of the utilities along the right-of-way, and the closeness of the houses to the streets. To widen this road would essentially destroy this neighborhood. The obvious answer is to build a southern by-pass around Greenville extending from the exterior of the city in the west and joining it on the east at HWY 176."