



Meeting Minutes

Project: US 60 Connectivity Study
Ballard County, KY
Item#: 1-80250.00

Purpose: Resource Agency Coordination Meeting #1
Existing Conditions Review

Place: In-person – Ballard County Co-op Extension Office
110 Broadway, LaCenter, KY 42056
Virtual – Zoom

Date/Time: March 30, 2023 at 1:30 PM CDT

Prepared by: Qk4

Participants:	Name	Organization	Location
	James Harbison	Alexander County Housing Authority	Zoom
	Casey Allen	Ballard County Schools	In-person
	Darrell Sullivan	Ballard County Schools	In-person
	Angela Blank	C2 Strategic Communications	In-person
	Emma Collins	C2 Strategic Communications	Zoom
	Parry Barrows	C2 Strategic Communications	In-person
	Darien Siddall	FHWA – Illinois Division	Zoom
	John Ballantyne	FHWA – Kentucky Division	Zoom
	Mour Diop	FHWA – Kentucky Division	Zoom
	Chris Pressnall	Illinois Department of Natural Resources – EJ	Zoom
	Rita Baker	Illinois Department of Natural Resources - Historic	Zoom
	Bill Milner	Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Water	Zoom
	Jeff Kruchten	Illinois Historic Preservation Division	Zoom
	Christopher Hanstad	Illinois State Water Survey	Zoom
	Derek Beard	KDFWR	Zoom
	Jason Beirman	KDFWR	In-person
	John Zimmer	KDFWR	Zoom
	Wes McFaddin	KDFWR	In-person
	Alex VanPelt	Kentucky Division of Water	Zoom
	Louanna Aldridge	Kentucky Energy and Environment	Zoom
	Andrea Fredenburg	Kentucky Energy and Environment-Water Resources	Zoom



US 60 Connectivity Study (KYTC Item No. 1-80250)
Resource Agency Coordination Meeting No. 1
Existing Conditions Review
March 30, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Name	Organization	Location
Wesley Harrod	Kentucky Energy and Environment-Water Resources	Zoom
Stephanie Dooley	Kentucky Heritage Council – Archaeology	Zoom
Karl Sawyer	KYTC CO Design	Zoom
Dave Heil	KYTC CO Planning	Zoom
Brian Mabelitini	KYTC DEA	Zoom
Casey Cruikshank	KYTC DEA	Zoom
Connor Ouellette	KYTC DEA	Zoom
Craig Craig	KYTC DEA	Zoom
Daniel Davis	KYTC DEA	Zoom
Stephanie Lechert	KYTC DEA	Zoom
Chris Kuntz	KYTC District 1	In-person
Alexa Lawson	Pulaski-Alexander Soil and Water Conservation	Zoom
Jim LeFevre	Purchase Area Development District	In-person
Jon Young	Purchase Area Development District	Zoom
Stacey Courtney	Purchase Area Development District	Zoom
Eunice Holland	Qk4	Zoom
Lindsay Hoskins	Qk4	In-person
Tom Springer	Qk4	In-person
Brian Aldridge	Stantec	In-person
Duane Simpson	Stantec	Zoom
Ellen Mullins	Stantec	Zoom
Jennifer Ryall	Stantec	Zoom
Lee Carolan	Stantec	Zoom
Len Harper	Stantec	In-person
Taylor Perkins	Stantec	Zoom
Tom Miller	UK Extension Office	In-person
Eric Washburn	US Coast Guard – Bridge Branch	Zoom
Norma Condra	USACE – Louisville District Regulatory	Zoom
Mitch Elcan	USACE – Memphis District	Zoom
Kristina Mitchell	USACE – Memphis Environmental Compliance	Zoom
Tanya Wells	USACE – Memphis Regulatory	Zoom
Edward Lambert	USACE – Memphis, Environmental Chief	Zoom
John Boeckmann	USACE – St. Louis Regulatory	Zoom
Brandon Clark	USDA – NRCS	In-person
Brian Jones	USDA – NRCS	In-person
Christina Pappas	USDA – NRCS	Zoom

Name	Organization	Location
Jerry McIntosh	USDA – NRCS	In-person
Scott Schneider	USDA – NRCS	Zoom
Katherine Terry	USDA – NRCS	In-person
Ntale Kajumba	USEPA – Region 4/Atlanta	Zoom
Terry Adelsbach	USEPA – Region 4/Atlanta	Zoom
Mike Sedlacek	USEPA – Region 5/Illinois	Zoom
Matt Mangan	USFWS – Illinois-Iowa	Zoom
Phil DeGarmo	USFWS – Kentucky	Zoom

The first Resource Agency Coordination (RAC) meeting was held on Thursday, March 30th to review existing environmental resources within the study area (**Figure 1**) with Resource Agencies. **The primary objective of the meeting was to seek feedback on additional resources and associated environmental requirements.**

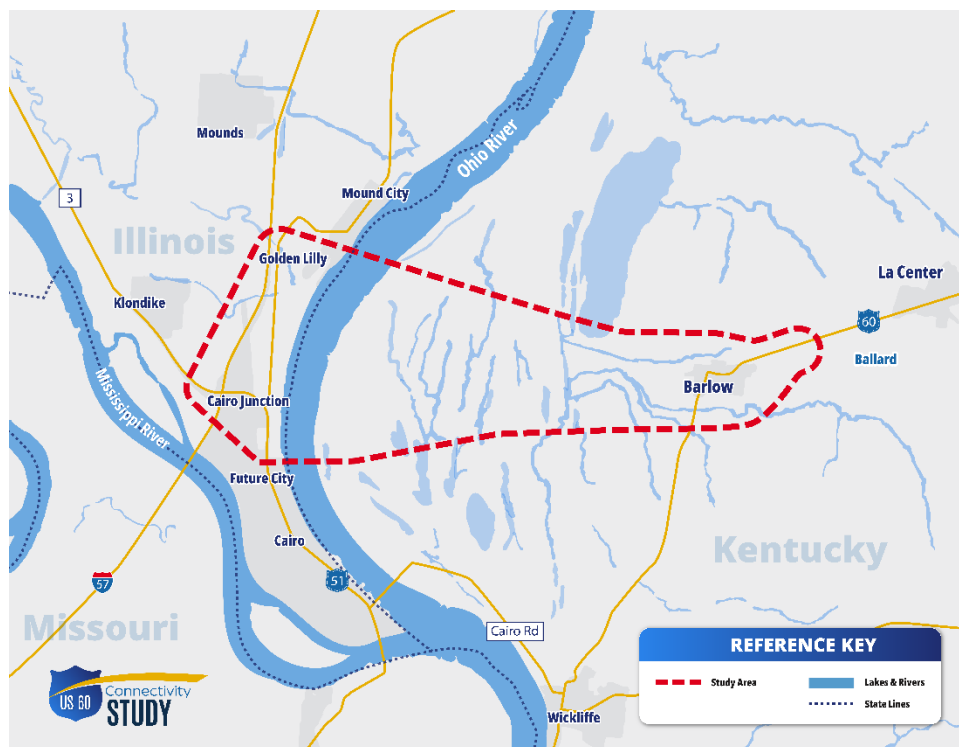


Figure 1. Study Area



The hybrid meeting was invite-only and had 65 people attend (17 in-person, 48 online). The study's draft RAC Plan, study area, meeting agenda, presentation, questionnaire, and study website were all shared ahead of the meeting with invitees.

The study team provided a brief study overview, identified environmental resources, and requested feedback.

Study Overview

This study is included in the current Six-year Highway Plan as KYTC Item No. 1-80250, specifically stating to "conduct a planning study for extending US 60 from Barlow, KY west to I-57 near Future City, IL." No future phases of this project are included or funded in the highway plan. Looking at the local and regional roadway networks, it is understandable why some feel that a more direct route across the Ohio River would improve east-west mobility in the region.

Study objectives:

- Examine the feasibility, costs, and impacts of extending US 60 over the Ohio River.
- Complete a Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL)¹ study due to environmental sensitivity of the area and because there is a signed NEPA document for the US 51 Bridge Replacement project between Wickliffe and Cairo (KYTC Item No. 1-1140.00).
- Present findings to KYTC so that they can make an informed decision about the best option for an Ohio River Crossing in the region. KYTC's plan would be to advance a connection from this study or the US 51 Bridge Replacement project, not both.

This study just started earlier this year, and there will be two more RAC meetings, two local official meetings, and a public meeting over the course of the year. The study team is in the existing conditions/data gathering phase and have only identified the study area and environmental resources to-date.

A previous study (KYTC Item No. 1-1140) that led to the current US 51 bridge replacement project preliminarily considered a more direct connection through the existing study's study area; however, a more

¹ http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/env_initiatives/pel.aspx

northerly concept was dismissed early for not meeting the very specific purpose and need established for that study – to improve mobility between Wickliffe, KY and Cairo, IL. This study, focusing on a different purpose and need that is under development, will thoroughly explore connections through the study area and document the pros and cons.

Environmental Resources

The study area overlaps with a highly environmentally sensitive area. Identified environmental resources were reviewed in detail (see attached slides in **Appendix A**), including:

- Protected Lands
- Section 4(f) Properties
- Hunting Lands
- Ecological Resources
- Flood Zone
- Threatened & Endangered Resources/Migratory Birds
- Farmlands
- Archaeological Resources
- Historical Resources
- Socioeconomic Areas/Community Resources
- Hazardous Materials

Feedback

Comments and questions received during the meeting included the following:

- **Would a route through the study area be all on structure?**
 - *It will have to be considered. It very well may be, because a potential future connection would predominately be within the 100-year floodplain. The study will later explore how much can be on fill versus on structure to get to comparative estimates for KYTC to consider.*
 - **How does that compare to the mileage of I-69 ORX project within floodplain?**
 - *For that project, pretty much all of the Indiana side is in the regulated floodway, but they define it differently than Kentucky. From the Ohio River, up to existing I-69*

(which serves as the levee for Evansville), it will be mostly on structure (~2 miles). This study would consider roughly 5 miles that could potentially be on elevated structure in the 100-year floodplain between the Ohio River to Barlow.

- *A detailed hydraulic analysis would have to be performed for this project and a goal would be to balance the costs and impacts. The floodplain can be raised slightly.*
- **Will a route bypass Barlow?**
 - *This study hasn't yet considered how a new connection would interact with Barlow (through or around). It could consider both as options.*
- **Is there a figure that shows the alignment of the existing approved project?**
 - *Yes, presentation slide 16 shows the alignment; building a new bridge (light blue), north and parallel to the existing bridge (red). Additional information can be found on that project's website, <https://us51bridge.com/>.*
 - *If this study recommends an alternative to move forward, and KYTC decides that is the better long-term investment to the state, then the current US 51 bridge project would not move forward.*
 - **Comment: A new northerly route would eliminate the need for a 30 mph drive through Cairo.**
 - *That would be true; however, it would have regional and local traffic impacts to consider. Especially concerning socioeconomic impacts to this disadvantaged area. This study will explore what those impacts may be and how a project may have to mitigate for them.*
 - *Environmental resource impacts will be a major documentation effort of this study.*
- **Can you elaborate on what the issue was with the purpose and need for the US 51 Project and specifically Alternative 5 and how you expect to avoid similar issues here?**
 - *The primary purpose of the US 51 bridge project was to "improve or replace the functionally obsolete bridge/structurally deficient bridge, to improve or maintain cross river connectivity between Wickliffe, KY and Cairo, IL and to improve safety on the bridge and its approaches". That study's alternative 5 (which overlaps with the current study area) was eliminated early on because while a connection is maintained, the travel times/distances between Wickliffe and Cairo were anticipated to be more than double compared to the existing conditions.*

- *Since that study did not explore that connection in detail, this study will thoroughly document the pros and cons of what that may look like. The current study will develop a purpose and need statement. The intent would be to review existing conditions, examine opportunities to enhance regional connectivity, and assess how economic development may apply.*
- **Assuming this study recommends a build alternative, would the old US 51 bridge be demolished?**
 - *Yes, it is assumed that KYTC would cease maintenance operations, and some point in the future, that bridge would become no longer operational and closed to the public.*
- **Has there been any advancement on the current US 51 bridge project?**
 - *Yes, it has an approved NEPA document. Geotechnical work and final structure design are ongoing. That project could continue on.*
 - *The local concern is that a more direct connection across the Ohio River would be a better option for regional connectivity. Thus, this current study is thoroughly exploring options in the area that were previously dismissed in the past US 51 bridge study, <https://transportation.ky.gov/Planning/Pages/Project-Details.aspx?Project=US%2051%20Ohio%20River%20Bridge%20Alternatives%20Study..>*
 - *This will provide decision-makers with all of the facts to be able to make an informed decision for the next highway plan.*
- **Is the approved project no longer feasible, and is this an attempt to overcome those issues and define a new project?**
 - *No, the ongoing US 51 bridge project is still feasible. If this study determines that the transportation benefits can't overcome the environmental impacts, then the ongoing US 51 bridge replacement project is expected to move forward.*
- **What is the timeline to complete this project, and will this alternative study delay efforts to meet that timeline?**
 - *The US 51 bridge project is currently in the design phase and is anticipated to be ready to go to construction as early as 2025/2026. This study will be wrapped up in 2024. If the decision is to advance an alternative from this study instead of the US 51 bridge project, then construction*

would be delayed. The study is not slowing down the critical path items on the ongoing US 51 bridge replacement project as funding is already authorized on that project.

- **Where can we access the US 51 corridor project documents?**

- Ongoing US 51 bridge project, <https://us51bridge.com/>
- Previous US 51 Ohio River Bridge Alternatives Planning Study, <https://transportation.ky.gov/Planning/Pages/Project-Details.aspx?Project=US%2051%20Ohio%20River%20Bridge%20Alternatives%20Study>

- **Please review how we get copies of the presentation's slides.**

- *The draft presentation was emailed to invitees March 28, 2023. It will also be provided after the meeting.*

- **Some of the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as part of a mitigation effort from the Olmstead Dam, and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) has a lease agreement with them. They are funded through Pittman Robertson funds. If those are impacted, there may be additional costs to reimburse the use of those federal funds.**

- *Location information to help identify where these lands are will be helpful for the team.*
- *Are there laws, regulations, requirements associated with lands that use these funds? If so, please provide to the study team.*

- **Boatwright WMA consists of 13 different land purchases dating back to 1957, some of that would have utilized KY Fish & Wildlife Sportsman money, but majority of the acreage was acquired using federal grants including, Pitman Robertson Act funds, North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants, State Wildlife grants, conservation fund board grants, Kentucky heritage land and water conservation funds. Each would require consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for reimbursement costs and mitigation efforts. Let's meet in the future to discuss these details further.**

- *A future meeting will be scheduled.*

- **Has more land been added to the WMA?**

- *The shape shown on the slides appears to match current WMA lands; however, some of it is owned by the USACE.*

▪ **Point of contact at USACE – Louisville regarding USACE owned land that is leased to KDFWR as part of the Boatwright WMA:**

Audrey L. Steier
Team Lead, Realty Specialist
Real Estate Division, REC
USACE, Louisville
Mobile: 502.902.5240
Office: 502.315.6970

- **There is a boat landing at the river maintained by Ballard County that may be impacted.**
- **There may be some other civil works projects (properties) within the study area that are controlled by the USACE. If there are impacts to those projects, a Section 408 permit would be required and issued prior to obtaining a Section 404 permit from the Corps. Regulatory does not issue the 408 permit.**
 - **The landside on both sides of the river is within the Memphis District and the river is within the Louisville District.**
 - **Louisville District USACE Regulatory would be the lead district for 404 permitting.**
- **The Kentucky portion is in United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 and the Illinois portion is in EPA Region 5.**
- **St. Louis USACE – only potential connection to this district would be a levee district further west of the project (or possibly an approach to the interchange with I-57).**
- **What technical assistance would be needed from the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)?**
 - **We have a rep technician that works solely on the easements for the Dogtooth Bend. We also have a district water act form I can forward on.**
 - *The Dogtooth Bend would be south of this study's area.*
- **How much of the study area is privately-owned land?**
 - *Most of the study area is publicly-owned land. The study team has PVA data to consider land ownership as potential alignments are considered.*
- **Elaborating on ecological efforts and expenses, particularly regarding Section 7 the impacts from the construction of a transportation corridor would likely adversely impact many species. Analyses and mitigation would be complex and costly, especially concerning**

mussels. Migratory birds, state listed species, potential future listed species (monarch butterfly), and WMA-specific species. Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts would need to be considered.

- *This study would consider, detail, and quantify all of these requirements and potential impacts. This would allow decision makers to weigh the pros and cons of the US 51 bridge project versus a more northern connection through this study area to decide what is the better long-term investment. This study is planned to be completed in time for the decision makers to have this information for the development of the next Six-Year Highway Plan.*
 - **Regarding elevated road - when choosing an alternative, KYTC would need to demonstrate avoidance and minimization of impacts in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document and in the 404 permit application.**
 - *Yes, alternatives that minimize impacts would have to be considered. Section 4(f) would also have a similar requirement.*
- **It appears a road may overlap the existing KY 118 (Holloway Landing Road), which provides access and is an alternate route to Barlow if the existing bridge is closed.**
 - *Access to the WMA and all properties that currently have access would be maintained.*
 - *This study may consider a route that follows Holloway Landing Road or it may be offset from it. Either way, local access would be maintained.*
 - **Would Barlow be the connection point?**
 - *Yes, just not sure if it would go through or around Barlow.*
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has been in contact with property owners and there may be new easements in the study area.**
 - *Parcel information would be helpful for planning to avoid these potential areas.*
- **How much of an obstacle do you anticipate archaeology would be?**
 - *Archaeology would be another major concern for the study area. If a corridor was recommended from this study, then a future project would require a phase I survey. Due to history of area, there is a higher probability for finding Native American artifacts, which would require another layer of coordination with Tribes. A goal would be to avoid any identified archaeological sites, but if they could not be avoided, then efforts could likely lead to Phase II or Phase III surveys. There is a chance of finding burials in this area, which may require preservation in place.*



- **Part of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail runs through your study area as well.**
 - <https://www.nps.gov/trte/planyourvisit/maps.htm>

Completed questionnaires were requested to be provided to info@us60connectivitystudy.com by Thursday, April 6th. The study website was shared as a resource, <https://us60connectivitystudy.com/>.

Additional feedback received post-meeting included:

- **Outside of the study area, Swan Pond is also an Outstanding State Resource Water (OSRW).**
 - **401 KAR 10:031 Section 8 specifies surface water criteria for the protection of OSRW's.**
For OWRW's with T&E species, this includes protection of the habitat.
- **It appears that a large quantity of wetlands could be impacted by the project. KDFWR could inform the cost of In-Lieu fees in that area, or, if credits are available, check the KY Wetwoods 2 mitigation bank for the cost of credits to ensure this potential cost is added to the overall project cost.**

End of Minutes



Resource Agency Coordination

Meeting #1 | Existing Conditions / KYTC Item No. 1-80250 / March 30th, 2023

Agenda

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Study Overview
- 3) Environmental Resources Review
- 4) Resource Agency Input
- 5) Next Steps

Meeting Objective

Request for feedback after presentation.

We need your help:

- Identifying any resources not already identified.
- Understanding all necessary environmental requirements associated with the identified resources prior to developing initial corridors.



Introductions

Study Team



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

TEAM
KENTUCKY®

TRANSPORTATION
CABINET



Stantec



C2 STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATIONS



Connectivity
STUDY

Presenters



Chris Kuntz
KYTC Project Manager



Len Harper
Stantec Project Manager



Tom Springer/Lindsay Hoskins
Qk4 Environmental Project Manager



Study Overview

Kentucky's 2022 Highway Plan

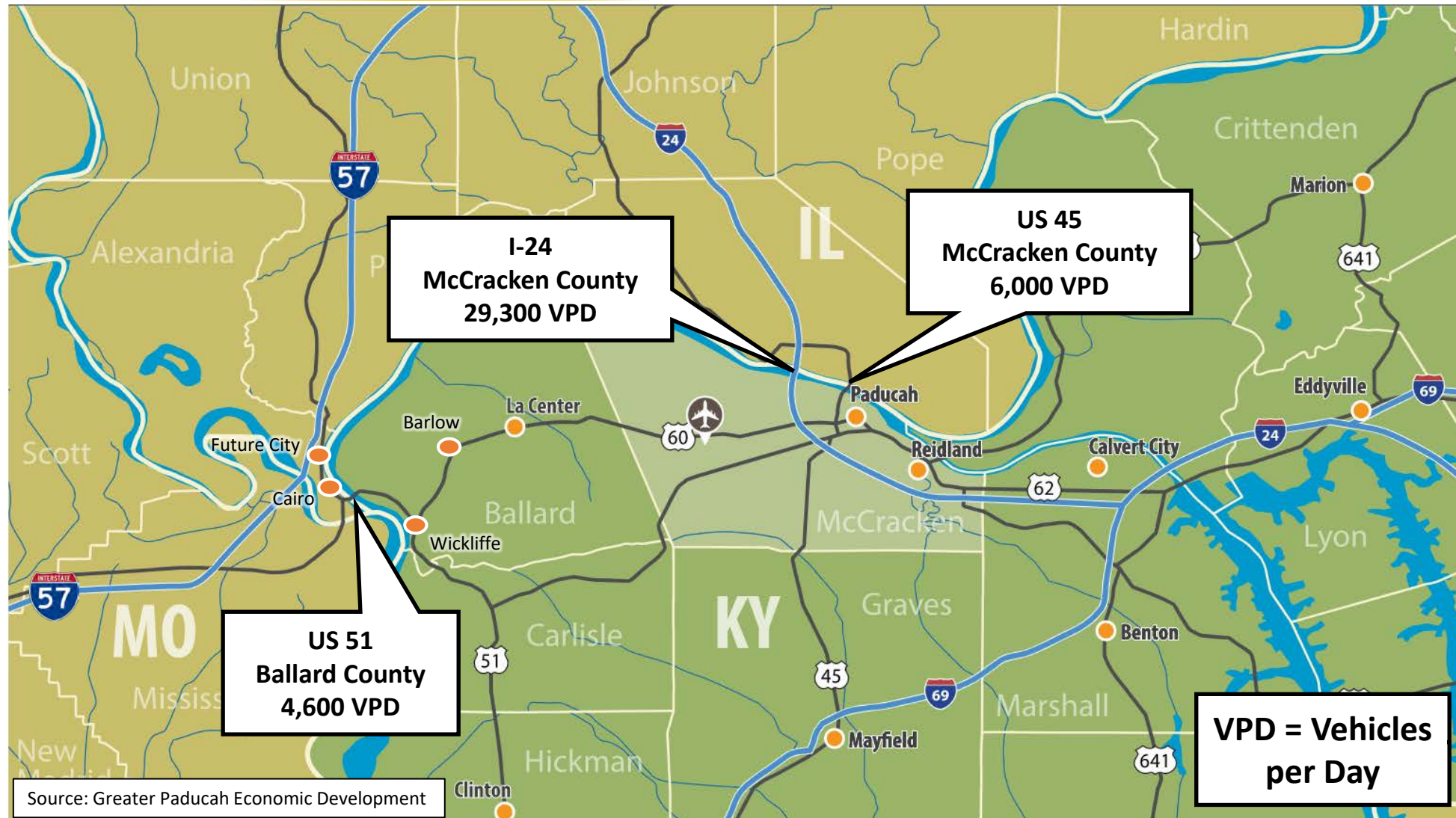


Item No. 1-80250:

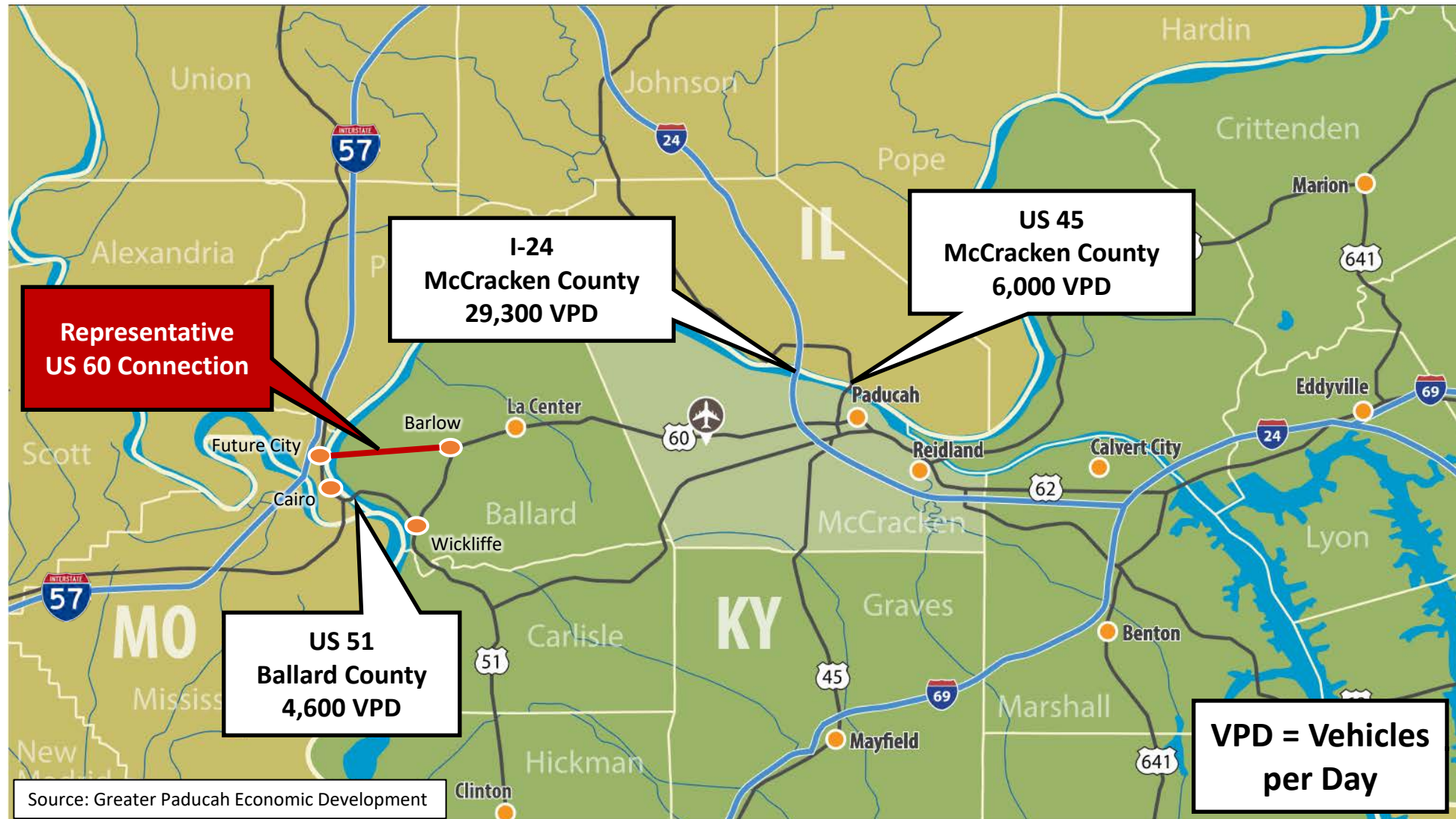
“Conduct a planning study for extending US 60 from Barlow, KY West to I-57 near Future City, Illinois.”

Note: No future phases of this project are included or funded in the highway plan.

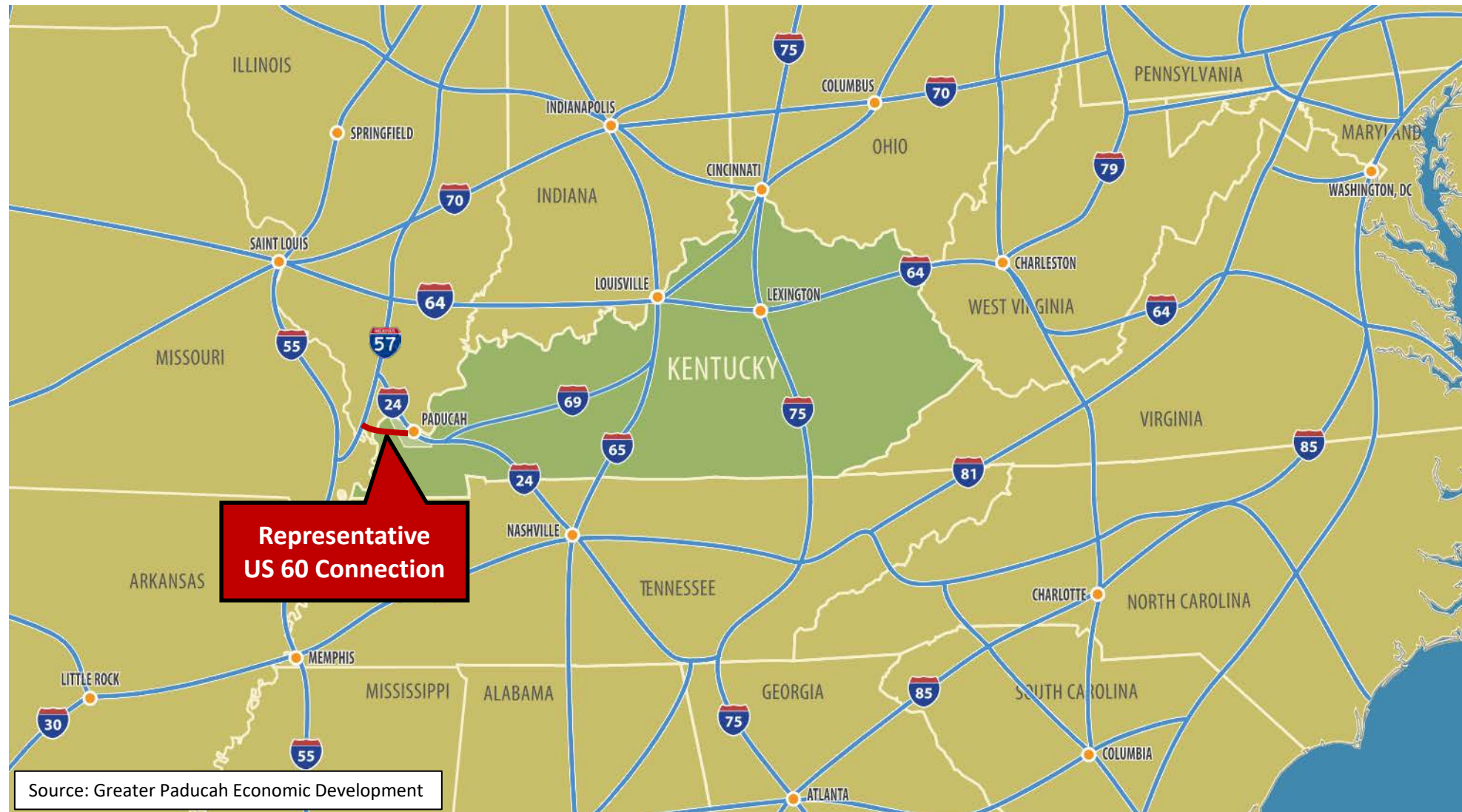
Local Roadway Network



Local Roadway Network



Regional Roadway Network

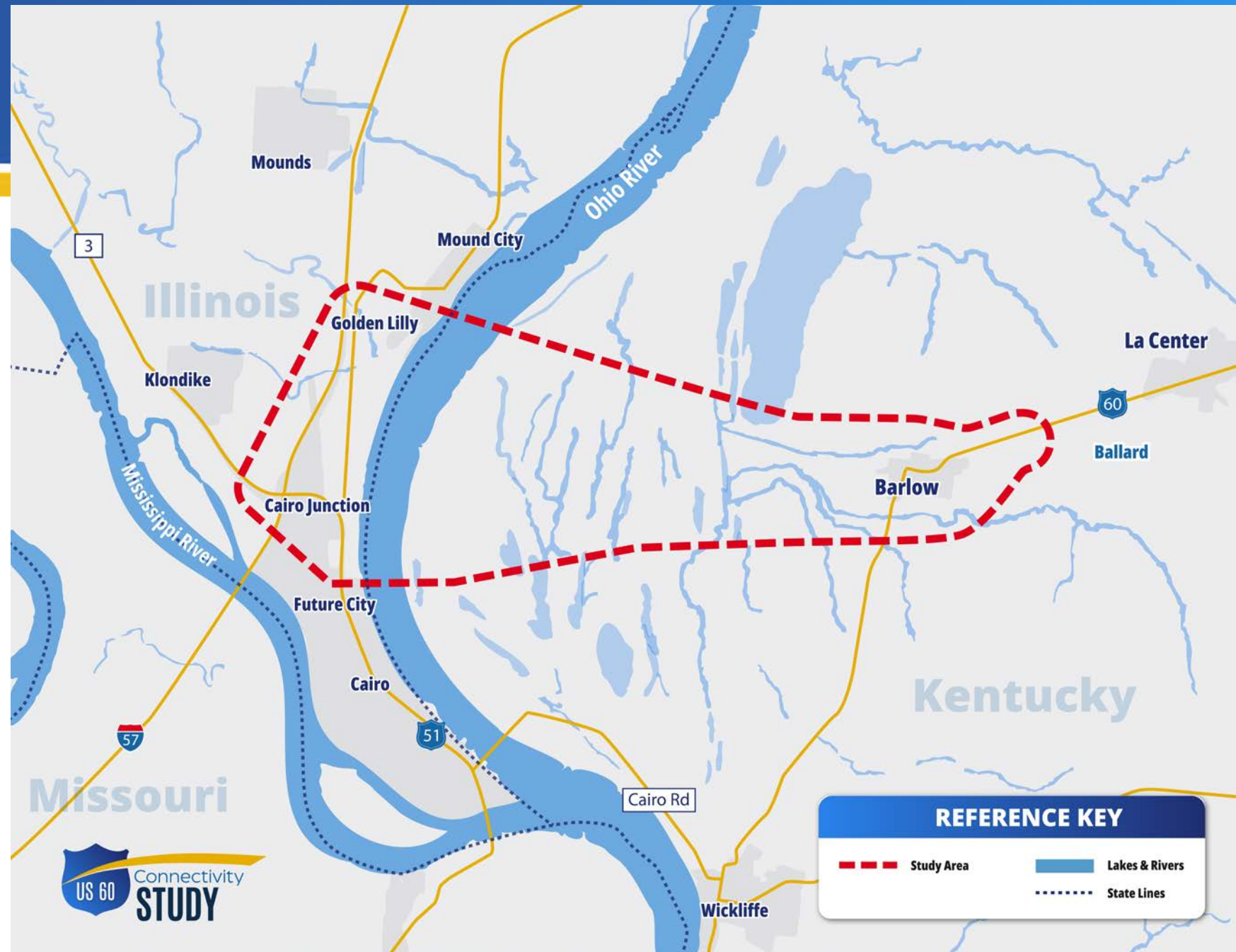


Study Objectives

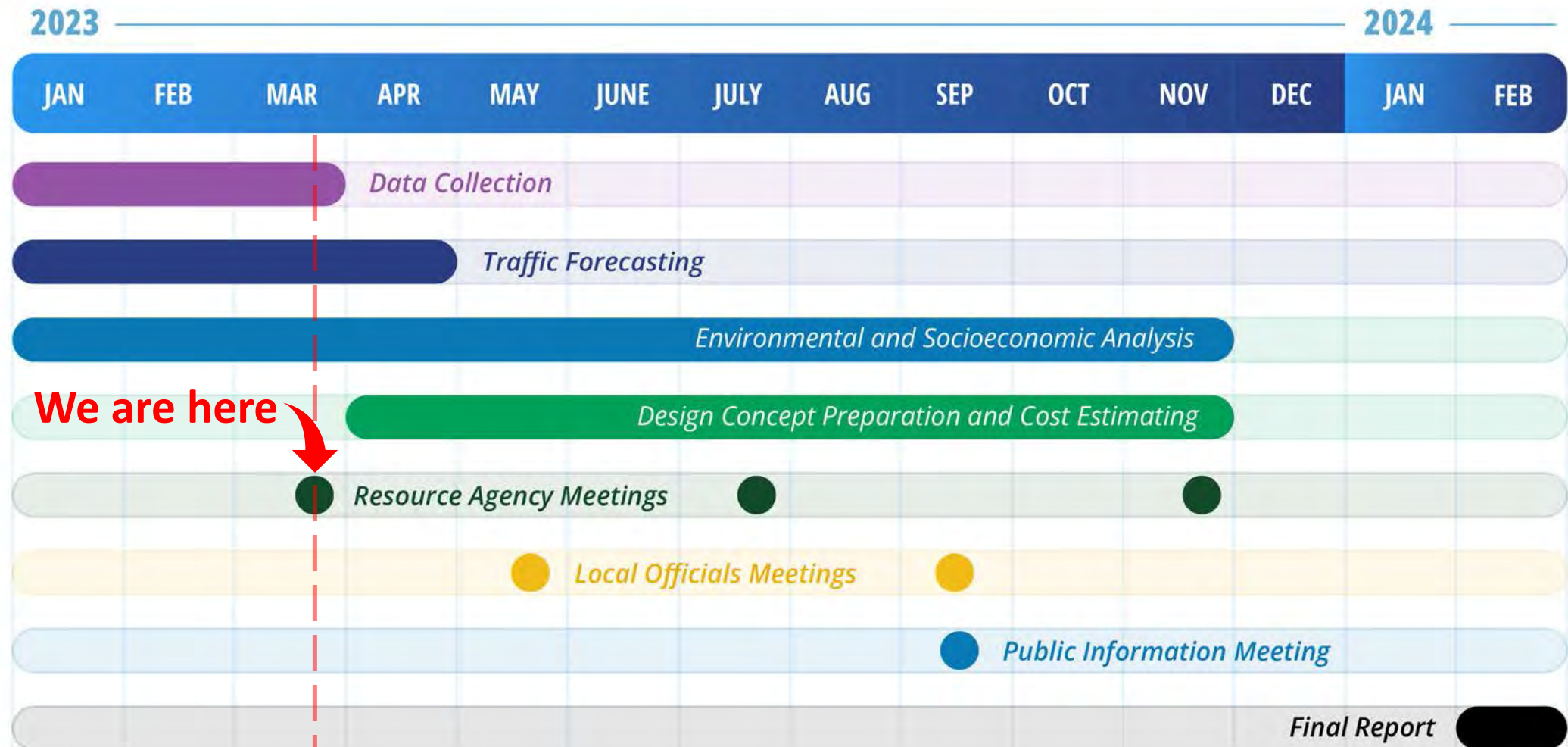
- ❖ **Examine the feasibility, costs, and impacts of extending US 60 over the Ohio River.**
- ❖ **Planning & Environmental Linkage (PEL) Study because there is a signed NEPA document for the US 51 Bridge Replacement project between Wickliffe and Cairo.**
- ❖ **KYTC's plan would be to advance either this project OR the US 51 Bridge Replacement project.**



Study Area



Study Schedule



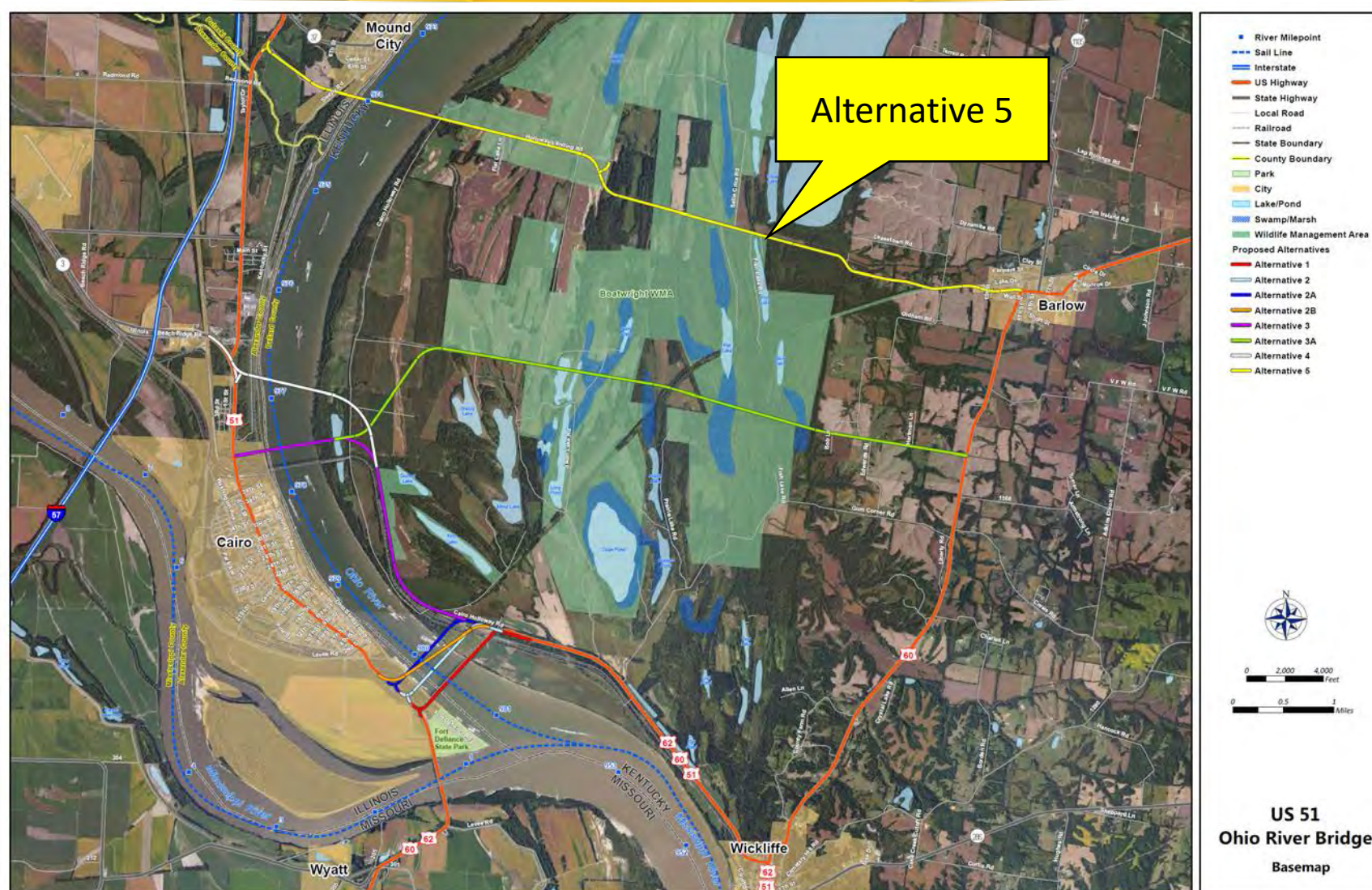
**Note: tentative study schedule—dates are subject to change*

Where we are in the Study Process:

Existing Conditions Data Gathering

- ❖ Existing and Planned Infrastructure (Bridges, Roads, Utilities, Developments, etc.)
- ❖ Existing and Future Traffic Demand
- ❖ Crash History / Safety Analyses
- ❖ Environmental Surveys and Resources
- ❖ Geotechnical and Seismic Reviews

US 51 Bridge Replacement Project (Item 1-1140)



The primary purpose of the US 51 project is to:

- ❖ Rehabilitate or replace the deficient US 51 Ohio River Bridge
- ❖ Maintain cross river connectivity between Wickliffe, KY and Cairo, IL
- ❖ Improve safety on the bridge and its approaches.

US 51 Bridge Replacement Project (Item 1-1140)

Table 4: Alternatives Screening Against Purpose and Need

Alternative	Improve or replace the functionally obsolete/structurally deficient bridge	Maintain cross-river connectivity between Wickliffe, KY and Cairo, IL	Improve Safety on the bridge and its approaches
No Build	No	No	No
Rehabilitation	Somewhat	Yes	No
Alternative 1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alternative 2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alternative 2A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alternative 2B	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alternative 3	Yes	Somewhat*	Yes
Alternative 3A	Yes	Somewhat*	Yes
Alternative 4	Yes	Somewhat*	Yes
Alternative 5	Yes	No**	Yes

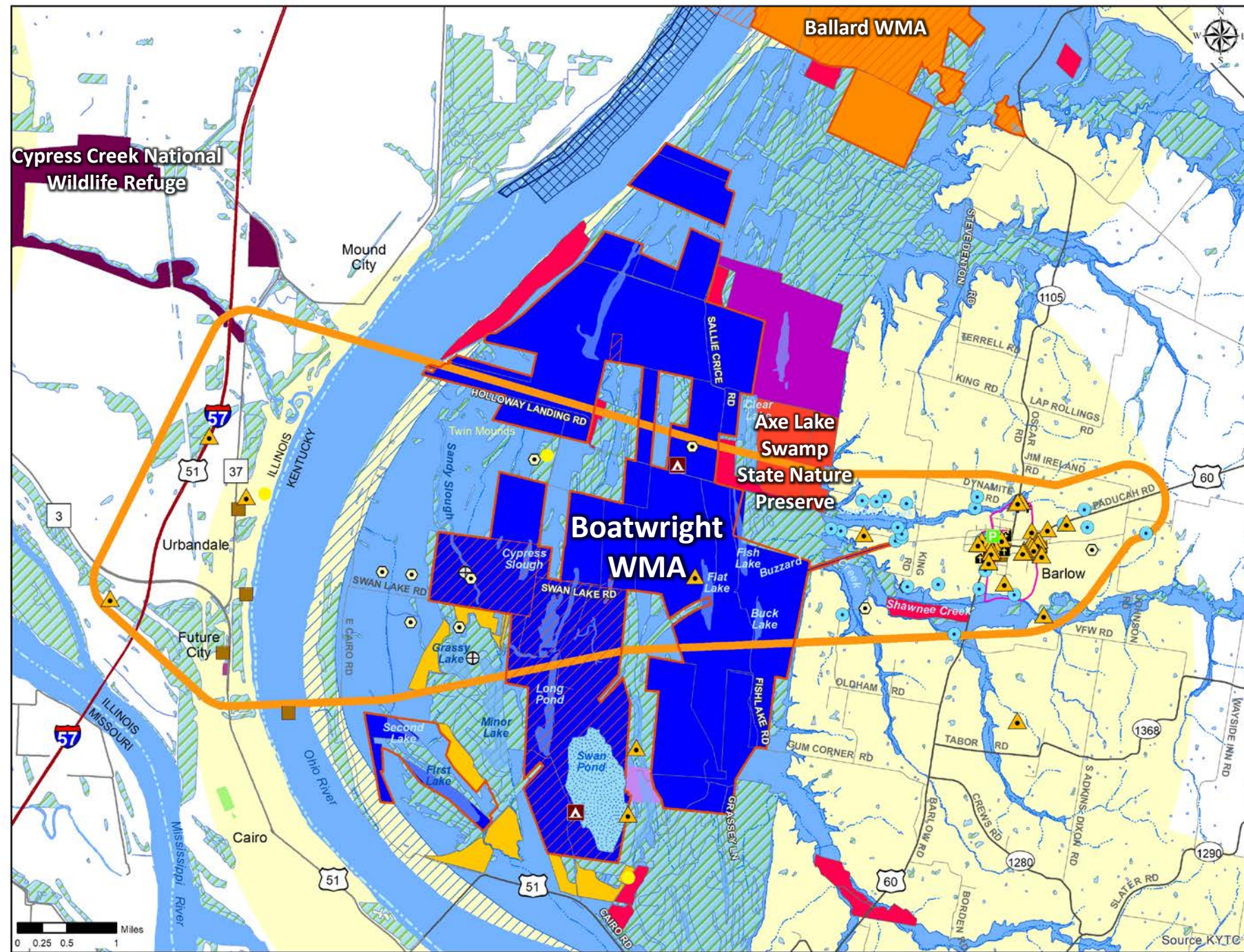
* A connection is maintained although travel times/distances increase compared to the existing conditions.

** A connection is maintained but travel times/distances more than double compared to the existing conditions.

Environmental Resources Review

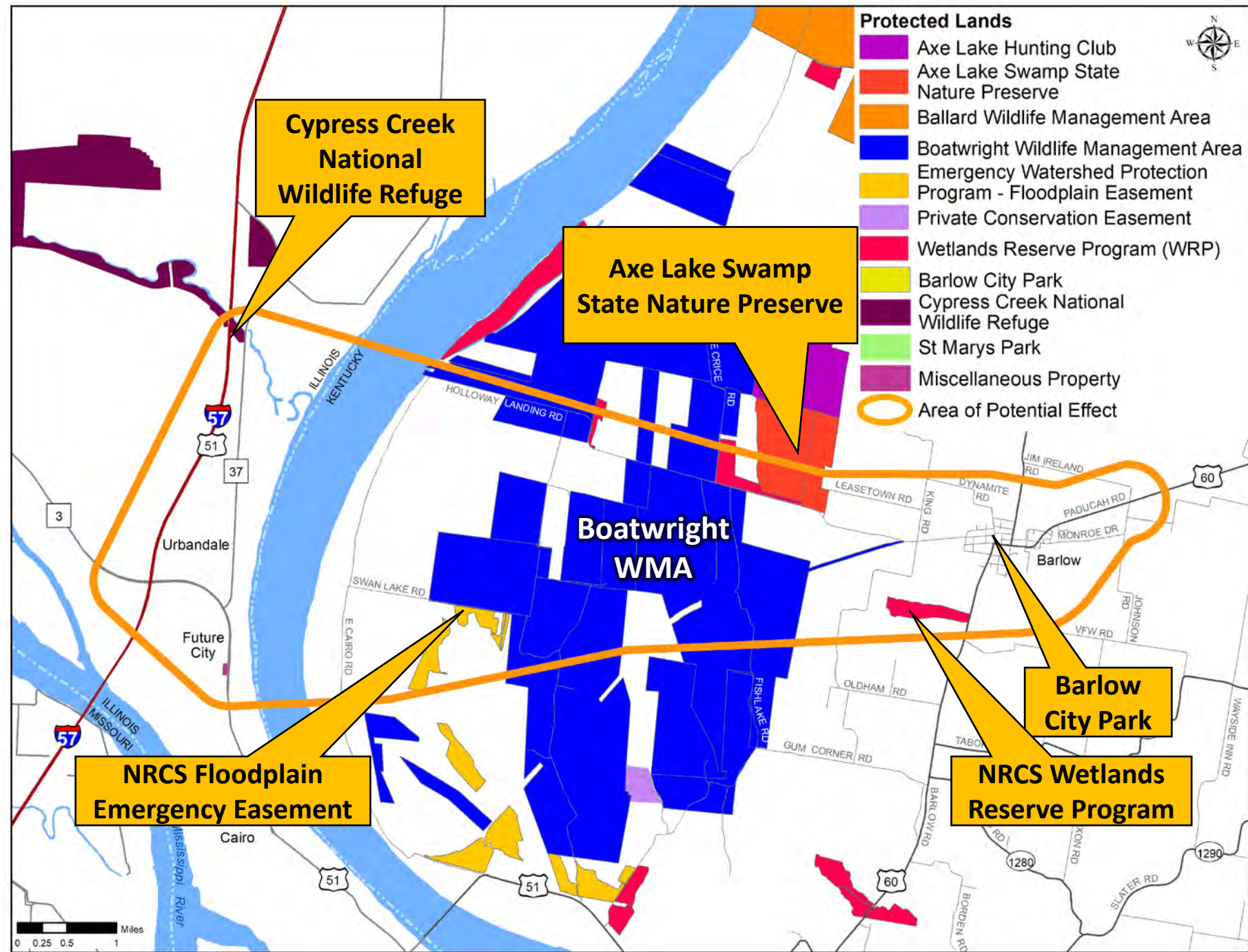
Environmental Resources

-  Church
-  Cemetery
-  Campground
-  Water Well - Domestic
-  Water Well - Agriculture
-  Water Well - Monitoring
-  Water Well - Other
-  Eagle Nest
-  NRHP Eligible
-  Potential Hazmat
-  Barlow City Park
-  Special Use Water
-  Wellhead Protection Area
-  Public Hunting Area
-  Public Hunting Areas Restricted Access
-  Floodway
-  100 Year Flood Zone
-  Wetland Streams
-  Olmsted-America Mussel Bed
-  Known Summer Bat Habitat
-  Axe Lake Hunting Club
-  Axe Lake Swamp State Nature Preserve
-  Ballard Wildlife Management Area
-  Boatwright Wildlife Management Area
-  Emergency Watershed Protection Program - Floodplain Easement
-  Private Conservation Easement
-  Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
-  Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge
-  St Marys Park
-  Miscellaneous Property
-  Area of Potential Effect



Protected Lands

- ❖ National Wildlife Refuge
- ❖ State Nature Preserve
- ❖ Wildlife Management Area
- ❖ NRCS Conservation Easements
 - ❖ Floodplain Emergency Watershed Protection Program
 - ❖ Wetland Reserve Program
 - ❖ Barlow City Park



National Wildlife Refuge

Cypress Creek NWR, IL

- ❖ Authorized on June 26, 1990, under Emergency Wetland Resources Act of 1986.
 - ❖ Acquired land, restored habitat, and provided opportunity for public to experience and learn about Cache River Wetlands.
- ❖ Managed by USFWS, open to the public, protected in perpetuity.
- ❖ Under the Convention of Wetlands, the refuge is a part of the RAMSAR Wetland of International Importance.



Image Source: <https://www.fws.gov/media/161706>

Ramsar Convention

The Mission of the Ramsar Convention

Conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.

To achieve this Mission it is essential that vital ecosystem functions and the ecosystem services they provide to people and nature are fully recognized, maintained, restored and wisely used.

Image Source: <https://www.ramsar.org/about/the-convention-on-wetlands-and-its-mission>

State Nature Preserve

Axe Lake Swamp SNP, KY

- ❖ Wetland complex that supports at least 8 rare plant species & KY's best-known example of a large, intact bald cypress-tupelo swamp.
- ❖ Publicly owned by KY State Nature Preserves.
 - ❖ Access is by written permission only.
- ❖ Locally known as "Barlow Bottoms."
- ❖ Identified as a priority wetland in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.
- ❖ A portion (458 of 3,000 acres) was purchased with Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Funds (KHLCF).
 - ❖ Protected in perpetuity.



Image Source: Study Team Field Visit

Wildlife Management Area

Boatwright WMA, KY

- ❖ Publicly owned by KDFWR.
- ❖ Includes 8,847 acres.
 - ❖ 1,432 acres (in 7 tracts) were purchased with KHLCF.
 - ❖ Protected in perpetuity.
- ❖ Open to the public for fishing, boating, hunting, with seasonal restrictions to serve as refuge.



Image Source: Study Team Field Visit

NRCS Conservation Easements

Privately owned, closed to public, held in permanent easements.

Floodplain Emergency Watershed Program, KY

- ❖ FPE 1052068: 3 acres
- ❖ FPE 959343: 122 acres

Wetland Reserve Program, KY

- ❖ WRPE 957664: 20 acres
- ❖ WRPE 986308: 79 acres
- ❖ WRPE 967117: 72 acres

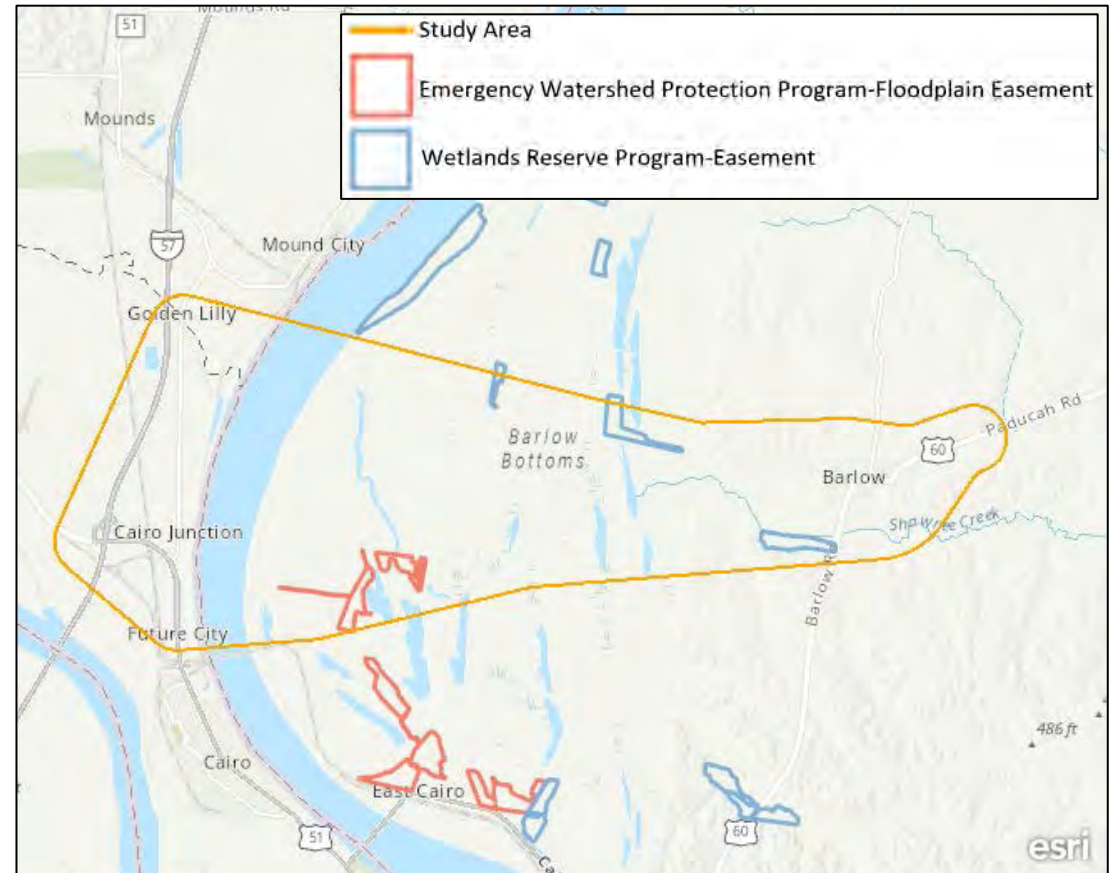
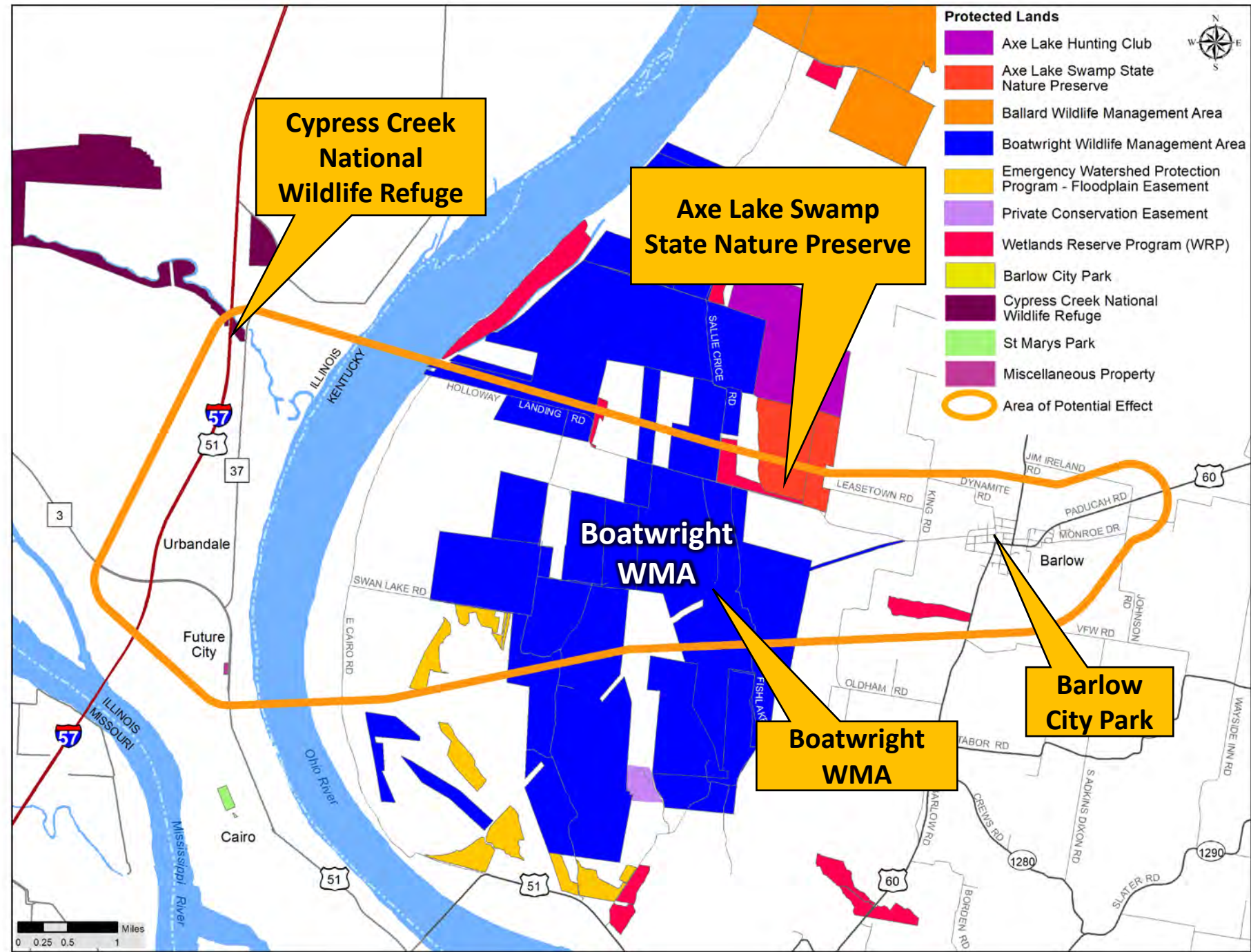


Image Source: <https://nrcsgeoservices.sc.egov.usda.gov/arcgis/rest/services/easements/easements/MapServer>

Section 4(f) Properties

- ❖ **Must be publicly owned, including:**
 - ❖ Fee simple
 - ❖ Permanent Easement
 - ❖ Lease Agreement
- ❖ **Must be opened to the public**
 - ❖ During normal hours of operation.
 - ❖ A refuge does not have to provide unrestricted access to the public
- ❖ **Major purpose must be for park, recreation, or refuge activities.**
- ❖ **Must be significant as a park, recreation area, or refuge.**

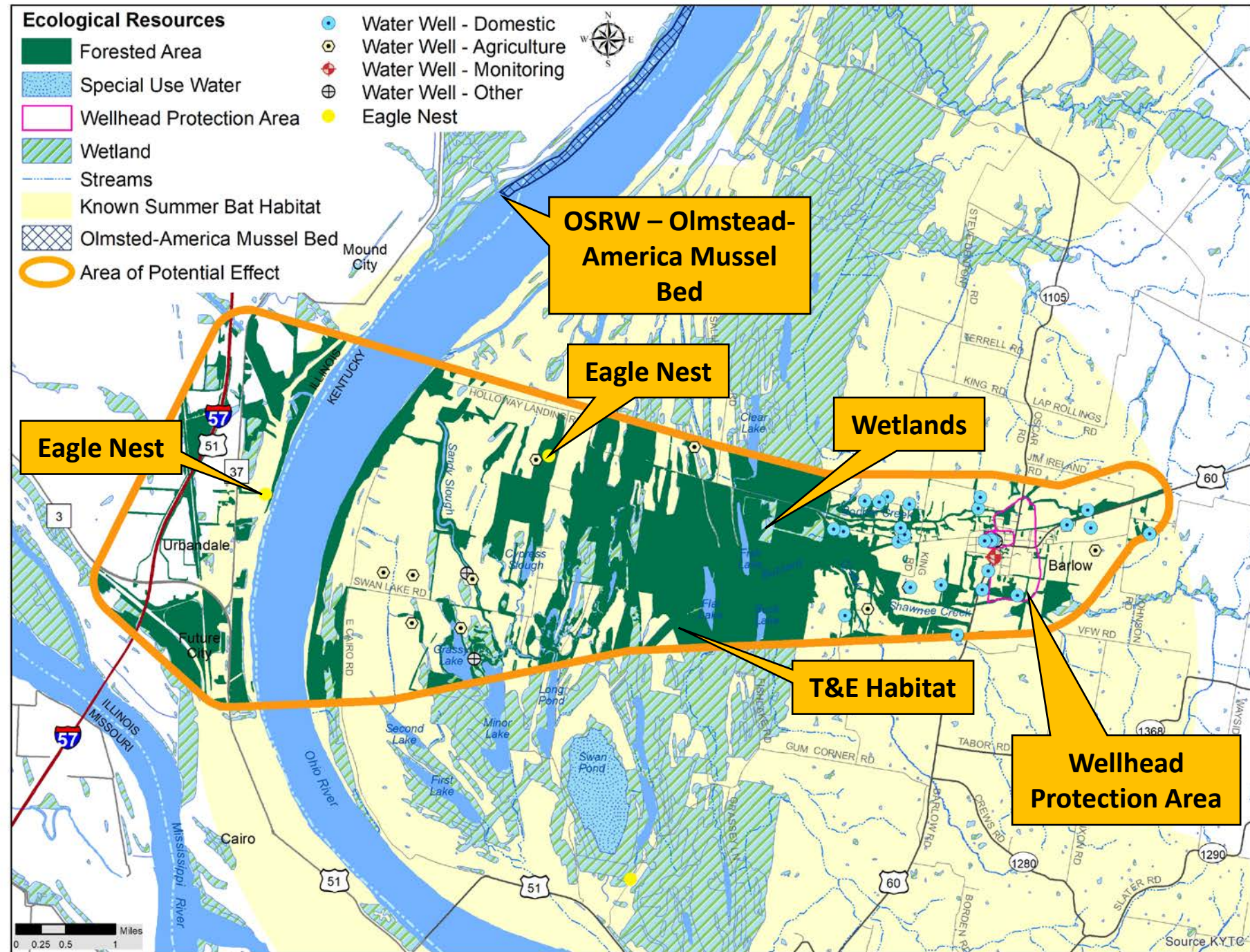


❖ Per **KRS 150.0241(6)**, Kentucky has a **“No Net Loss”** policy which **“requires that states maintain at least the same level of available public hunting land that currently exists.”**

-
- Public Hunting Lands**
- Public Hunting Area
 - Public Hunting Areas Restricted Access
 - Area of Potential Effect
- Restricted Access

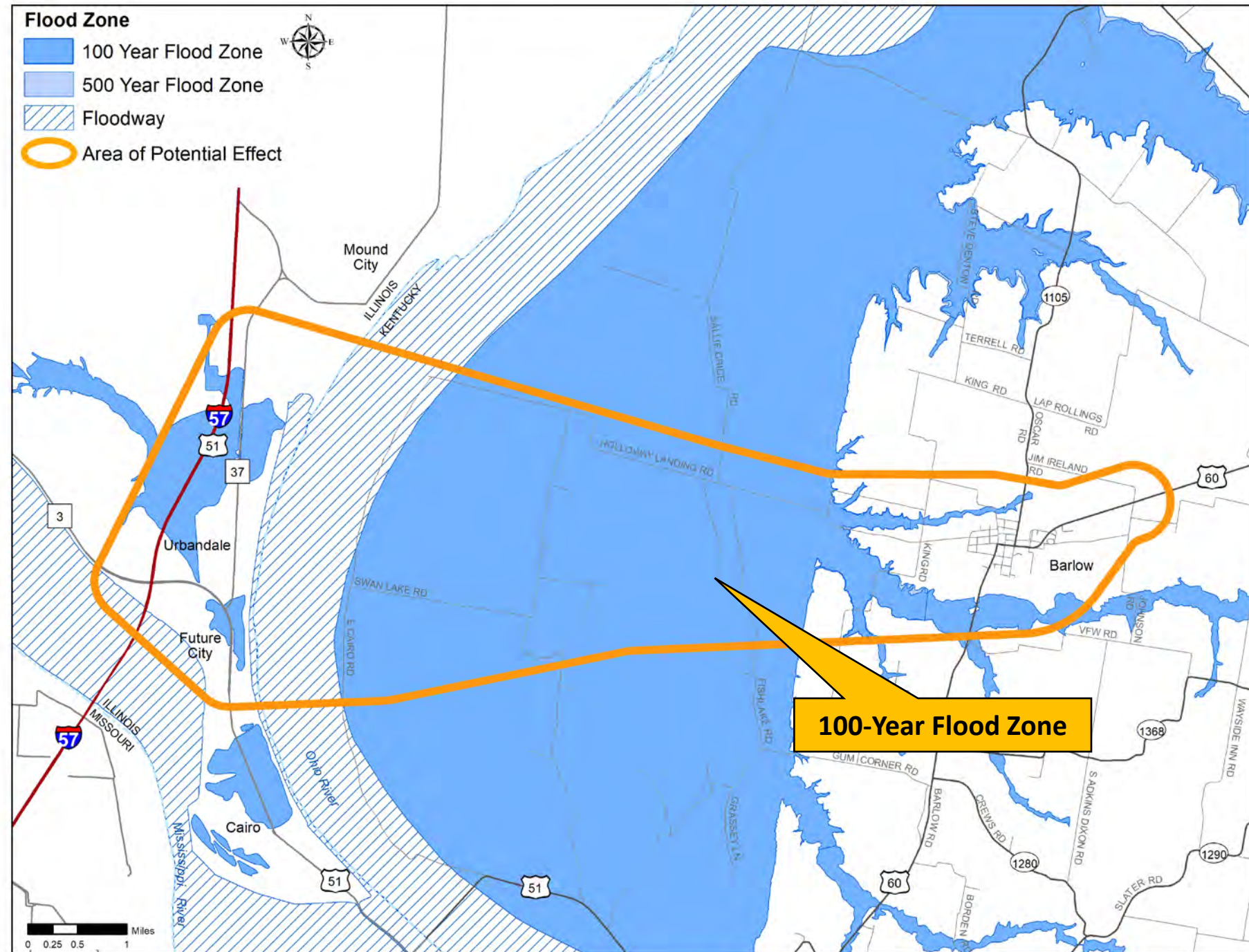
Ecological Resources

- ❖ Outstanding State Resource Water – Ohio River
- ❖ Streams
- ❖ Wetlands
- ❖ 100-Year Flood zone
- ❖ Boatwright—Wildlife Management Area
- ❖ Axe Lake Swamp State Nature Preserve
- ❖ Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge
- ❖ Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easements
- ❖ Wetlands Reserves Program
- ❖ Potential T&E Habitat
- ❖ Forested Lands
- ❖ Agricultural Land



Flood Zone

- ❖ Any concepts that may move into design would require detailed hydraulic analysis and coordination with FEMA.
- ❖ Avoiding impacts to the Floodway is critical
- ❖ Minimizing/mitigating any impacts to the 100-Year Floodplain would be crucial.





Drone Aerial Imagery of Study Area





Drone Aerial Imagery of Study Area





Drone Aerial Imagery of Study Area





Threatened & Endangered Species

Mammals



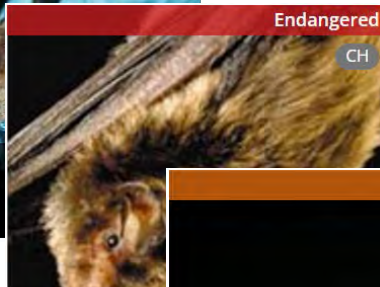
Proposed Endangered

Tricolored Bat
Perimyotis subflavus
Wherever found



Endangered

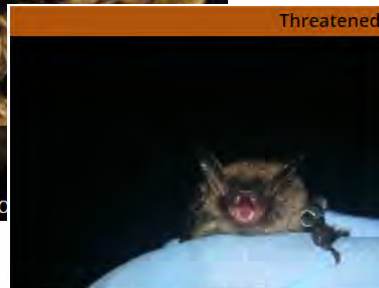
Gray Bat
Myotis grisescens
Wherever found



Endangered

CH

Indiana Bat
Myotis sodalis
Wherever found



Threatened

Northern Long-eared Bat
Myotis septentrionalis
Wherever found

Reptiles



Proposed Threatened

Alligator Snapping Turtle
Macrochelys temminckii
Wherever found

Fishes



Endangered

Pallid Sturgeon
Scaphirhynchus albus
Wherever found

Insects



Candidate

Monarch Butterfly
Danaus plexippus
Wherever found

Mussels



Endangered

Clubshell
Pleurobema clava



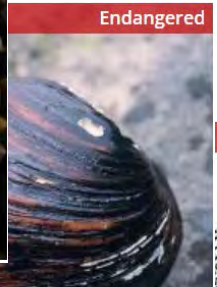
Endangered

Fat Pocketbook
Potamilus capax
Wherever found



Endangered

Fanshell
Cyprogenia stegaria
Wherever found



Endangered

Pink Mucket (pearlymussel)
Lampsilis abrupta
Wherever found



Endangered

Ring Pink (mussel)
Obovaria retusa
Wherever found

Mussels



Endangered

Rough Pigtoe
Pleurobema plenum
Wherever found



Endangered

Northern Riffleshell
Epioblasma rangiana
Wherever found



Endangered

Orangefoot Pimpleback (pearlymussel)
Plethobasus cooperianus
Wherever found



Threatened

Rabbitsfoot
Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica
Wherever found

Threatened & Endangered Species

Migratory Birds

Eagle Nest



Eagle Nest

Image Source: Study Team Field Visit

BCC Rangewide (CON)



American Golden-plover
Pluvialis dominica

BCC - BCR



American Kestrel
Falco sparverius paulus

Non-BCC Vulnerable



Bald Eagle
Haliaeetus leucocephalus

BCC Rangewide (CON)



Bobolink
Dolichonyx oryzivorus

BCC Rangewide (CON)



Chimney Swift
Chaetura pelagica

BCC - BCR



Field Sparrow
Spizella pusilla

BCC Rangewide (CON)



Henslow's Sparrow
Ammodramus henslowii

BCC Rangewide (CON)



Kentucky Warbler
Oporornis formosus

BCC Rangewide (CON)



Lesser Yellowlegs
Tringa flavipes

BCC - BCR



Little Blue Heron
Egretta caerulea

BCC Rangewide (CON)



Prothonotary Warbler
Protonotaria citrea

BCC Rangewide (CON)



Red-headed Woodpecker
Melanerpes erythrocephalus

BCC - BCR



Rusty Blackbird
Euphagus carolinus

BCC Rangewide (CON)

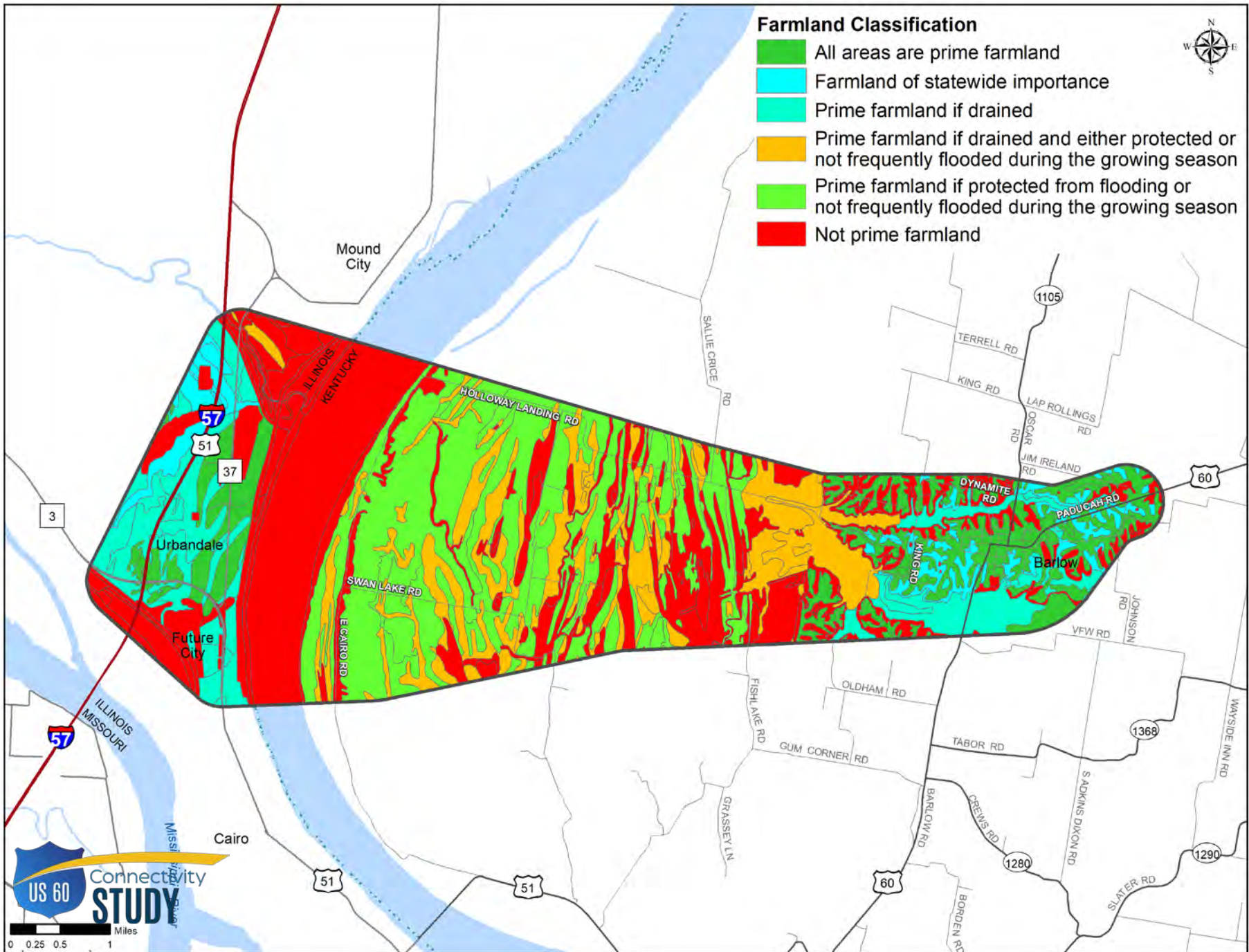


Short-billed Dowitcher
Limnodromus griseus

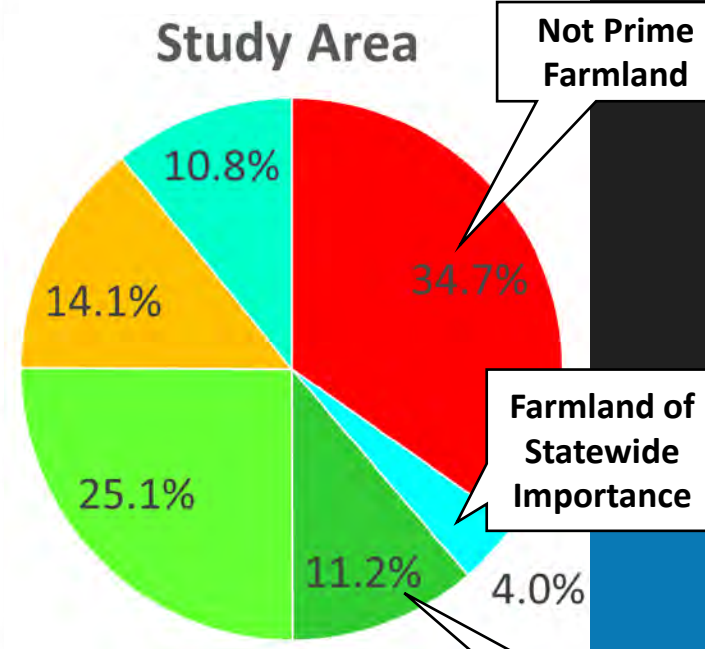
BCC Rangewide (CON)



Wood Thrush
Hylocichla mustelina



Farmlands



❖ No Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) identified

❖ No Agricultural Districts identified

Section 4(f)/Archaeological Resources

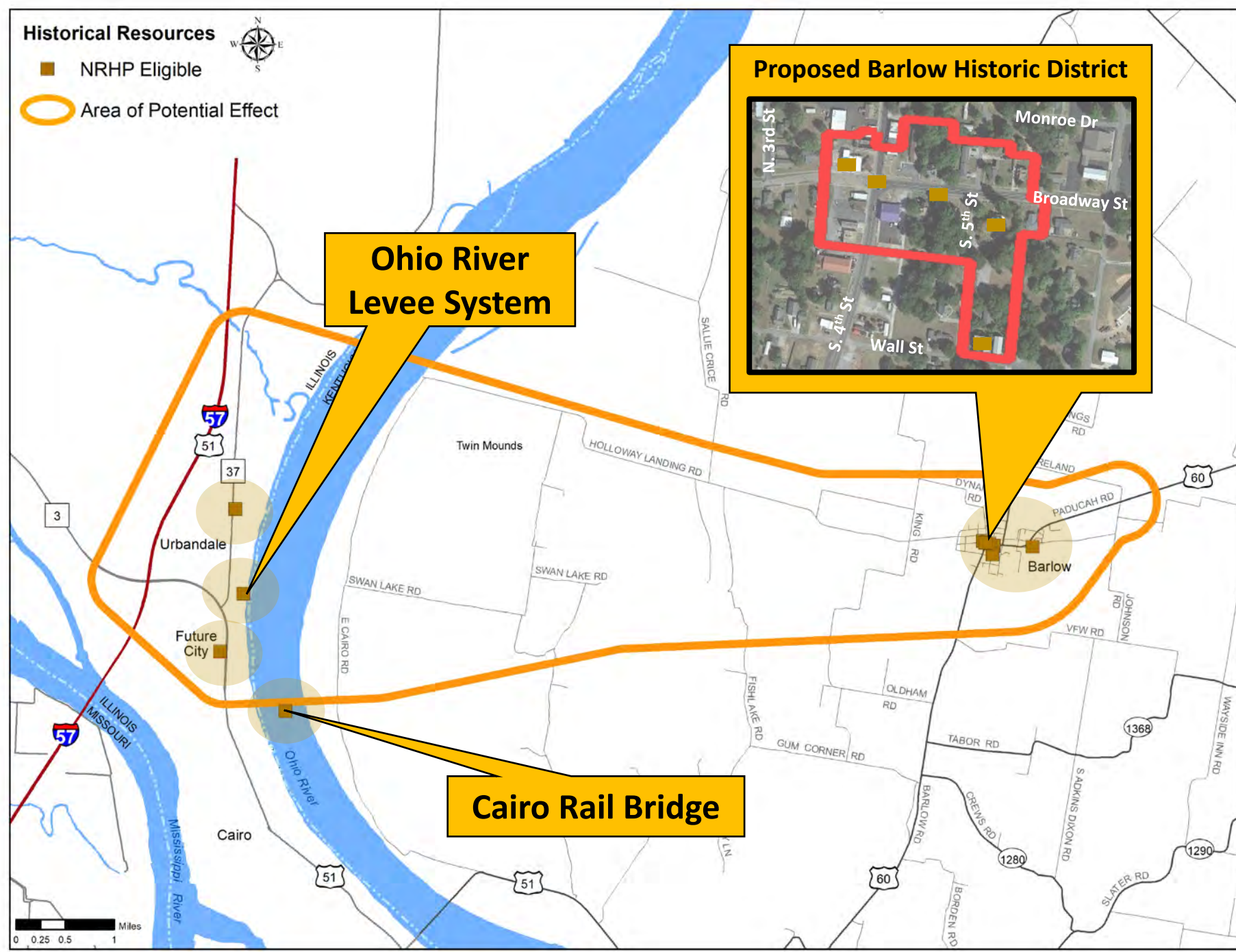
- ❖ **Cemetery** in Barlow.
- ❖ **Twin Mounds**, also known as the Nolan Site, is owned and protected by the Archaeological Conservancy in Ballard County within the study area.
- ❖ **Several sites in the study area** where previous surveys have been completed.
- ❖ Considering rich history of the area, previously identified sites, and soil information, there is **moderate to high probability for both prehistoric and historic archaeological sites** in the area.
 - ❖ Tribal Consultation would be necessary should a future project find sites that may be directly impacted.



Image Source: Study Team Field Visit

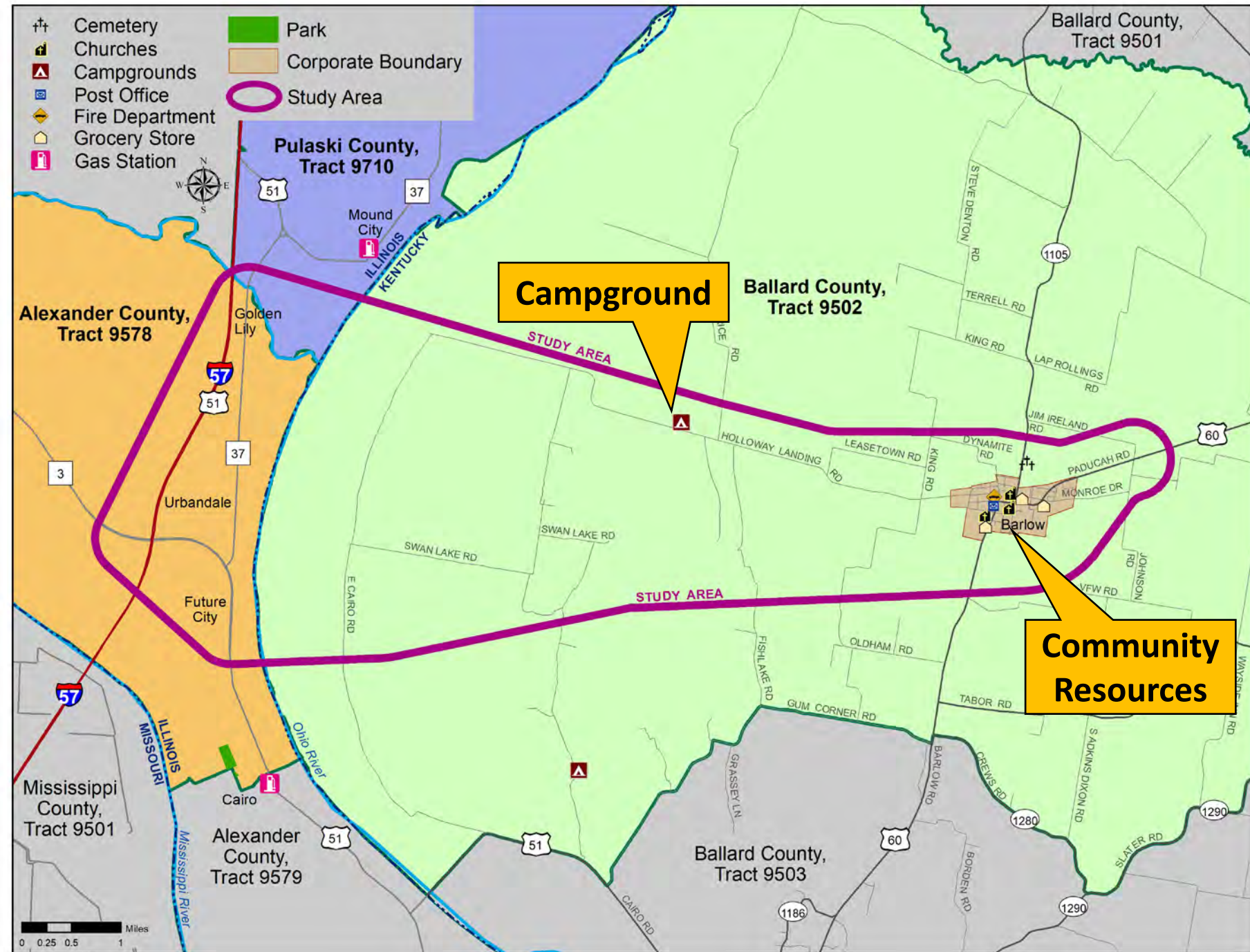
Section 4(f)/
Historical
Resources

- ❖ Known NRHP Eligible Properties concentrated in Illinois and Barlow.
- ❖ Proposed Barlow Historic District.
- ❖ Cairo Bridge.



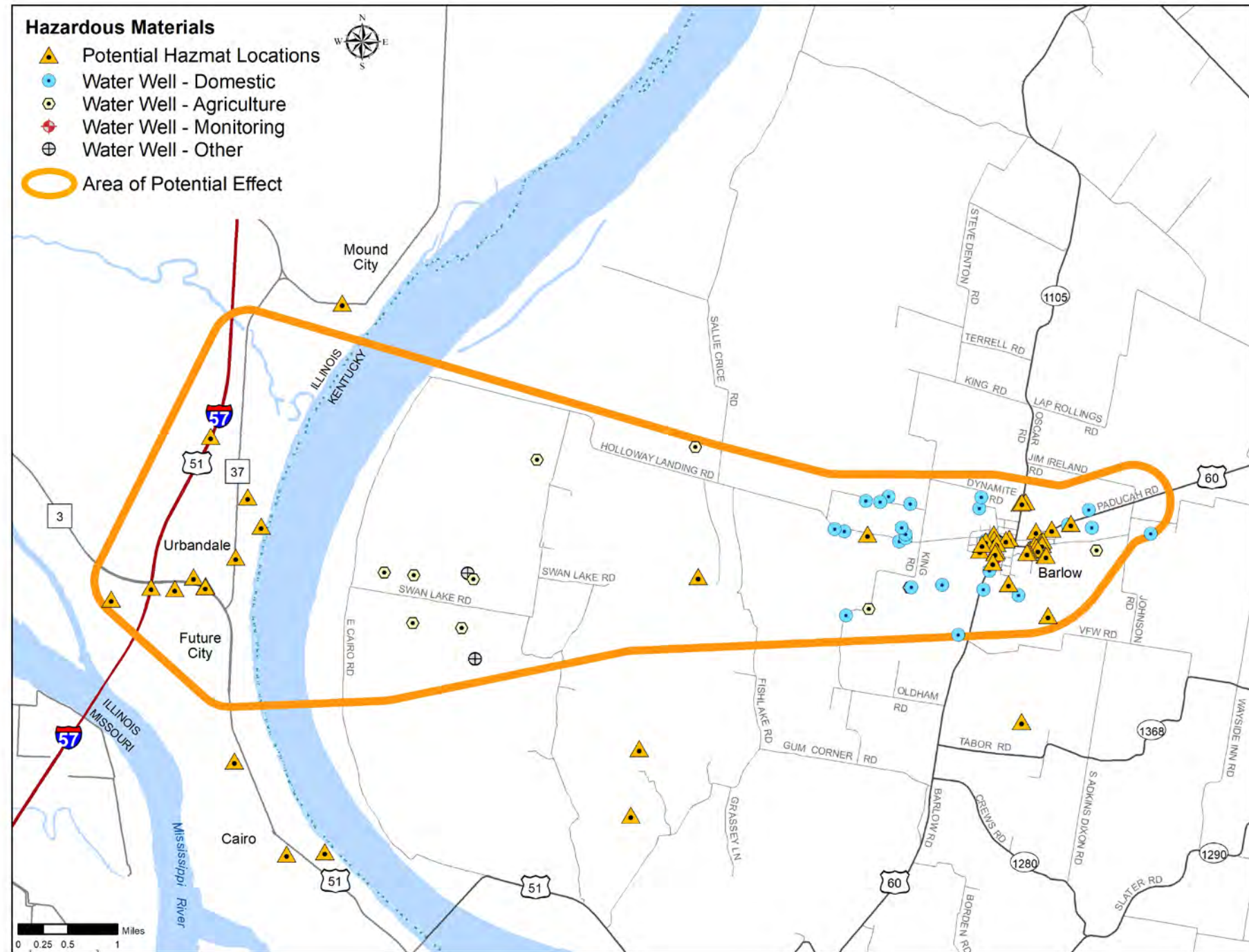
Socioeconomic Areas and Community Resources

- ❖ Resources are sparse.
- ❖ Considering EJ characteristics:
 - ❖ **Alexander County, tract 9578** has high concentrations of both **low-income (38% below poverty)** and **minority (61% Black/African American, 4% Hispanic/Latino) persons.**
- ❖ Most people (~40%) **live and work in the same county**, about **2% per county** travel across the Ohio River for Work.



Hazardous Materials

- ❖ Potential hazmat locations includes EDR reported sites
- ❖ UST's, AST's, previous spills, solid waste disposal, etc.
- ❖ Wells



Resource Agency Input

Request for Feedback

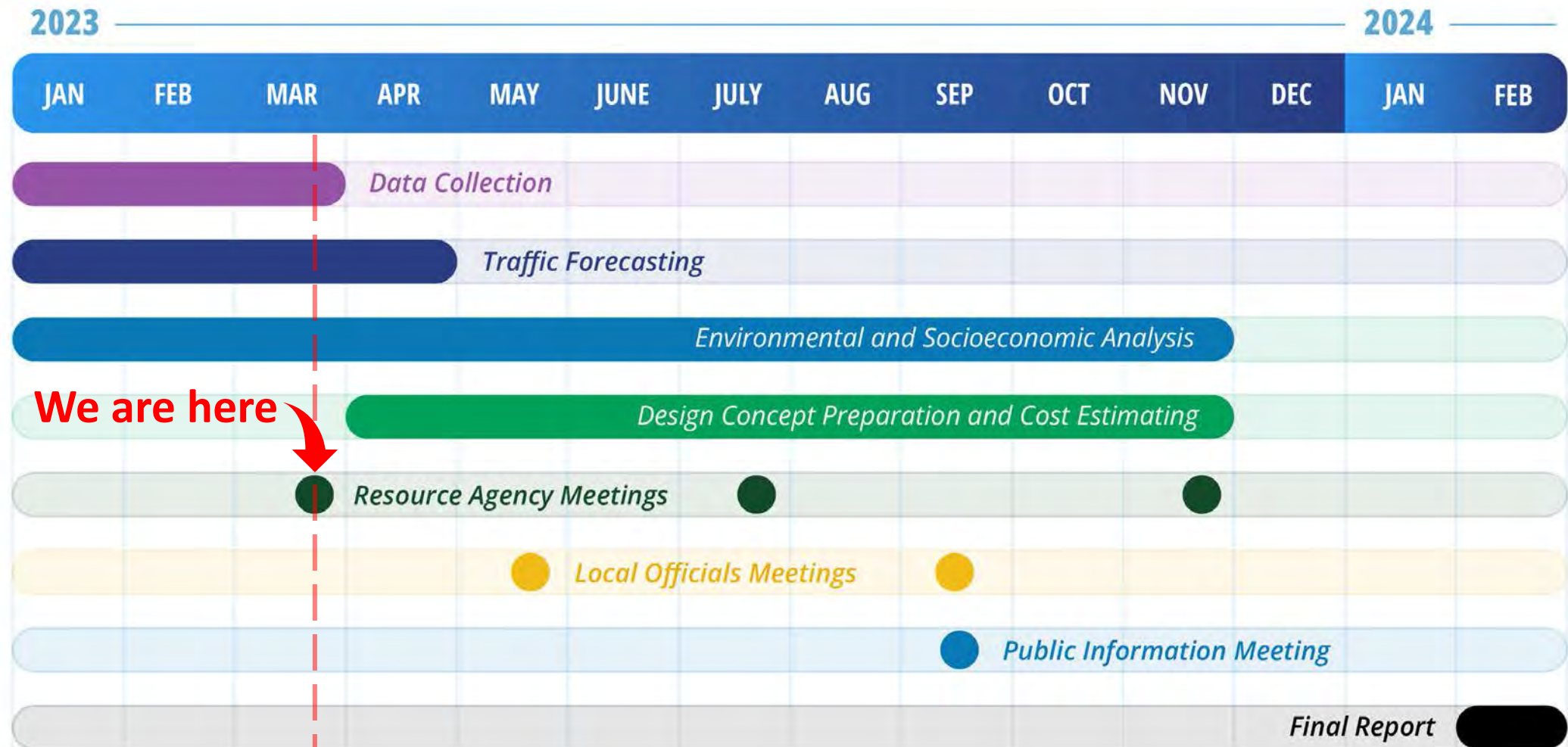
We need your help:

- Identifying any resources not already identified.
- Understanding all necessary environmental requirements associated with the identified resources prior to developing initial corridors.



Next Steps

Study Schedule



**Note: tentative study schedule—dates are subject to change*

RA Coordination Points

Post Meeting #1 : Existing Conditions

❖ Provide study team with your feedback on environmental resources.

❖ Email info@US60ConnectivityStudy.com

❖ Return by Thursday, April 6th

❖ Check study website for ongoing study updates, USConnectivityStudy.com

Next RA Coordination Meetings

❖ Meeting #2 : Initial Corridor Review (*anticipated Summer 2023*)

❖ Draft Purpose and Need Statement

❖ Representative, Initial Concept Corridors

❖ Meeting #3: Refined Corridor Review (*late Fall 2023*)

Thank You

Please complete and return questionnaire by Thursday, April 6th

 US60ConnectivityStudy.com

 info@US60ConnectivityStudy.com

 KYTC District 1: (270) 898-2431



Meeting Summary

Project: US 60 Connectivity Study
Ballard County, KY
Item#: 1-80250.00

Purpose: Local Officials and Stakeholders Meetings #1

Place Two in-person meetings:

Cairo, Illinois at Shawnee Community College
2035 Washington Ave, Cairo, IL 62914

Kevil, Kentucky at Ballard Co. Economic & Industrial Development Board
297 Kentucky Ave, Kevil, KY 42053

Date/Time: IL Meeting: Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 10 a.m. CDT
KY Meeting: Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 2 p.m. CDT

Prepared by: C2 Strategic Communications

Participants:	Name	Organization	Location
	Morgan Alvey	Commonwealth of Kentucky (Sen. McConnell)	Kevil, KY
	Sen. Danny Carroll	Commonwealth of Kentucky	Kevil, KY
	Sandra Wilson	City of Paducah	Kevil, KY
	Jim LeFevre	Purchase Area Development District	Kevil, KY
	Greg Joles	Grassy Lake	Kevil, KY
	Cathy Terrell	Landowner	Kevil, KY
	Bobby Joe Terrell	Landowner	Kevil, KY
	Wayne Golightly	Go Capitol (Landowner)	Kevil, KY
	Doug Walker	Landowner	Kevil, KY
	Larry Hammett	Landowner	Kevil, KY
	David Black	Landowner	Kevil, KY
	Travis Holder	Ballard County Fiscal Court	Kevil, KY
	Robert Anderson	Landowner	Kevil, KY
	Jerry Pace	Ballard Co. EDC	Kevil, KY
	David Jones	Landowner	Kevil, KY



US 60 Connectivity Study (KYTC Item No. 1-80250)
Local Officials and Stakeholders Meetings No. 1
June 15, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Rob Allen	Landowner	Kevil, KY
Austin Wetherington	Field rep for Rep. Jamie Comer	Kevil, KY
Nathan Bowles	Landowner	Kevil, KY
Brent Walker	Landowner	Kevil, KY
Barbara Jones	Landowner	Kevil, KY
David Cox	Landowner	Kevil, KY
Ronnie Harvell	City of Barlow, KY	Kevil, KY
Stonnie Dennis	Ballard Co. Fiscal Court	Kevil, KY
Peggy Meredith	City of Barlow Chamber of Commerce	Kevil, KY
Keith Todd	KYTC – D1	Kevil, KY
Thomas Simpson	City of Cairo, IL (Mayor)	Cairo, IL
Marshall Brown	Field rep for Congressman Mike Bost	Cairo, IL
Philip Halter	City of Charleston, MO (Mayor)	Both
Charles Stein	IDOT	Cairo, IL
Brian DeRousse	Kentucky Hillbilly BBQ	Cairo, IL
Lindsay Bowles	Ballard Co. Chamber of Commerce	Cairo, IL
Travis Holder	Ballard Co. Fiscal Court	Cairo, IL
Tristyn Perkins	KYTC – D1	Cairo, IL
Constance Williams	City of Cairo, IL	Cairo, IL
Gary Johnson	Wickliffe Water	Cairo, IL
Kanci Houston	CHESI	Cairo, IL
David Phillips	City of Wickliffe, KY (Mayor)	Cairo, IL
Anna Abernathy	Ballard Co. EDC	Cairo, IL
Chris Kuntz	KYTC – D1	Both
Kyle Poat	KYTC – D1	Both
Catherine Davis	KYTC Division of Planning	Both
Len Harper	Stantec	Both
Brian Aldridge	Stantec	Both
Taylor Perkins	Stantec	Both
Lindsay Hoskins	Qk4	Both
Parry Barrows	C2 Strategic Communications	Both

Local Officials and Stakeholders Meetings #1

The first set of Local Officials and Stakeholders meetings were held on Thursday, June 15, 2023, in Cairo, IL and Kevil, KY to provide stakeholders with an overview of the US 60 Connectivity Study and

gather feedback on the potential benefits and impacts of constructing a new road and Ohio River crossing to connect US 60 in Ballard County, KY to US 51/I-57 in Alexander County, IL.

The US 60 Connectivity Study Project Team gave the same presentation at both meetings, followed by a question-and-answer session and open discussion forum. The presentation included a brief history of the project, maps of the project area (Figure 1) and initial corridors (Figure 2), an overview of the study, an overview of environmental resources within the study area, potential mobility and economic development benefits of the project and next steps of the study process.

The Project Team also shared the study website (<https://us60connectivitystudy.com/>) as a resource for project information and updates as well as the official study email (info@us60connectivitystudy.com) as a contact resource.

Figure 1: Study Area

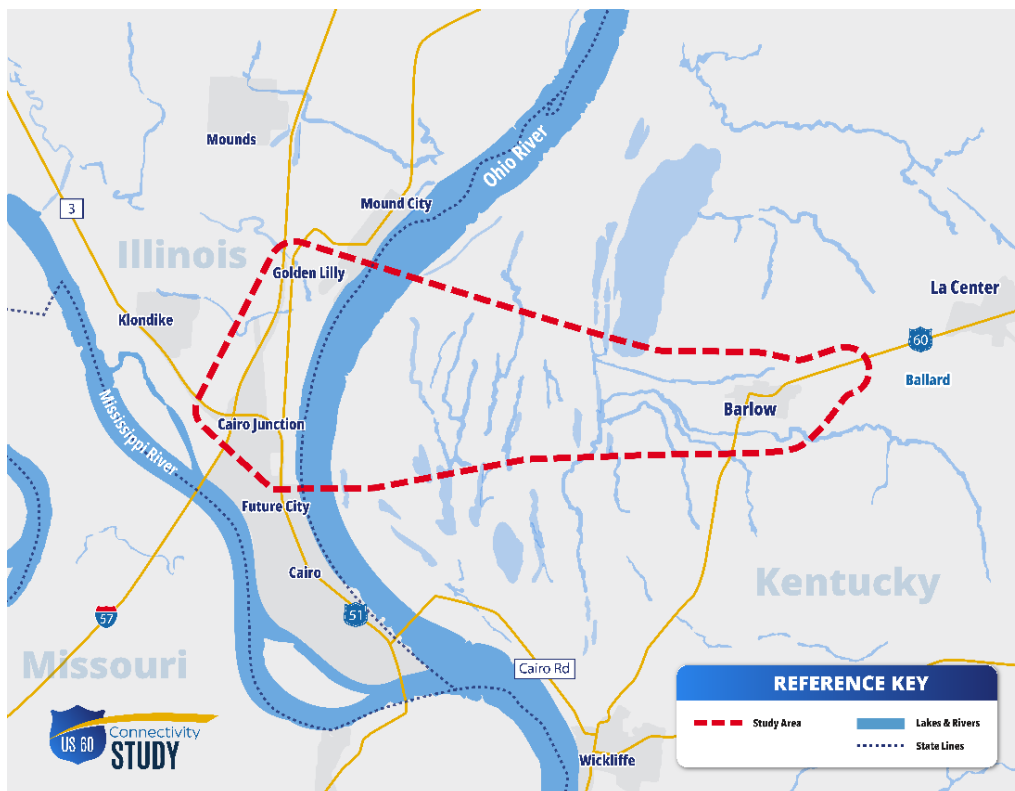
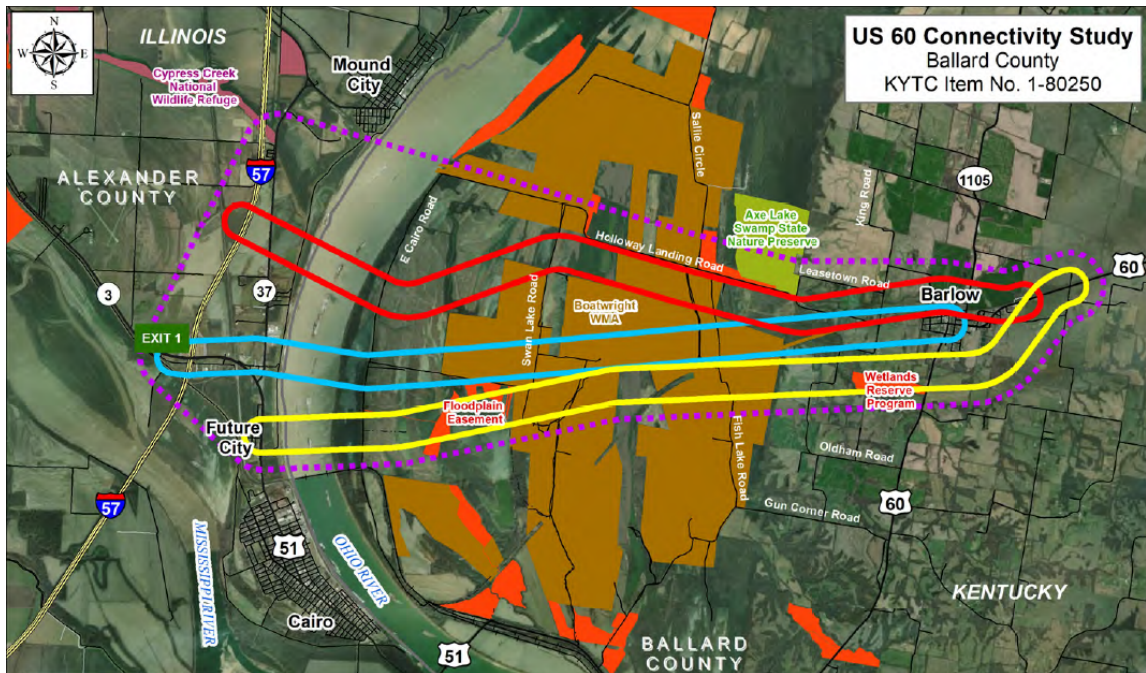


Figure 2. Initial Corridors



Study Overview

The US 60 Connectivity Study is being funded by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and is in the state's current Six-year Highway Plan as KYTC Item No. 1-80250, which specifically states to "conduct a planning study for extending US 60 from Barlow, KY west to I-57 near Future City, IL." No future phases of this project are included or funded in the highway plan.

Study objectives:

- Examine the feasibility, costs, and impacts of extending US 60 over the Ohio River.
- Complete a Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL)¹ study due to environmental sensitivity of the area and because there is a signed NEPA document for the US 51 Bridge Replacement project between Wickliffe and Cairo (KYTC Item No. 1-1140.00).

¹ http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/env_initiatives/pel.aspx

- Present findings to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) so that they can make an informed decision about the best option for an Ohio River crossing in the region. KYTC's plan would be to advance a connection from this study or the US 51 Bridge Replacement project, not both.

This study started in early 2023. To date, there has been one Resource Agency Meeting in addition to the set of June 2023 Local Officials and Stakeholders meetings. There will be two more Resource Agency Meetings, one more set of Local Official and Stakeholders meetings, and a Public Information Meeting later in 2023.

Attendance and Feedback

The two in-person Local Officials and Stakeholders meetings were invite-only and had a total of 38 people in attendance, not including the Project Team members (14 in Cairo, IL and 24 in Kevil, KY). After the formal presentation at both meetings there was a question-and-answer session and open discussion forum where attendees inquired about the project and expressed their concerns and/or support of the potential new Ohio River crossing.

Cairo, IL Meeting Feedback Summary

At the Cairo, IL meeting, many attendees expressed concerns about the future of the cities of Wickliffe, KY and Cairo, IL should this new Ohio River crossing be constructed because the new corridor would bypass both locations. Attendees stated that both cities are dependent on the traffic that currently passes through their communities, as it helps support local businesses and provides a direct connection for commuters to travel to both locations. Both mayors of Wickliffe (David Phillips) and Cairo (Thomas Simpson) were in attendance and stated that this newly proposed crossing would not only limit the potential for future growth in their cities, but that it would cause businesses to close, residents to move away and effectively destroy both municipalities.

Attendees also expressed concerns over the potential short and long-term damage that the newly proposed crossing would have on the local environment and ecological systems.

One attendee, Phillip Halter (Mayor of Charleston, MO), expressed support for the newly proposed crossing, citing the potential for economic growth within the region. He cited letters of support from

trucking companies that would prefer a larger roadway and more direct connection between US 60 and I-57. He also stated that he believed a more direct connection would increase truck traffic and commuter traffic, which would help business development along the corridor and create jobs.

Kevil, KY Meeting Feedback Summary

The Kevil, KY meeting was attended by many landowners within the project area and hunters who utilized the land within the project area. This group of attendees unanimously expressed several concerns and opposition to the newly proposed Ohio River crossing. Their most prevalent concern was for the potential short- and long-term damage that a new roadway would have on the environment within the study area. Most of the land within the study area is untouched and serves as a home to several species, some of which are endangered and some of which are hunted by members of area hunting clubs. Attendees expressed concern that a new roadway would have a negative effect on not only the animals, but the environment in which they live.

Landowners who attended the meeting also expressed concerns about the Project Team impeding their property during the data gathering phase and the potential for their property to be taken by the state to construct a new roadway.

Other opposition expressed by attendees included concerns about the future of the cities of Wickliffe and Cairo should a new roadway be constructed that bypassed those communities as well as skepticism that this newly proposed Ohio River crossing would provide meaningful economic benefits for the region.

Kentucky State Sen. Danny Carroll was in attendance and expressed support for the study and a potential new Ohio River crossing within the study area, citing the potential for improved regional mobility and economic development. He expressed that there was local interest in examining an alternative route to the US 51 Bridge Replacement Project because of the potential to increase business development and create jobs—and he encouraged other attendees to think about the benefits that a more direct connection would provide not just in the immediate future but for future generations.

Written Feedback

Each attendee was provided with a questionnaire at the meetings as an opportunity to provide written feedback on the benefits and impacts of the project. A total of 11 people (listed below) provided feedback. Seven people completed the questionnaire or provided written feedback to the Project Team at or directly following the meeting. To solicit more comments, the Project Team sent out a follow-up email to elected officials on July 5, 2023, and received four responses in return. In total, eight responses were in opposition to a potential new Ohio River crossing and three responses were supportive of the project. *See the addendum to view responses.*

Commentors:	Name	Organization	Location	Support Relocation
	Kaitlin Ray	HBR Ag (Farm)	Charleston, MO	Yes
	Constance Williams	City of Cairo	Cairo, IL	No
	David Jones	Green Timber Duck Club	Barlow, KY	No
	Wayne Golightly	Go Capitol (Landowner)	Kevil, KY	No
	Barbara Jones	Landowner	Kevil, KY	No
	Greg Joles	Grassy Lake	Kevil, KY	No
	George Bray	City of Paducah	Paducah, KY	Yes
	Gabrielle Harris	Resident/Businessman	Cairo, IL	No
	David Black	Landowner	Kevil, KY	No
	Jayne Ellen Ray	Resident	Charleston, MO	Yes
	David Phillips	City of Wickliffe	Wickliffe, KY	No

End of Minutes



Local Officials / Stakeholder Meeting No. 1

KYTC Item No. 1-80250 / June 15, 2023

Agenda

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Study Overview
- 3) Environmental Resources
- 4) Initial Corridors
- 5) Project Goals & Stakeholder Questionnaire
- 6) Next Steps

Why we are here

- ❖ To share information about the US 60 Connectivity Study
- ❖ Discuss Project Goals
- ❖ **Request your feedback after the presentation:**
 - ❖ **Initial Corridors under Consideration**
 - ❖ **Understanding benefits and impacts of relocating the Ohio River crossing to this study area**

Introductions

Study Team



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



Stantec



C2 STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATIONS



Presenters



Chris Kuntz
KYTC Project Manager



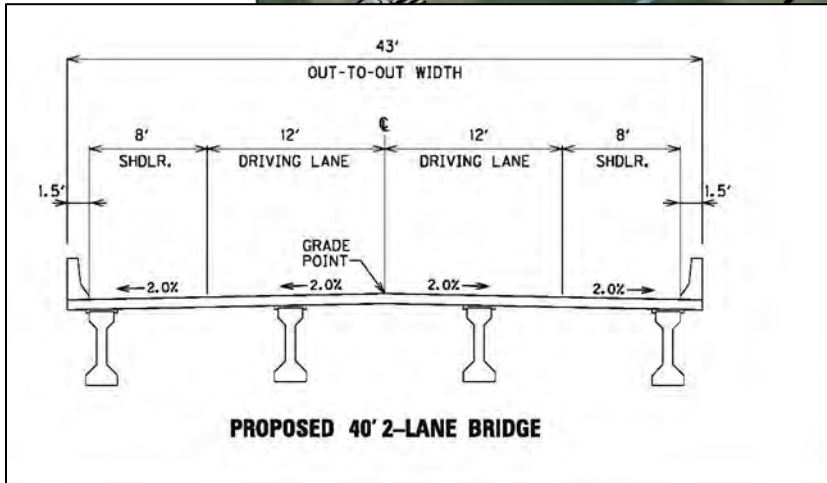
Len Harper
Stantec Project Manager



Lindsay Hoskins
Qk4 Environmental Project Manager

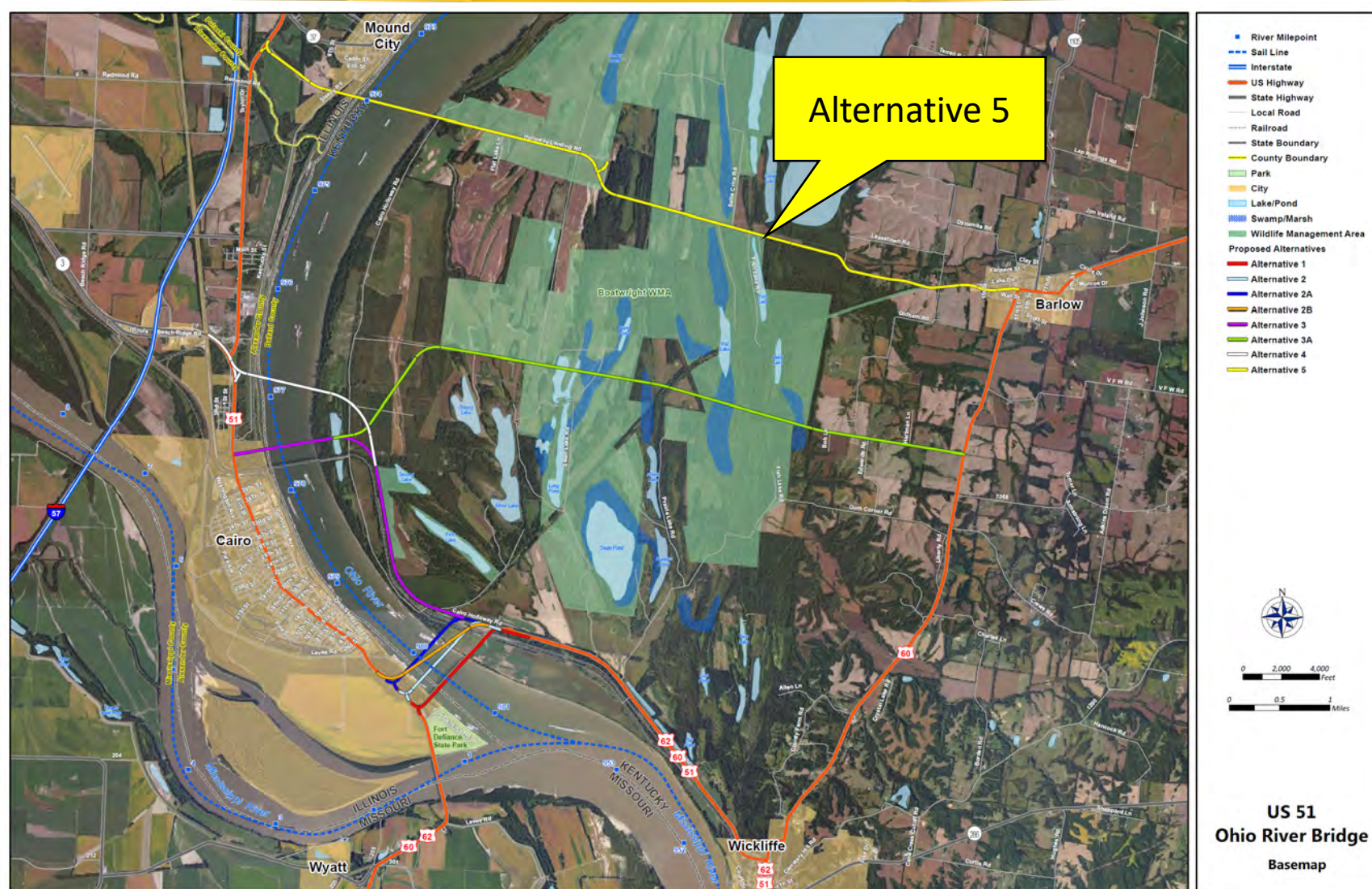


Project History





US 51 Bridge Replacement Project (Item 1-1140)



The Purpose and Need Statement of the US 51 project is to:

- ✓ Rehabilitate or replace the deficient US 51 Ohio River Bridge
- ✓ Improve safety on the bridge and its approaches.
- ✗ Maintain cross river connectivity between Wickliffe, KY and Cairo, IL.

Study Overview

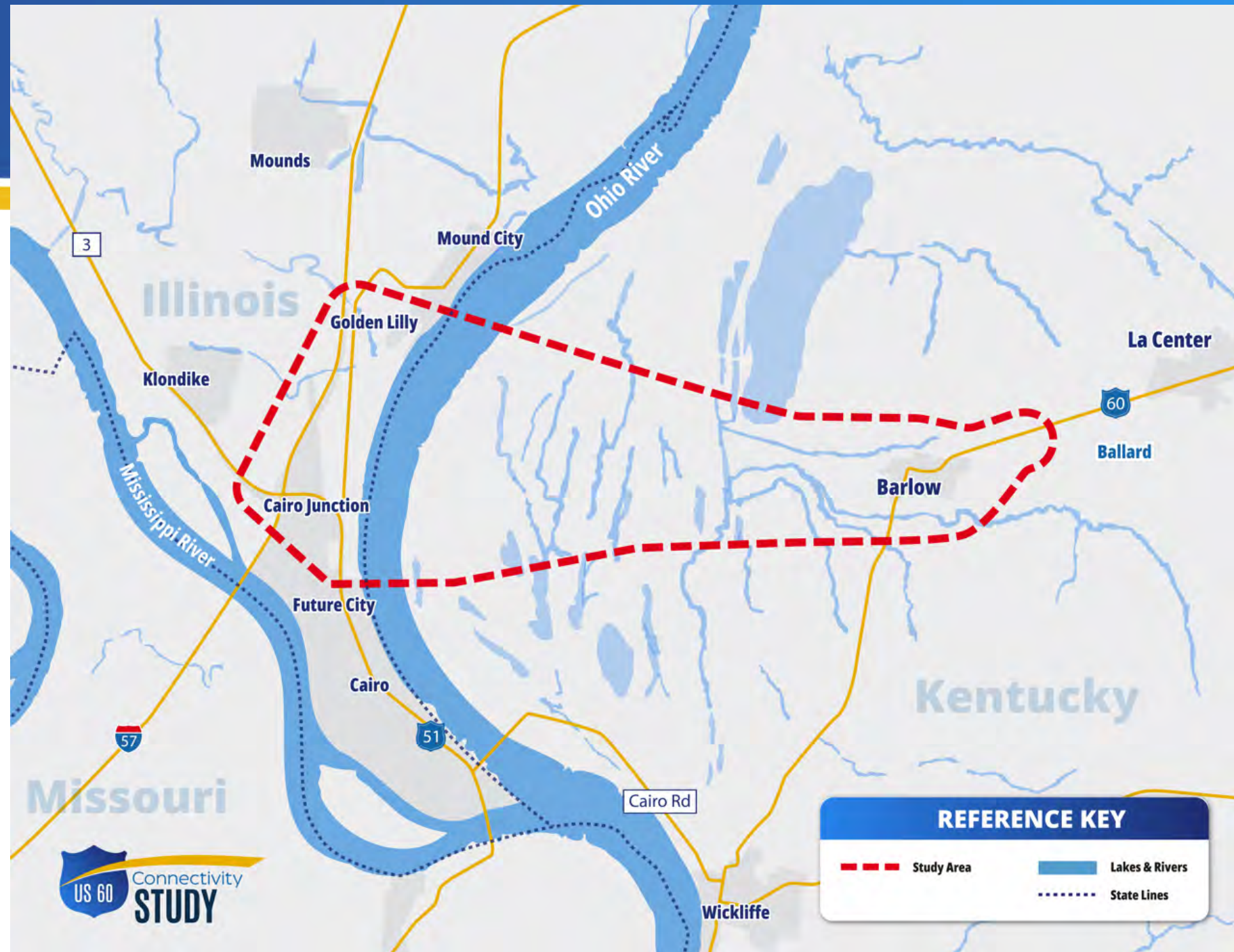
What are we studying?

- ❖ **The US 60 Connectivity Study will evaluate a possible alternative to the US 51 Bridge Replacement project.**
- ❖ **The alternative is a new Ohio River crossing connecting US 60 in Ballard County, Kentucky and US 51 / I-57 in Alexander County, Illinois**
- ❖ **KYTC intends to advance this project OR the US 51 Bridge Replacement project to construction.**



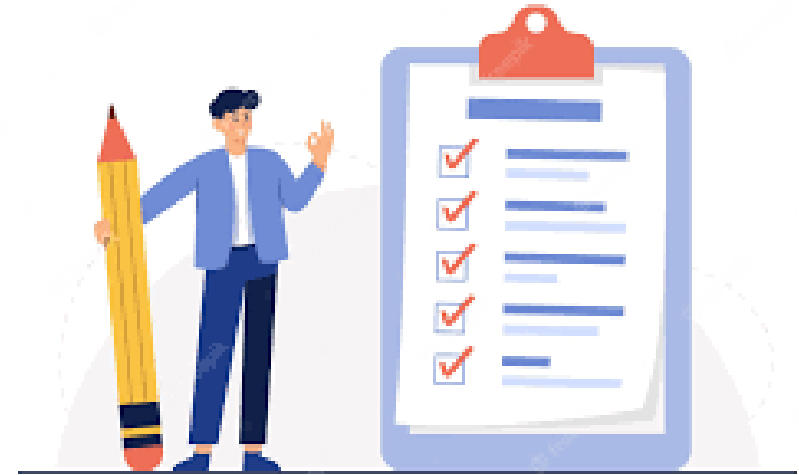
Study Area

- 16,000 Acres
- Ballard County, KY and Alexander County, IL



What is the scope of the study?

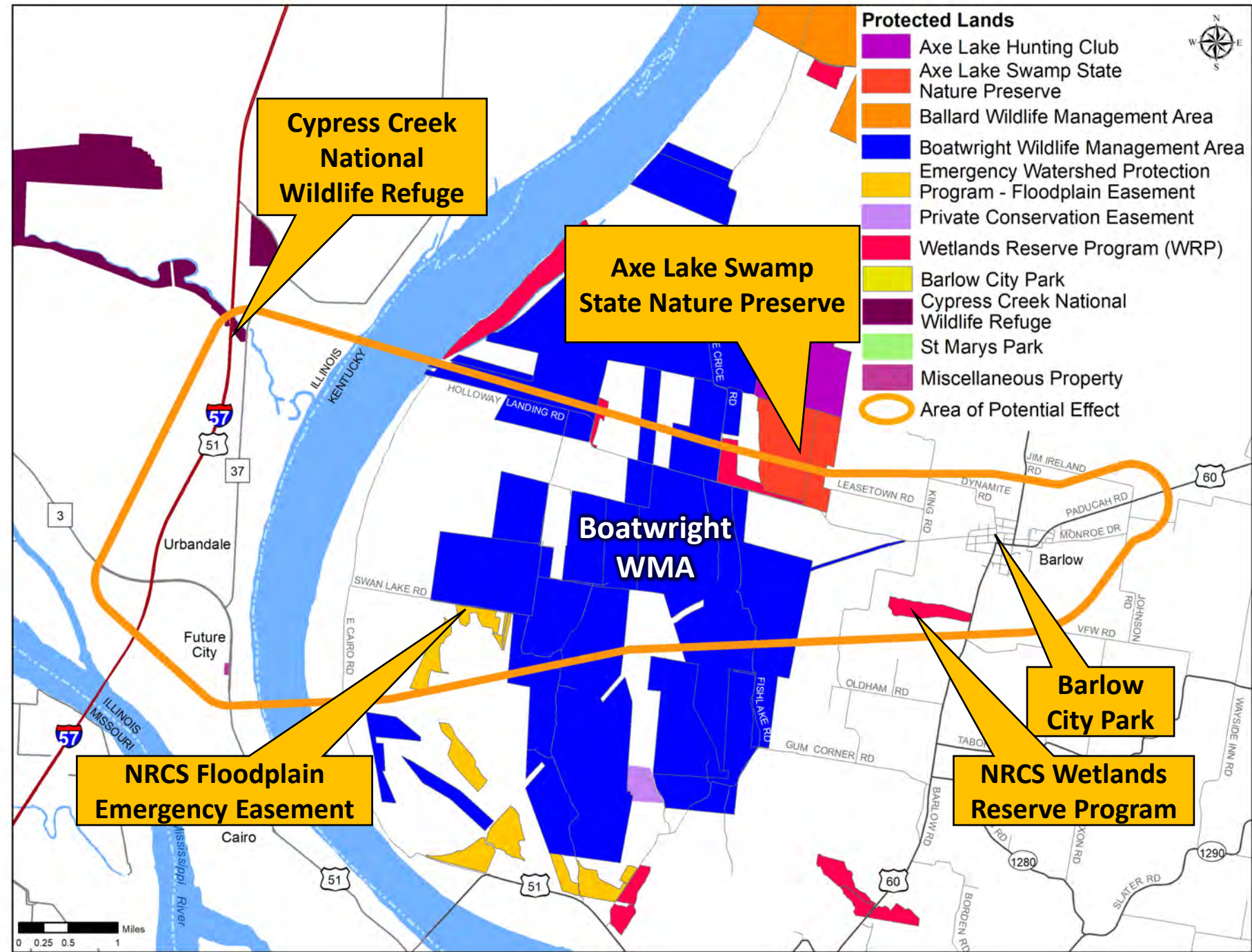
- ❖ Define issues and restrictions in study area
- ❖ Identify economic benefits and impacts
- ❖ Identify environmental features and impacts
- ❖ Conduct public involvement
- ❖ Develop Cost Estimates for consideration in future Highway Plans (Design, Right-of-Way, Utility, Construction)



Environmental Resources Overview

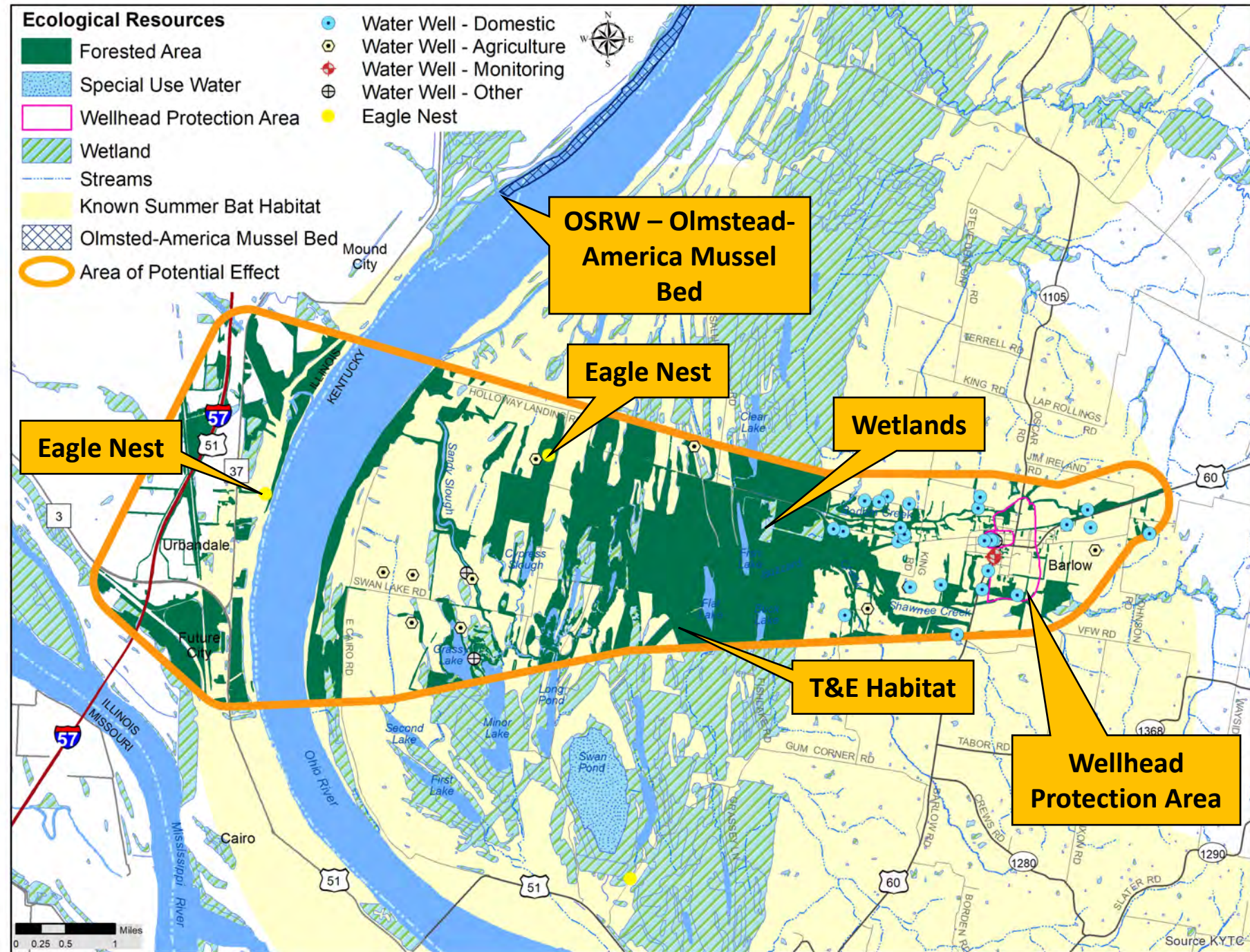
Protected Lands

- ❖ National Wildlife Refuge
- ❖ State Nature Preserve
- ❖ Wildlife Management Area
- ❖ NRCS Conservation Easements
 - ❖ Floodplain Emergency Watershed Protection Program
 - ❖ Wetland Reserve Program
- ❖ Barlow City Park



Ecological Resources

- ❖ Outstanding State Resource Water – Ohio River
- ❖ Streams
- ❖ Wetlands
- ❖ 100-Year Flood zone
- ❖ Boatwright—Wildlife Management Area
- ❖ Axe Lake Swamp State Nature Preserve
- ❖ Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge
- ❖ Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easements
- ❖ Wetlands Reserves Program
- ❖ Potential T&E Habitat
- ❖ Forested Lands
- ❖ Agricultural Land

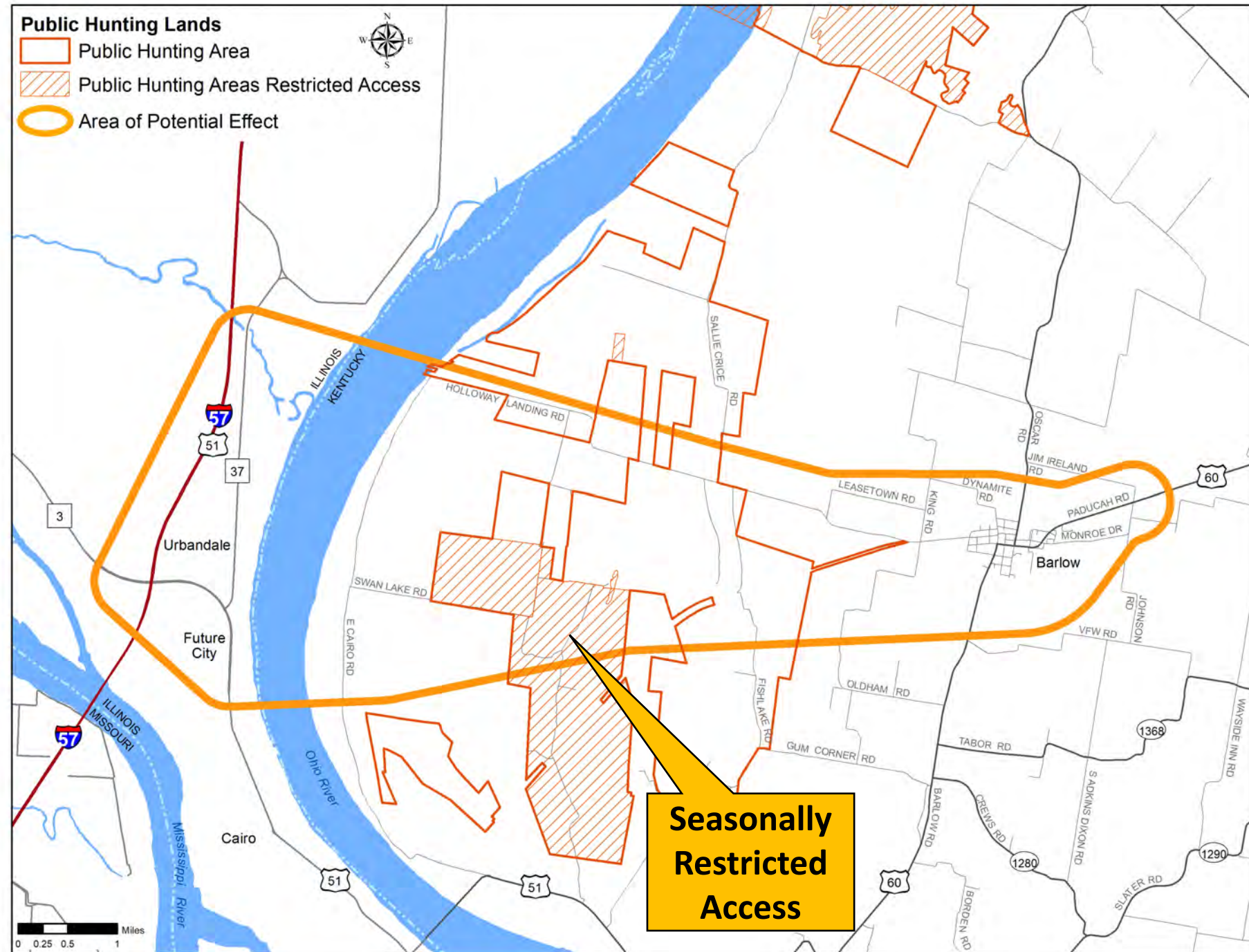


Hunting Lands

❖ Per **KRS 150.0241(6)**, Kentucky has a **“No Net Loss”** policy which **“requires that states maintain at least the same level of available public hunting land that currently exists.”**

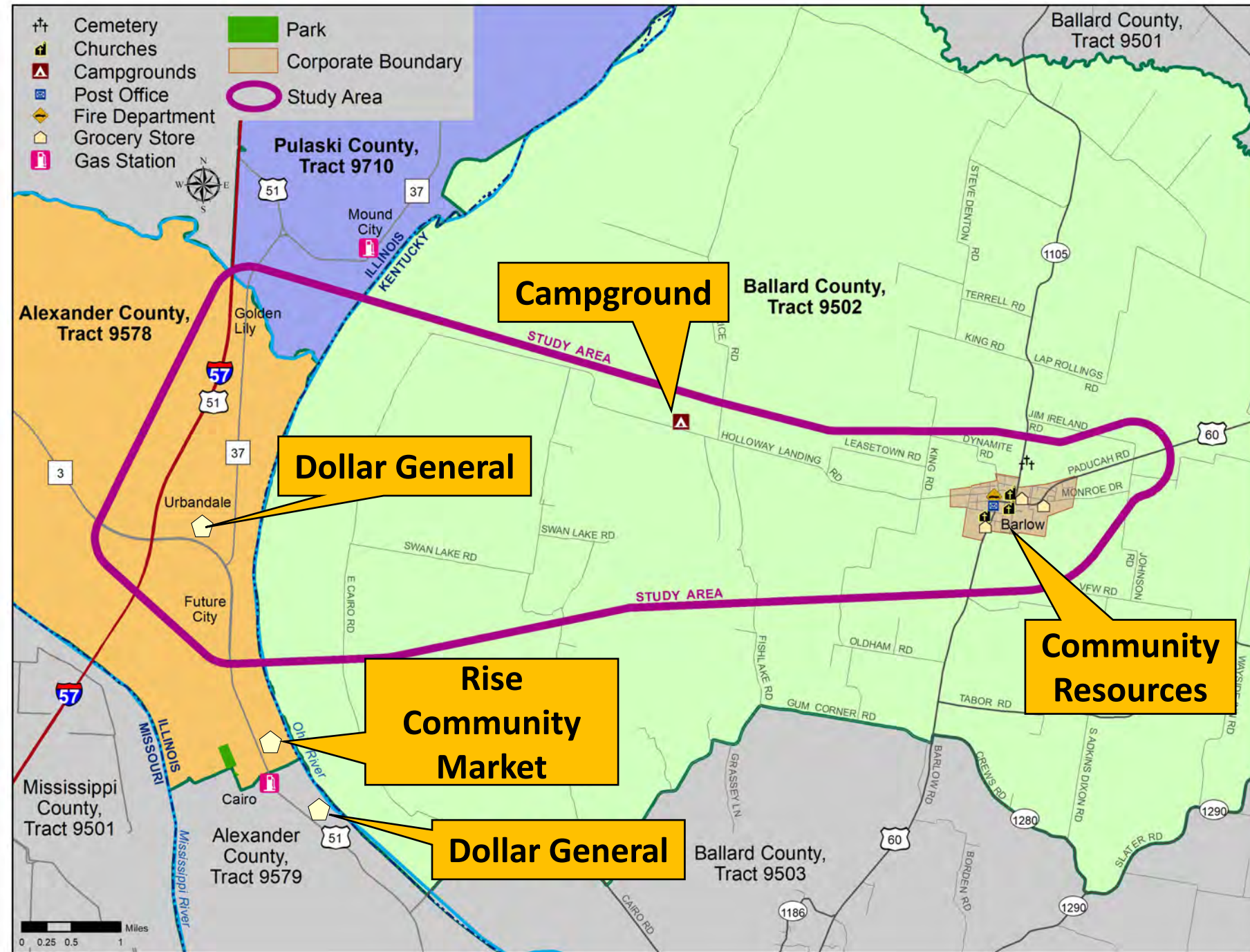
❖ **Expediently find replacement acreage.**

❖ **Replacement lands shall, to the greatest extent possible be located within the same commission district and consistent with the hunting discipline that the commission allowed on the closed land.**



A decorative graphic consisting of two horizontal rows of blue dots. Each row contains ten dots, for a total of twenty dots.

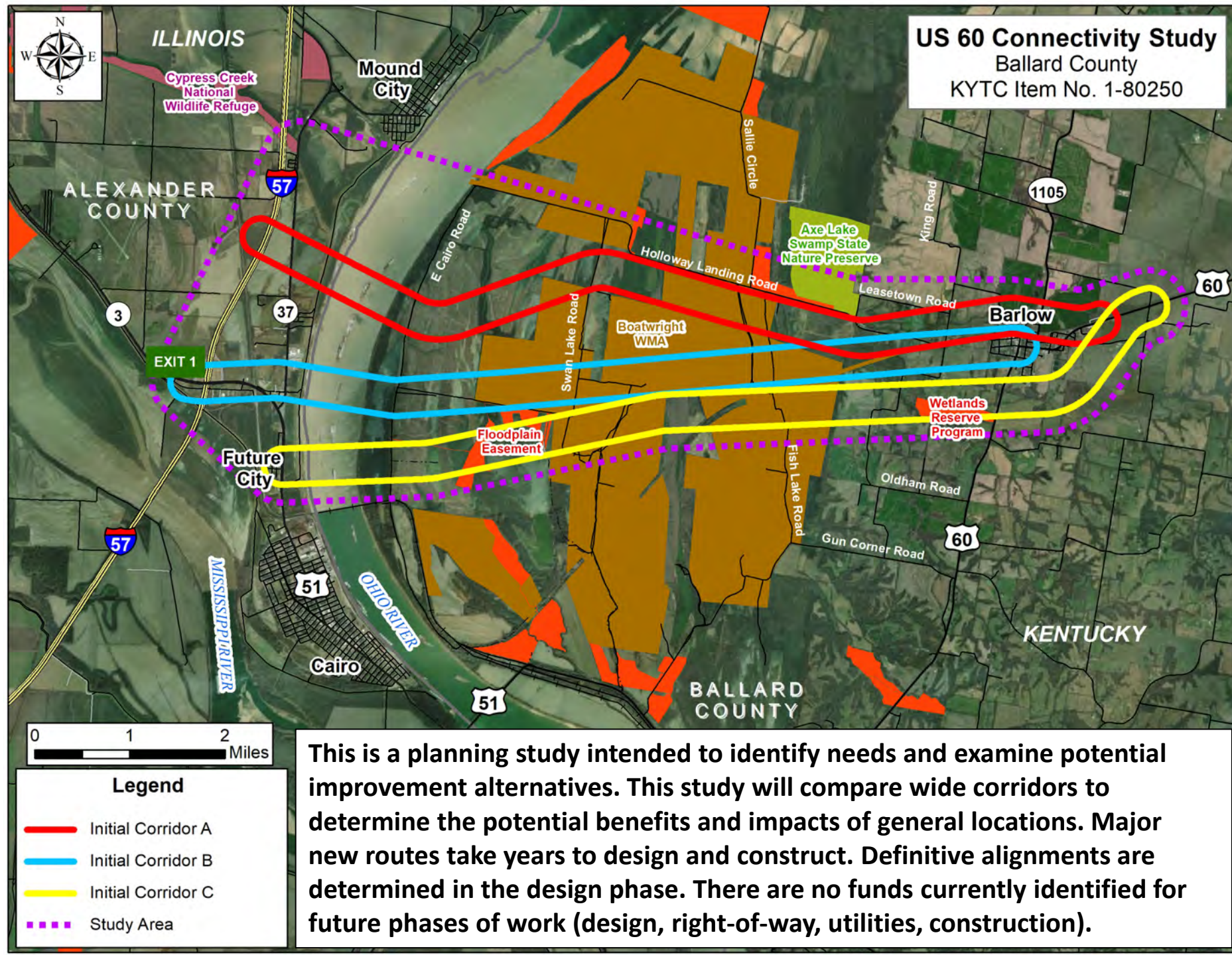
- ❖ Most people (~40%) **live and work in the same county**, about **2% per county travel across the Ohio River for Work**.



Initial Corridors

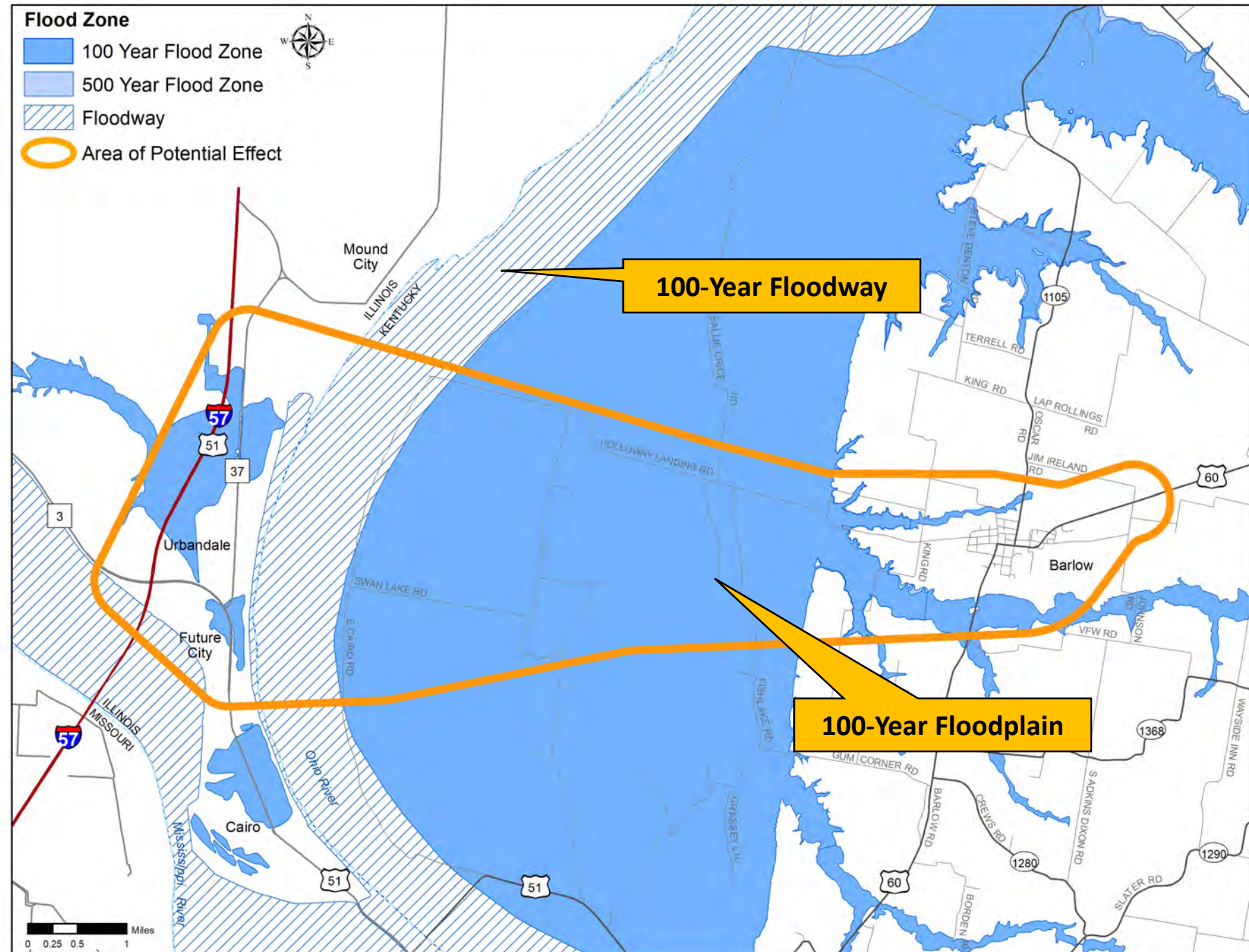
Initial Corridors

- ❖ This study will compare wide corridors to determine the potential benefits and impacts of general locations.
- ❖ Definitive alignments are not determined until the design phase.
- ❖ There are no funds currently identified for future phases of work (design, right-of-way, utilities, construction).



Flood Zone

- ❖ Any concepts that may move into design would require detailed hydraulic analysis and coordination with FEMA.
- ❖ Must avoid impacts to Floodway.
- ❖ Must minimize & mitigate any impacts to the 100-year Floodplain.





Drone Aerial Imagery of Study Area





Drone Aerial Imagery of Study Area



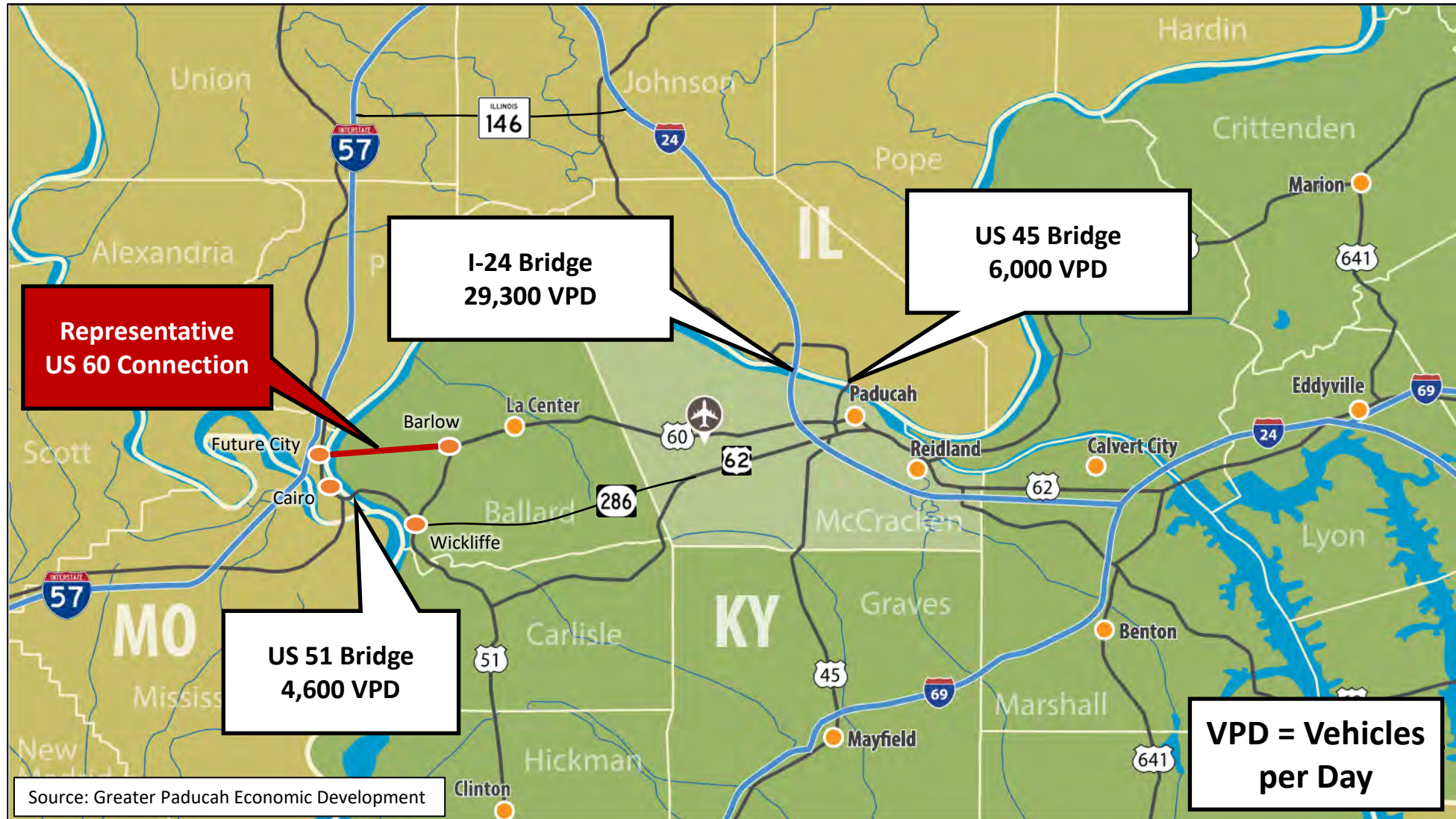
Regional Mobility

Roadway Network

Travel Times*

- Existing
 - 17.5 miles
 - 24 minutes
- Representative Corridor
 - 10 miles
 - 11 minutes

*US 60 (Jim Ireland Rd, Barlow, KY) to I-57 (Exit 1, Kessler Road, IL)



Speed Limit

Minimum Speed Limits

- Existing
 - Wickliffe = 25 mph
 - Cairo = 30 mph
- Representative Corridor
 - 55 mph



US 51 in Cairo



US 60 in Wickliffe

Truck Routes

- Approximately 1,400 Semi Trucks travel US 51 through Cairo each day.
- Existing Vertical Clearance = 14'-1"
- Arterial Design Guidance
 - Existing = 14'
 - New Structures = 16'



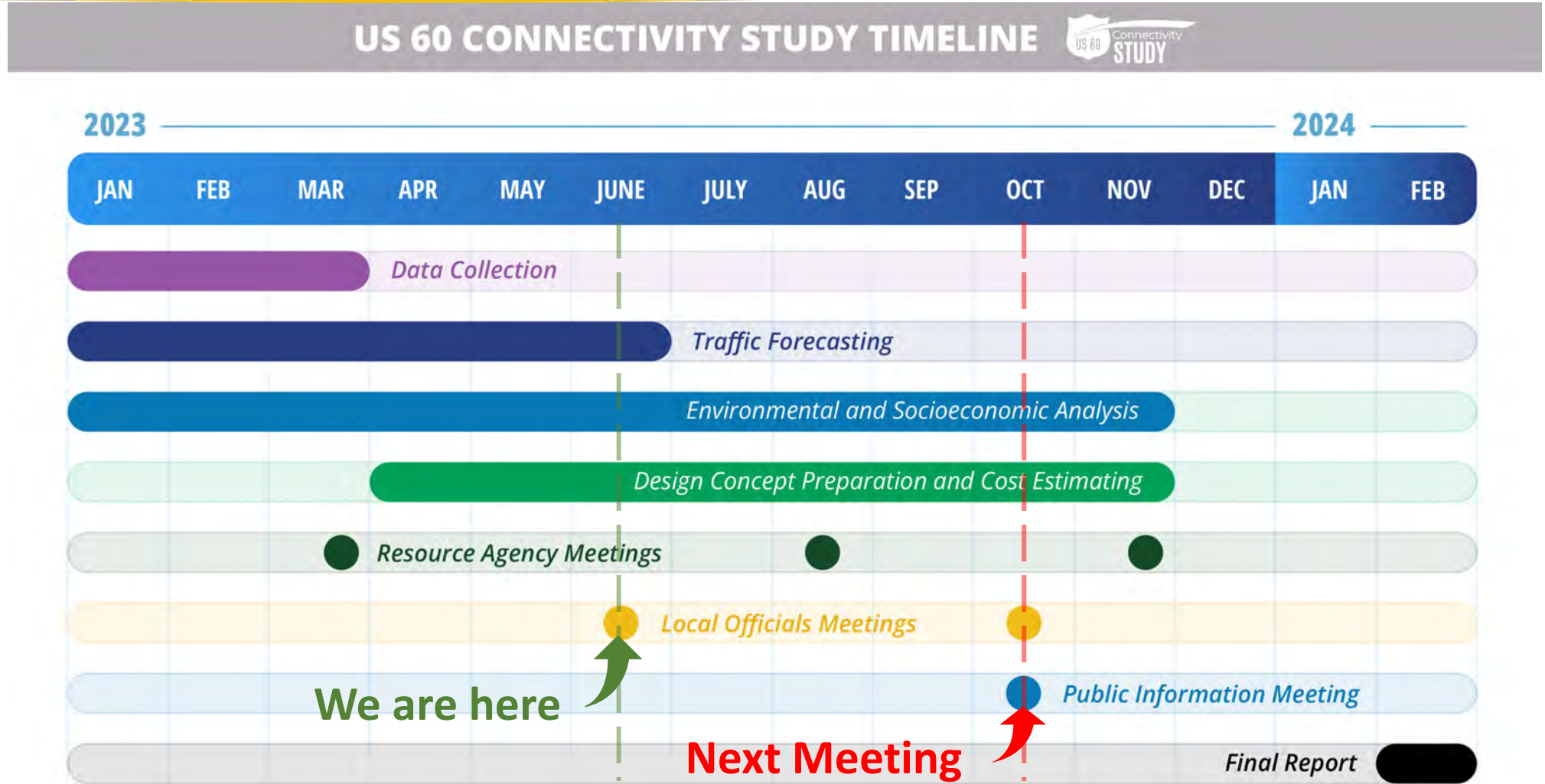
US 51 just South of Cairo High School

Economic Development

- **Support Existing Industry (Bunge, Ingevity, Phoenix Paper)**
- **Support Future Developments**
 - **Cairo Riverport**
 - **Wickliffe Riverport**
 - **Maritime Business**
 - **Agribusiness / Warehousing**
 - **Logistics (Long-Haul Transportation)**
 - **Ohio River Triple Rail Industrial Site (Paducah)**
 - **Scott City and Cohen Trust Industrial Parks (Cape Girardeau)**

Next Steps

Study Schedule



**Note: tentative study schedule—dates are subject to change*

Don't Forget to Complete Your Survey!

- ❖ How would the relocation of the Ohio River crossing to this study area **benefit or impact** the region and your local area or community?
- ❖ Would the relocation of the Ohio River crossing to this study area create **economic development** opportunities for the region and your local area or community?



Thank You

 US60ConnectivityStudy.com

 info@US60ConnectivityStudy.com

 KYTC District 1: (270) 898-2431



Meeting Minutes

Project: US 60 Connectivity Study
Ballard County, KY
Item#: 1-80250.00

Purpose: KDFWR/USFWS Coordination Meeting
Boatwright WMA Protections Discussion

Place: In-person – KDFWR Headquarters
1 Sportsmans Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

Date/Time: August 1, 2023 at 9:30 AM

Prepared by: Qk4

Participants:	Name	Organization	Role
	Derek Beard	KDFWR	Wildlife Assistant Director-Public Lands
	Ben Robinson	KDFWR	Wildlife Division Director
	Brian Clark	KDFWR	Deputy Commissioner
	Leroy Harp	KDFWR	Wildlife Assistant Director-Federal Grants
	John Zimmer	KDFWR	Purchase Region Wildlife Coordinator
	Zach Couch	KDFWR	Wildlife Diversity Program Coordinator
	Lee Andrews	USFWS – Kentucky	Field Office Supervisor
	Phil DeGarmo	USFWS – Kentucky	Wildlife Biologist - Transportation
	Catherine Davis	KYTC CO – Planning	CO Project Manager
	Len Harper	Stantec	Study Project Manager
	Ellen Mullins	Stantec	Biologist
	Lindsay Hoskins	Qk4	Environmental Project Manager
	Tom Springer	Qk4	Environmental Project Manager
	Kelly Carr	Qk4	Surveyor



A meeting was held on Tuesday, August 1st to review Boatwright Wildlife Management Area (WMA) protections with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) and the Kentucky Division of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Resource Services (USFWS). **The primary objective of the meeting was to learn more on Boatwright WMA protections** from KDFWR/USFWS. Specifically, regarding funds used, funding stipulations, replacement of public hunting lands, and any other protections/laws/restrictions/mitigation requirements not already identified.

The study team provided a brief study overview, identified environmental protections pertaining to the Boatwright WMA, and requested feedback.

Study Overview

A previous study (KYTC Item No. 1-1140) that led to the current US 51 bridge replacement project preliminarily considered a more direct connection through the existing study's study area; however, a more northerly concept was dismissed early for not meeting the very specific purpose and need established for that study – to improve mobility between Wickliffe, KY and Cairo, IL. This study, focusing on a different purpose and need that is under development, will thoroughly explore connections through the study area and document the pros and cons. The intent is to evaluate a possible alternative to the US 51 Bridge Replacement Project.

This study is included in the current Six-year Highway Plan as KYTC Item No. 1-80250, specifically stating to “conduct a planning study for extending US 60 from Barlow, KY west to I-57 near Future City, IL.” No future phases of this project are included or funded in the highway plan. Looking at the local and regional roadway networks, it is understandable why some feel that a more direct route across the Ohio River would improve east-west mobility in the region.

The area is predominantly within the 100-year floodplain, and a roadway connection through the study area would likely be built on structure.

Environmental Resources

The study area overlaps with a highly environmentally sensitive area. The meeting was focused on the protections applicable to the Boatwright-WMA as it intersects the entire study area. Identified protections were reviewed in detail (see attached slides in **Appendix A**), including:

- Section 4(f)
- Public Hunting Lands
- Funding Stipulations
- Deed Easements

The study team is interested in learning more about funding used within the study area, particularly in areas where funding types have not yet been identified (Upper Blenderman Unit, Peal Unit, and USACE-owned properties) and if there are other protections not already identified.

Next Steps

The study schedule and future coordination opportunities were reviewed. The next Resource Agency Coordination Meeting is planned for Thursday, August 24th.

Feedback

Discussion was focused on the following items. KDFWR & USFWS were going to do additional research and share findings with the study team.

- Verifying KY Game & Fish Fund protections, specifically,
 - If land has been acquired with these funds, what protections does it include?
 - Are they protected in perpetuity?
 - Could land be acquired for a transportation project?
 - Are there mitigation requirements (i.e., pay back the funds, find replacement lands, etc.)
- The Commission is Trustees of the Agency, and the Board would have to consent to the disposition of any land. This is not a common occurrence since the lands are limited and are for conservation purposes. Not to say it isn't possible but would be a process.

- If public hunting lands are impacted, the mitigation requirement would likely be more than the 1:1, per acreage replacement in the no net loss statute.
- If federal funds have been used, does that protect the whole Boatwright-WMA or on the areas that received them?
 - Does this only apply if they were acquired with federal funds or if used for conservation purposes or other projects within the WMA?
- Ecological Services benefits would be helpful for assessing economic benefits/impacts.
 - There are models that attempt to quantify this based on habitat, size, and quality.
 - This could be used to help establish mitigation requirements.
- Public engagement and general feedback were discussed.
 - Public opposition would be likely, especially from hunting clubs and landowners in the area.
 - This could make finding replacement lands within the same Commission District and same hunting discipline from willing sellers challenging.
- The land is very important for public hunting access and conservation.
- Endangered species would be a major concern for this area.
 - There are species of greatest conservation need in the area.
 - Ballard County has about 150/500+ species listed, with at least 50- to 60-species within the Boatwright-WMA.
 - The latest revision to the State Wildlife Action Plan should be available this fall.
 - The study team would like to know what additional species should be considered.

End of Minutes



KDFWR / USFWS Coordination

Wildlife Management Area / KYTC Item No. 1-80250 / August 1st, 2023

Why we are here

Share Study Background / Status

We need your help understanding Boatwright-WMA Specifics:

- Learn more on protections.
- Any protections not already identified.
- Any other funds / funding stipulations we haven't identified.
- Replacement Requirements of Public Hunting Lands
- Replacement Requirements of Wetlands



Introductions

Key Team Members



Kyle Poat
KYTC Project Manager



Len Harper
Stantec Project Manager

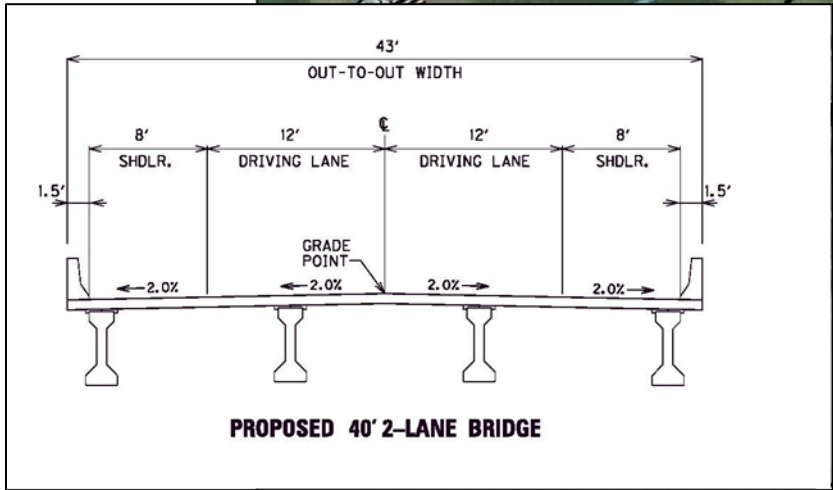
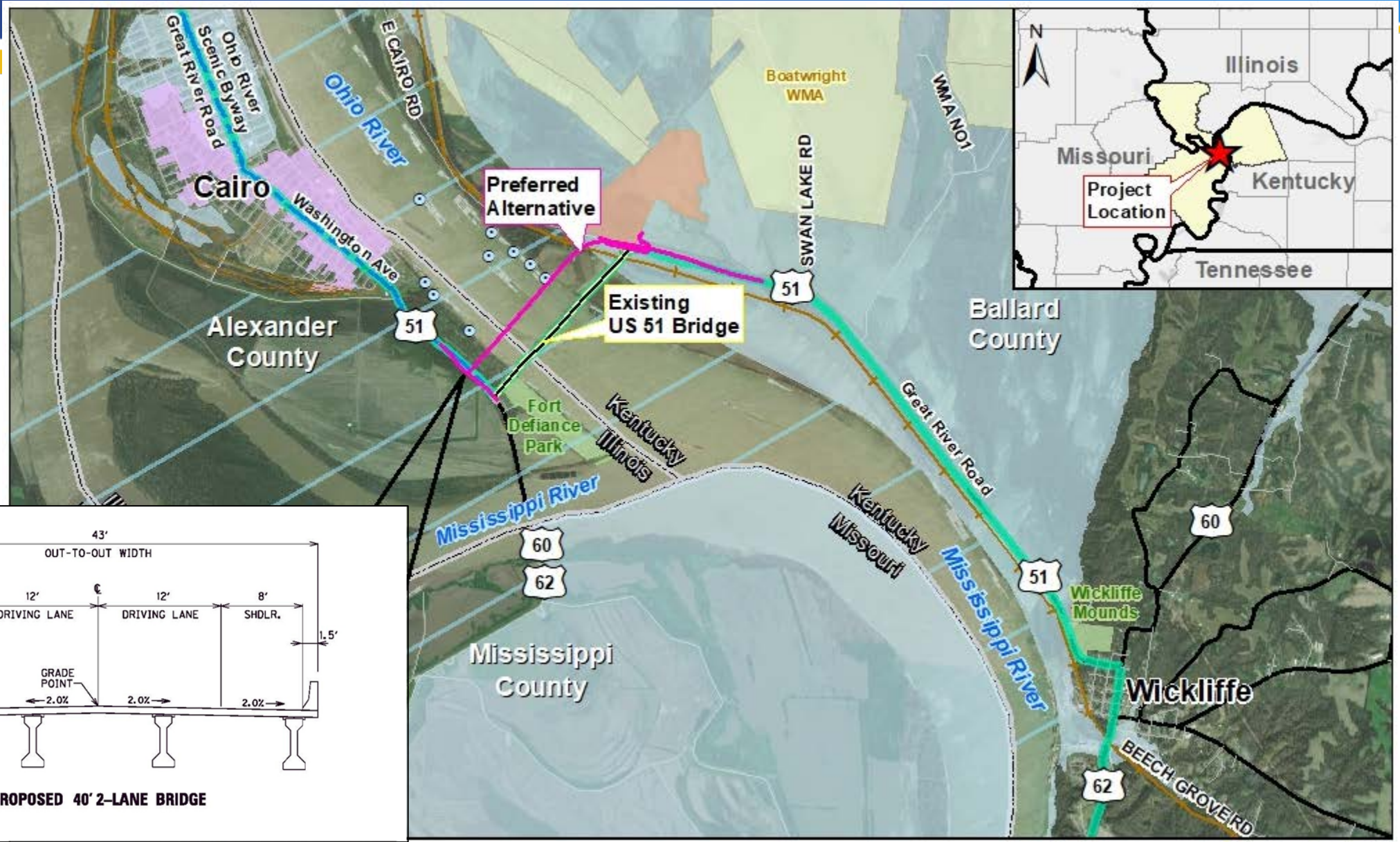


Tom Springer/Lindsay Hoskins
Qk4 Environmental Project Manager

Project History

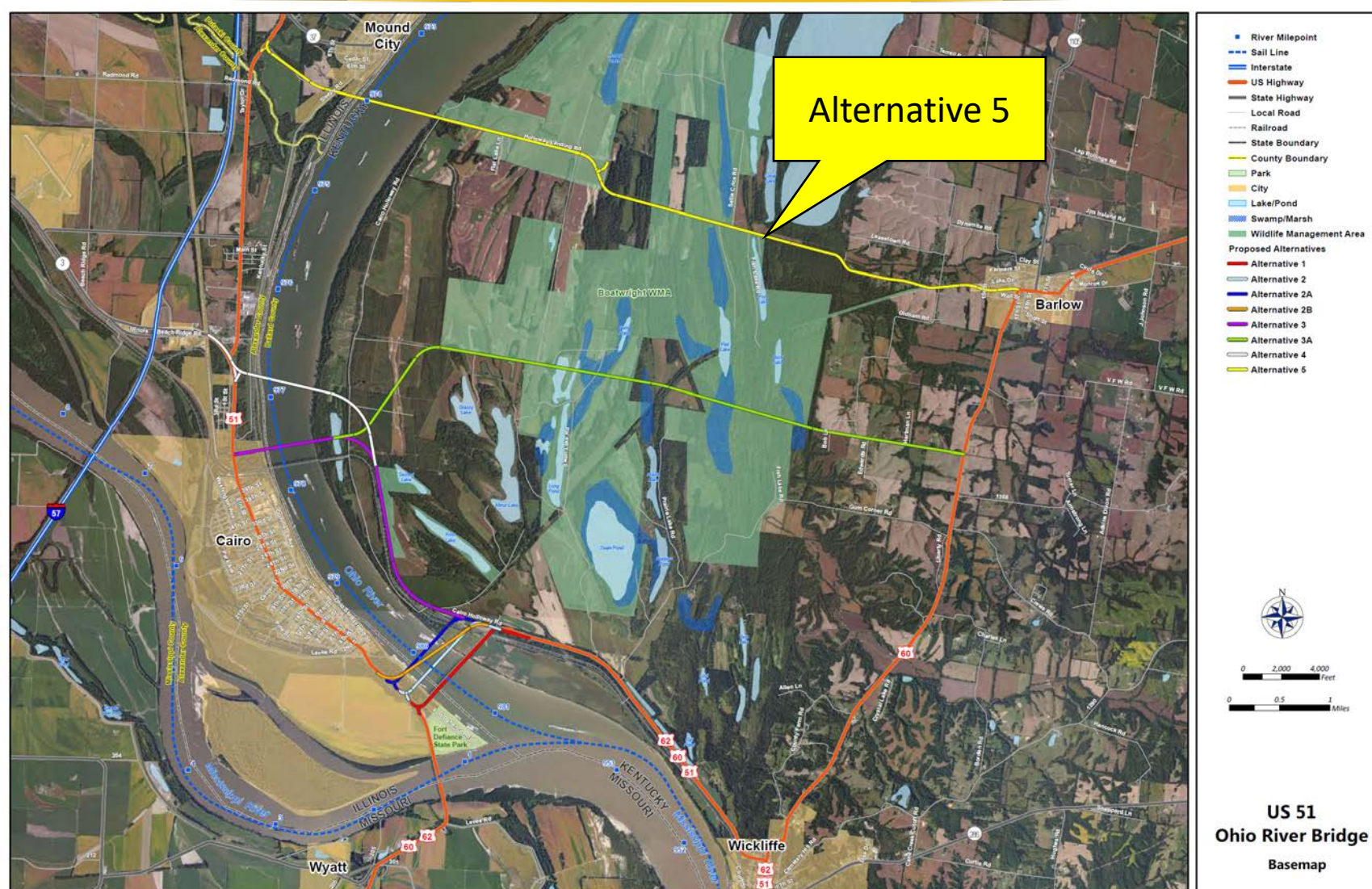


US 51 Bridge Replacement Project (Item 1-1140)





US 51 Bridge Replacement Project (Item 1-1140)



The Purpose and Need Statement of the US 51 project is to:

- ✓ Rehabilitate or replace the deficient US 51 Ohio River Bridge
- ✓ Improve safety on the bridge and its approaches.
- ✗ Maintain cross river connectivity between Wickliffe, KY and Cairo, IL.

Study Overview

Kentucky's 2022 Highway Plan



Item No. 1-80250:

“Conduct a planning study for extending US 60 from Barlow, KY West to I-57 near Future City, Illinois.”

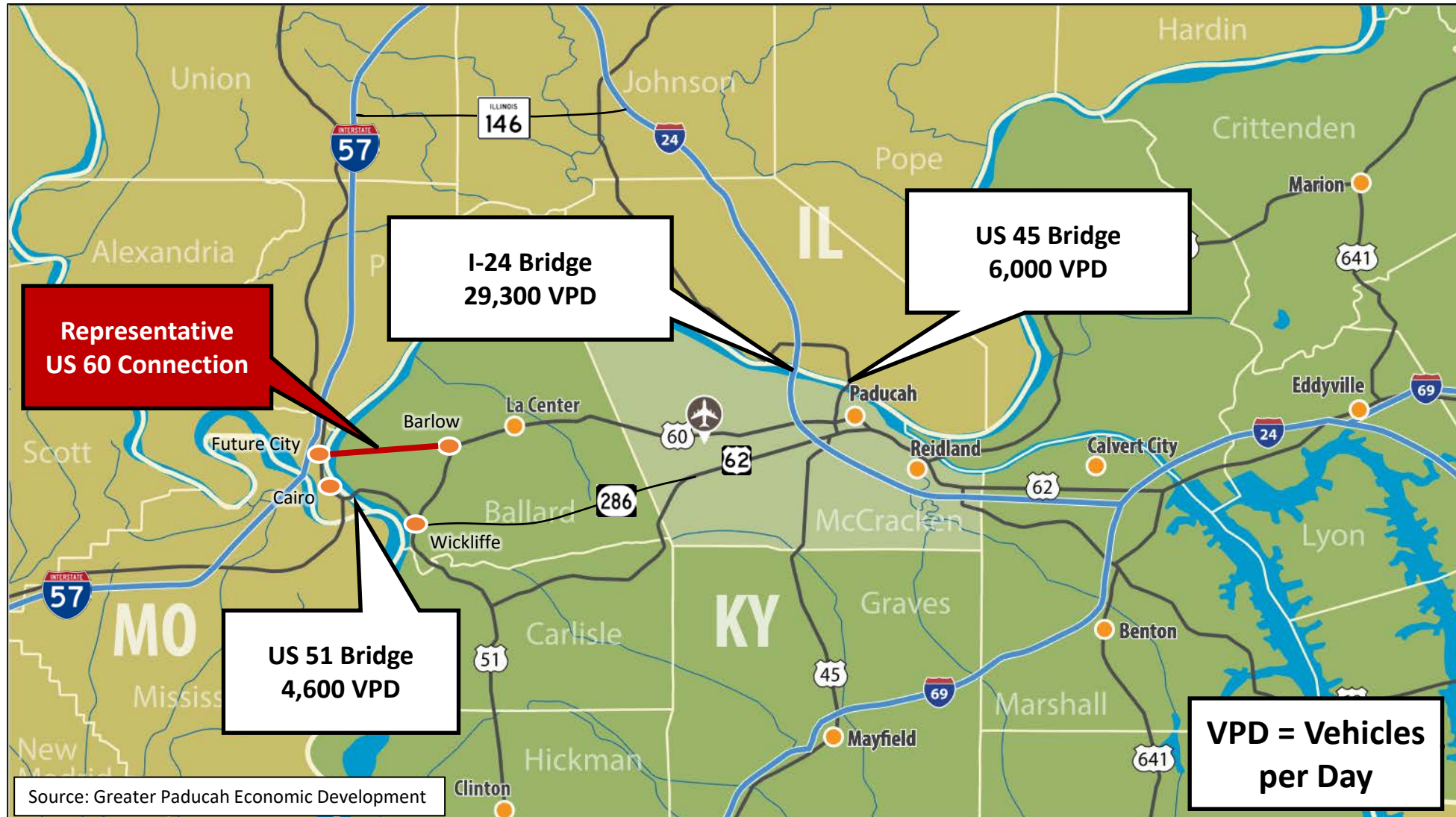
Note: No future phases of this project are included or funded in the highway plan.

Roadway Network

Travel Times*

- Existing
 - 17.5 miles
 - 24 minutes
- Representative Corridor
 - 10 miles
 - 11 minutes

*US 60 (Jim Ireland Rd, Barlow, KY) to I-57 (Exit 1, Kessler Road, IL)

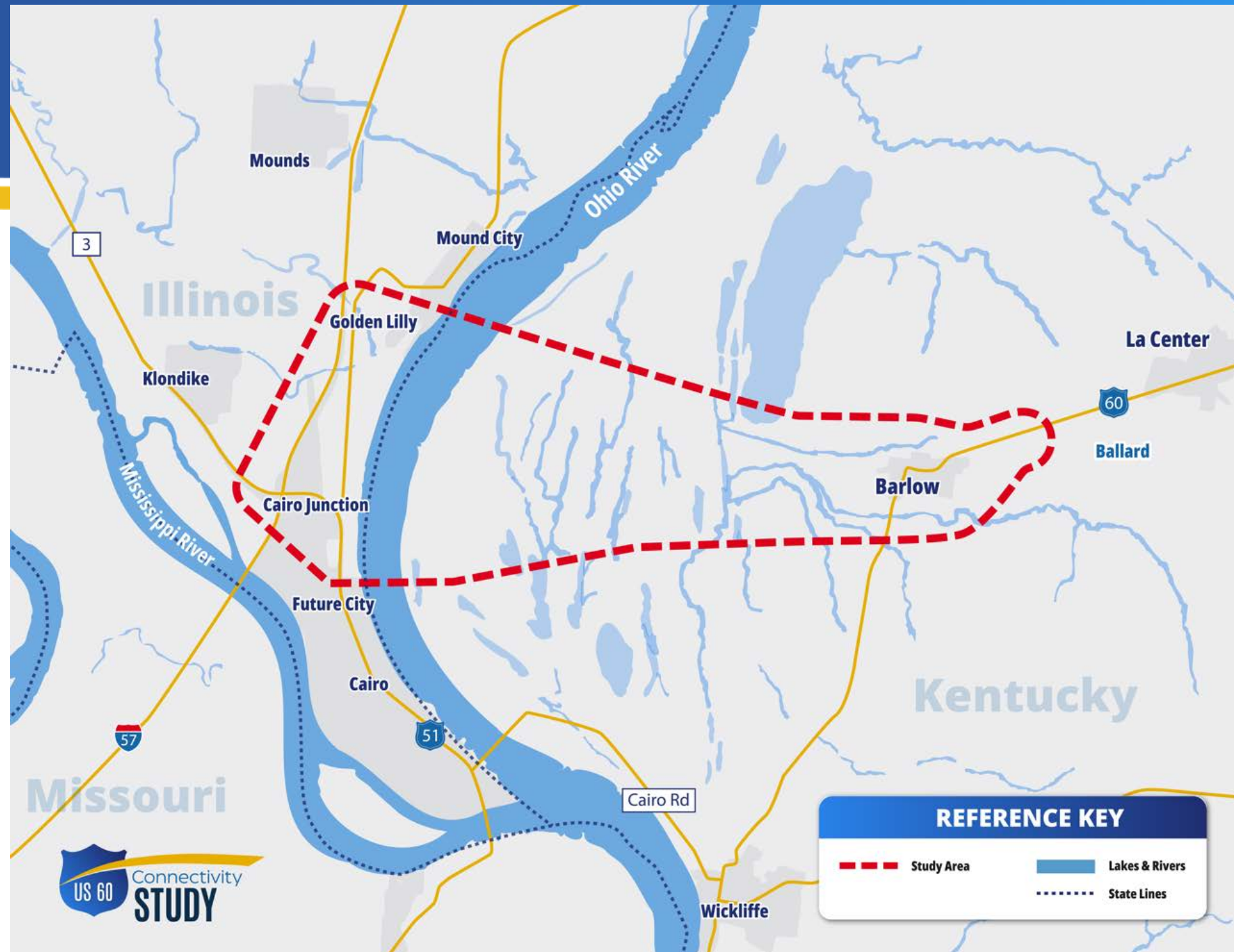


What are we studying?

- ❖ **The US 60 Connectivity Study will evaluate a possible alternative to the US 51 Bridge Replacement project.**
- ❖ **KYTC intends to advance this project OR the US 51 Bridge Replacement project to construction.**
- ❖ **This study is examining the feasibility, costs, and impacts of extending US 60 over the Ohio River.**
- ❖ **Provide KYTC with all information needed to determine the best overall long-term benefit for the Commonwealth.**

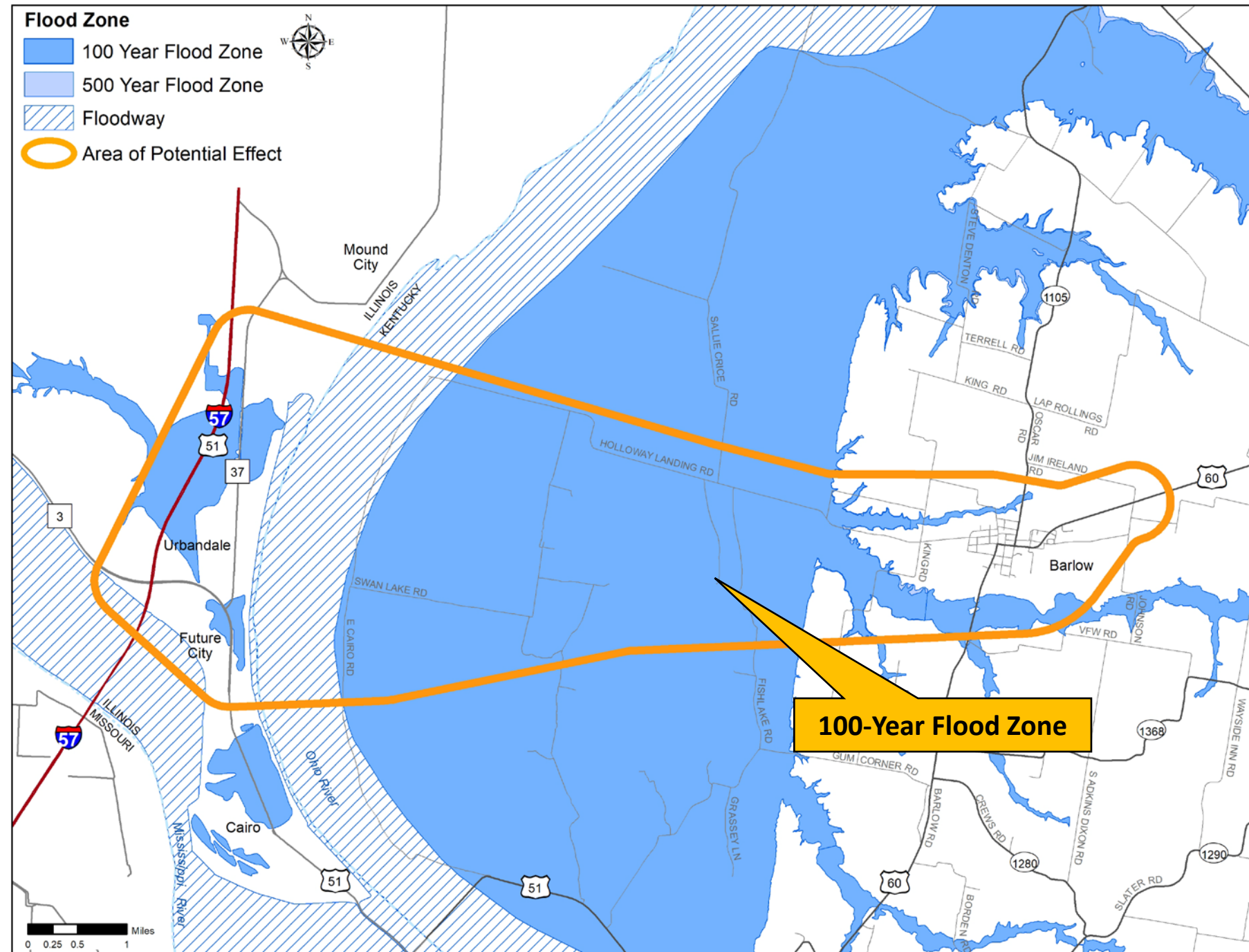
Study Area

- 16,000 Acres
- Ballard County, KY and Alexander County, IL



Flood Zone

- ❖ Any concepts that may move into design would require detailed hydraulic analysis and coordination with FEMA.
- ❖ Avoiding impacts to the Floodway is critical
- ❖ Minimizing/mitigating any impacts to the 100-Year Floodplain would be crucial.








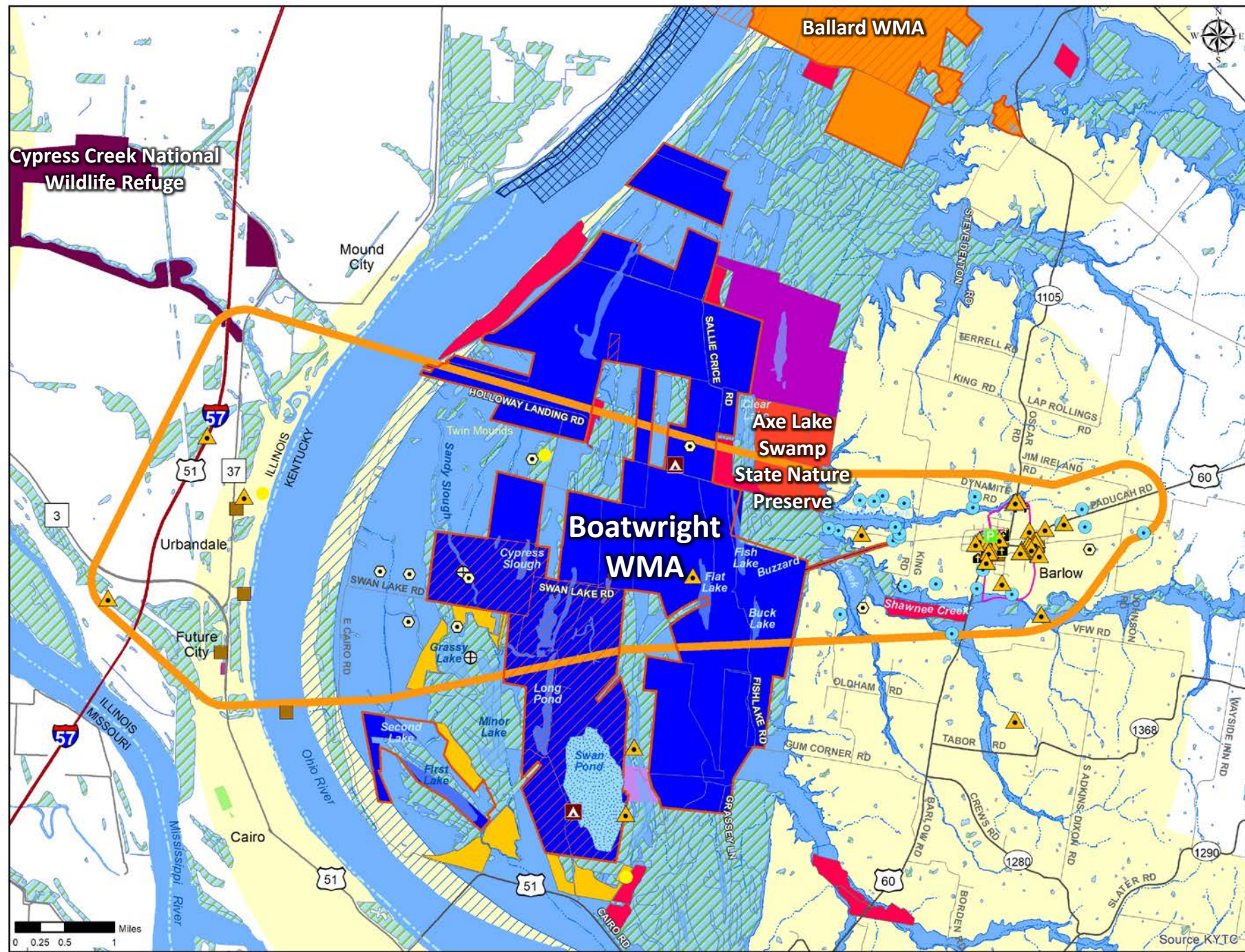
Drone Aerial Imagery of Study Area



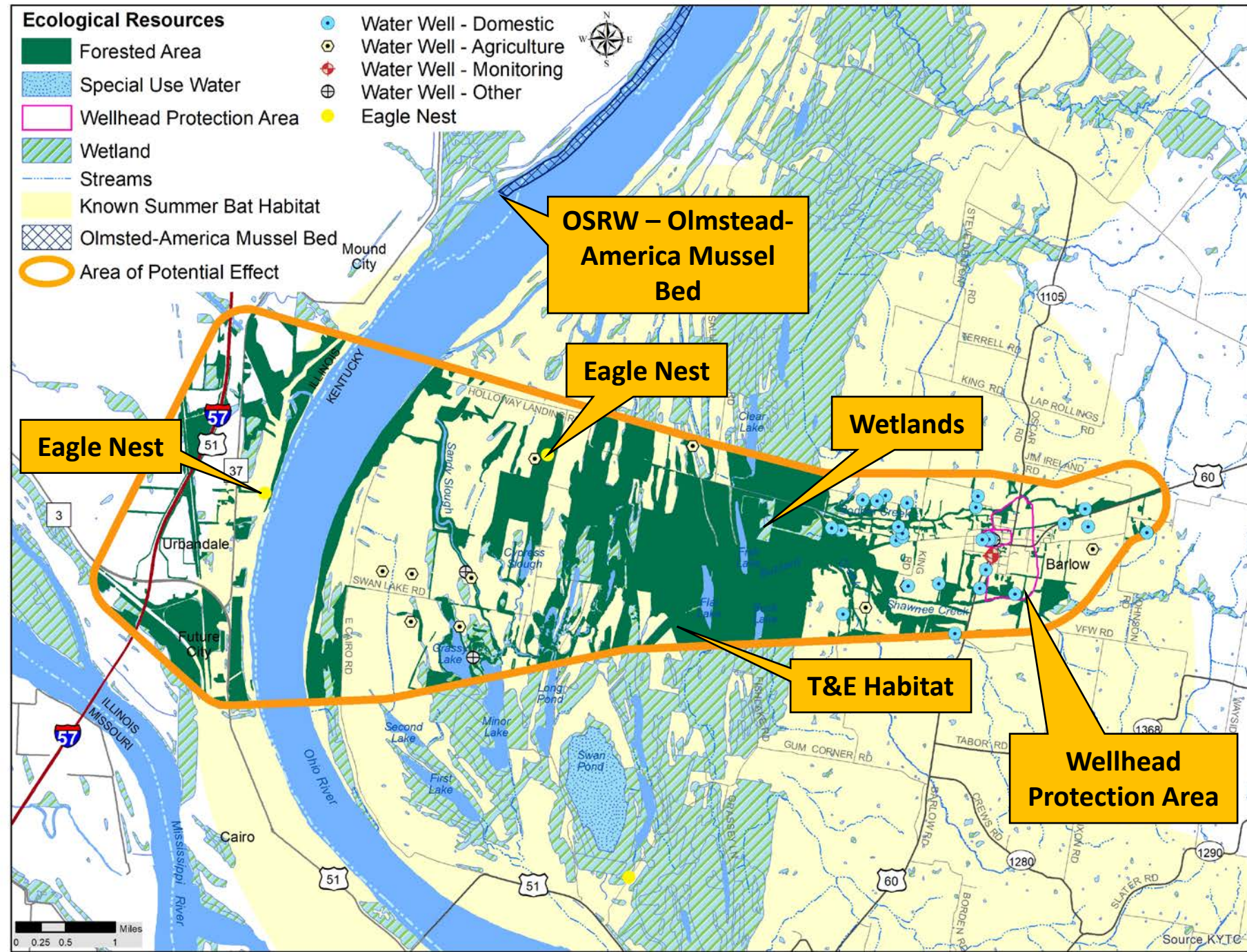
Environmental Resources Review

Environmental Resources

-  Church
-  Cemetery
-  Campground
-  Water Well - Domestic
-  Water Well - Agriculture
-  Water Well - Monitoring
-  Water Well - Other
-  Eagle Nest
-  NRHP Eligible
-  Potential Hazmat
-  Barlow City Park
-  Special Use Water
-  Wellhead Protection Area
-  Public Hunting Area
-  Public Hunting Areas Restricted Access
-  Floodway
-  100 Year Flood Zone
-  Wetland Streams
-  Olmsted-America Mussel Bed
-  Known Summer Bat Habitat
-  Axe Lake Hunting Club
-  Axe Lake Swamp State Nature Preserve
-  Ballard Wildlife Management Area
-  Boatwright Wildlife Management Area
-  Emergency Watershed Protection Program - Floodplain Easement
-  Private Conservation Easement
-  Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
-  Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge
-  St Marys Park
-  Miscellaneous Property
-  Area of Potential Effect

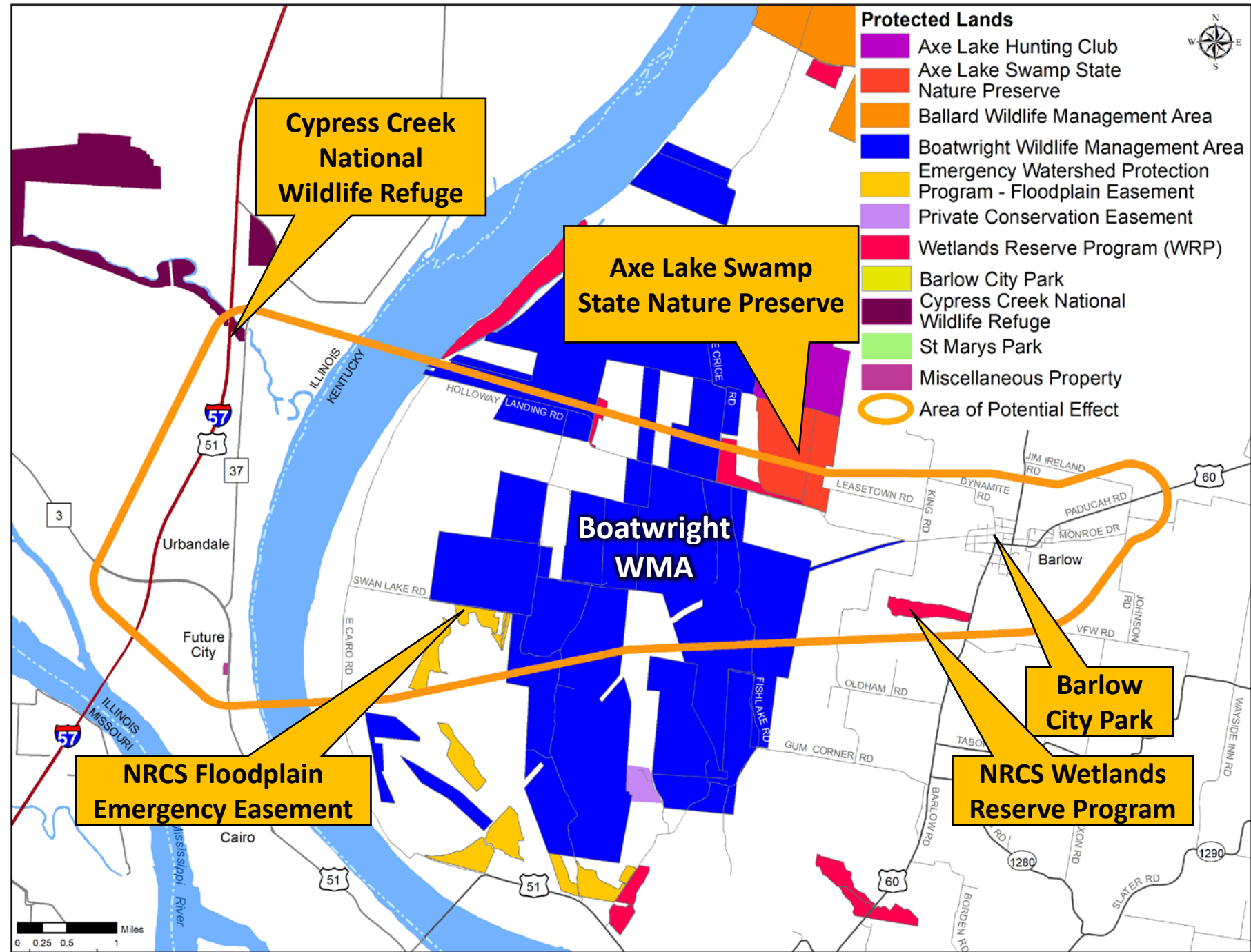


- ❖ **Outstanding State Resource**
Water – Ohio River
- ❖ **Streams**
- ❖ **Wetlands**
- ❖ **100-Year Flood zone**
- ❖ **Boatwright—Wildlife**
Management Area
- ❖ **Axe Lake Swamp State Nature**
Preserve
- ❖ **Cypress Creek National Wildlife**
Refuge
- ❖ **Emergency Watershed Protection**
Program – Floodplain Easements
- ❖ **Wetlands Reserves Program**
- ❖ **Potential T&E Habitat**
- ❖ **Forested Lands**
- ❖ **Agricultural Land**



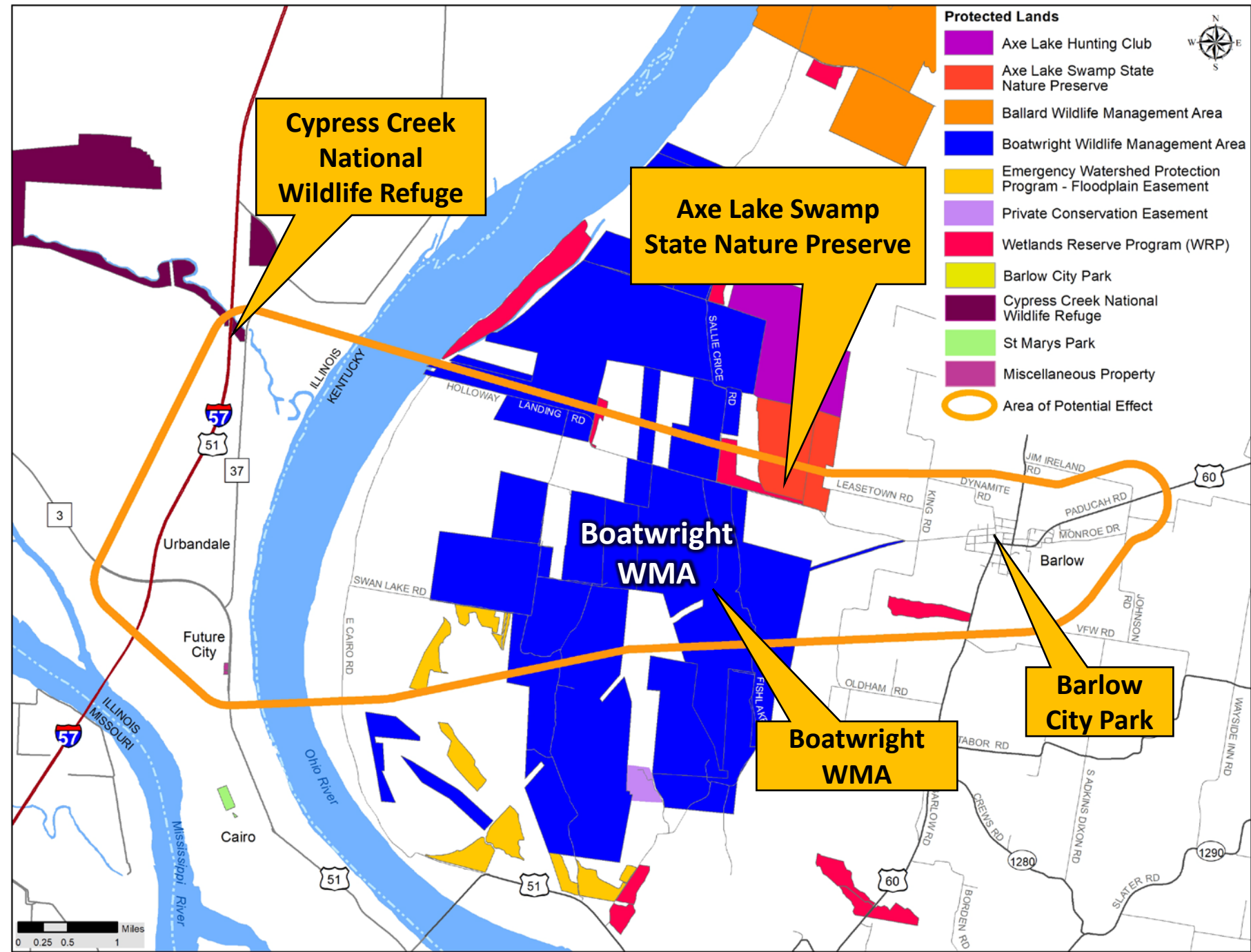
Protected Lands

- ❖ National Wildlife Refuge
- ❖ State Nature Preserve
- ❖ Wildlife Management Area
- ❖ NRCS Conservation Easements
 - ❖ Floodplain Emergency Watershed Protection Program
 - ❖ Wetland Reserve Program
 - ❖ Barlow City Park



Section 4(f) Properties

- ❖ **Must be publicly owned, including:**
 - ❖ Fee simple
 - ❖ Permanent Easement
 - ❖ Lease Agreement
- ❖ **Must be opened to the public**
 - ❖ During normal hours of operation.
 - ❖ A refuge does not have to provide unrestricted access to the public
- ❖ **Major purpose must be for park, recreation, or refuge activities.**
- ❖ **Must be significant as a park, recreation area, or refuge.**

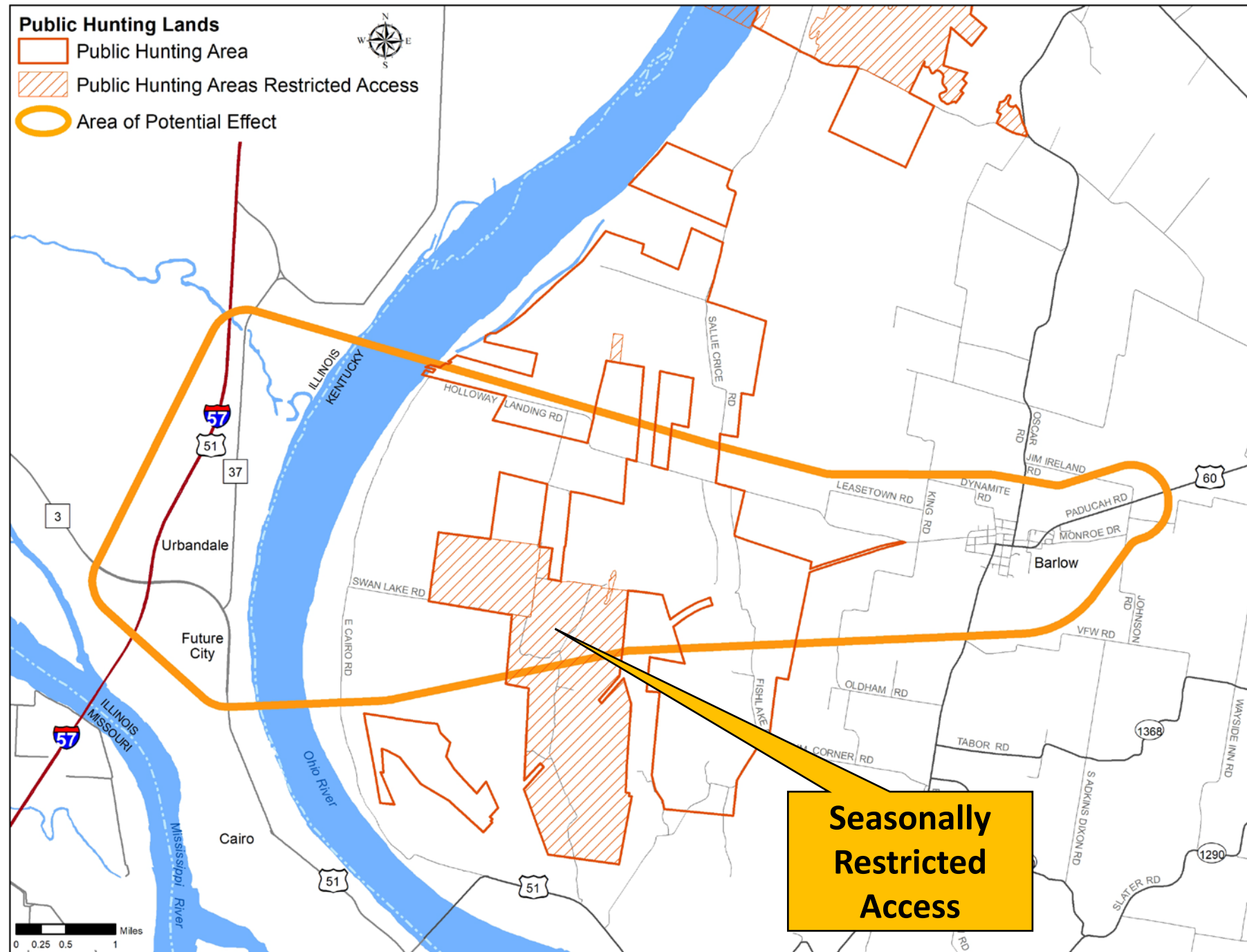


Hunting Lands

❖ Per **KRS 150.0241(6)**, Kentucky has a **“No Net Loss”** policy which **“requires that states maintain at least the same level of available public hunting land that currently exists.”**

❖ **Expediently find replacement acreage.**

❖ **Replacement lands shall, to the greatest extent possible be located within the same commission district and consistent with the hunting discipline that the commission allowed on the closed land.**



Wildlife Management Area

Boatwright WMA, KY

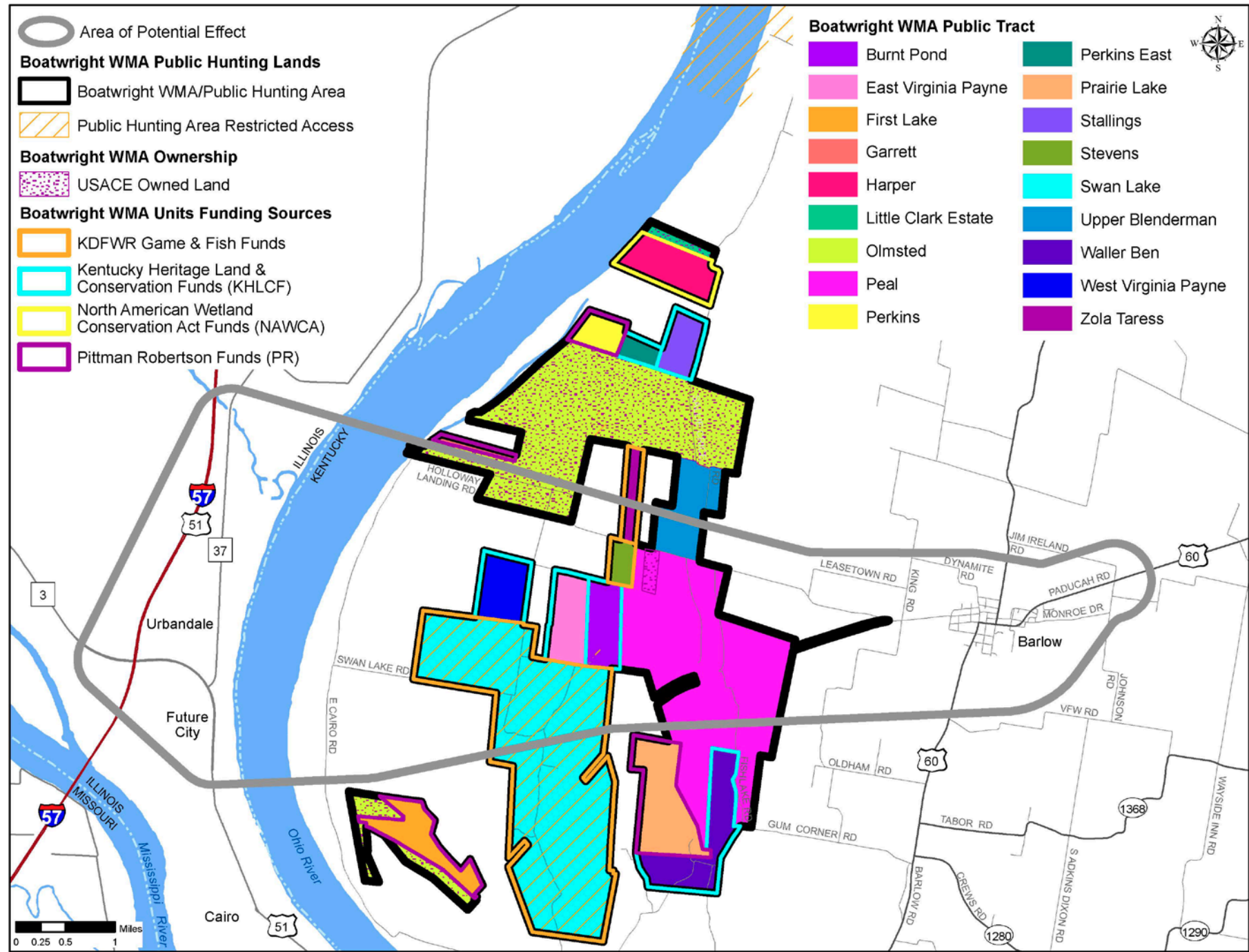
- ❖ Publicly owned by KDFWR and USACE
- ❖ Includes 8,847 acres.
 - ❖ 1,432 acres (in 7 tracts) were purchased with KHLCF.
 - ❖ Protected in perpetuity.
- ❖ Open to the public for fishing, boating, hunting, with seasonal restrictions to serve as refuge.



Image Source: Study Team Field Visit

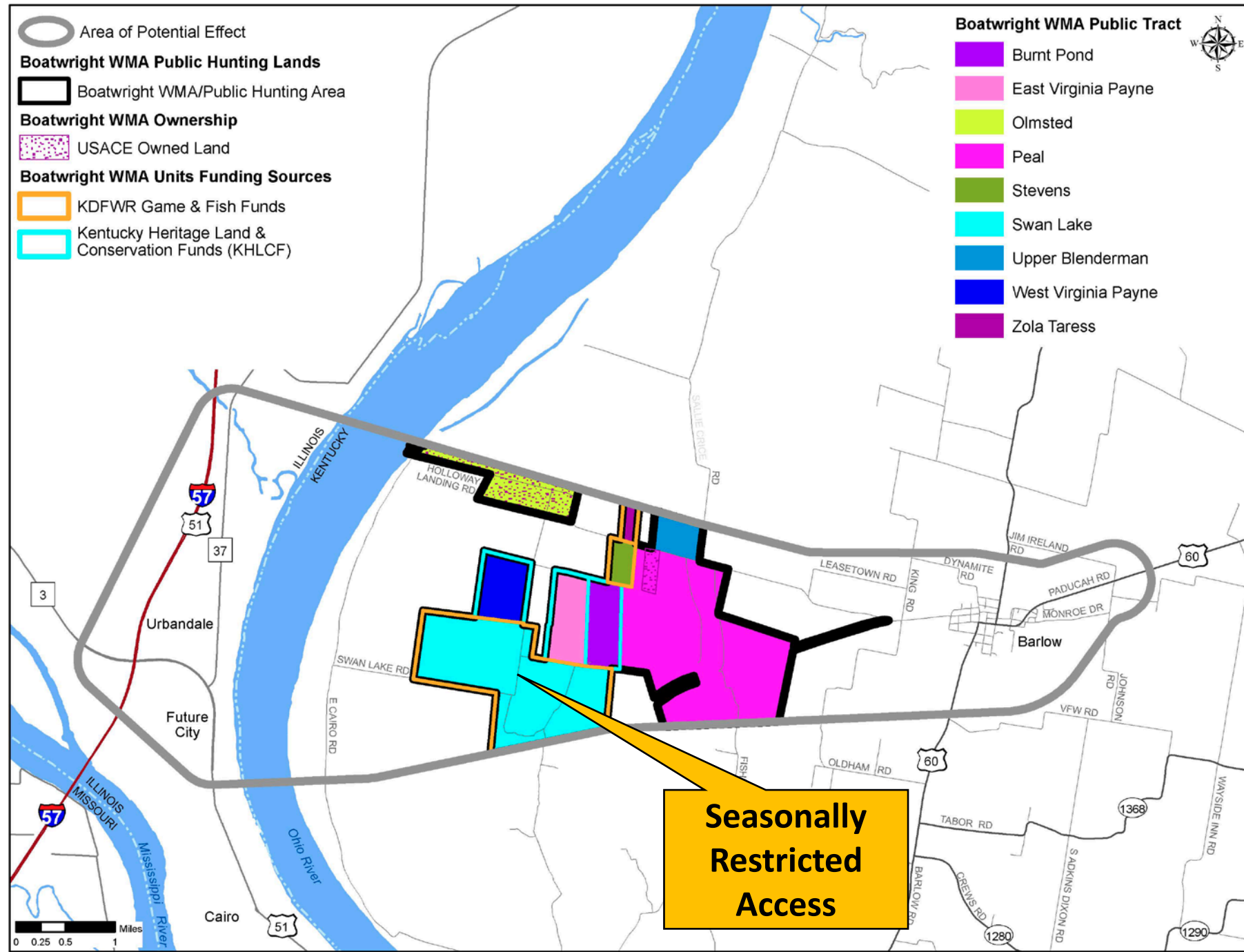
WMA Protections

- ❖ Section 4(f)
- ❖ Public Hunting Lands
- ❖ USACE-owned Lanes
- ❖ Funding Sources
 - ❖ Kentucky Heritage Land & Conservation Funds (KHLCF)
 - ❖ North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA)
 - ❖ Pittman Robertson (PR)
 - ❖ KDFWR Game & Fish Fund



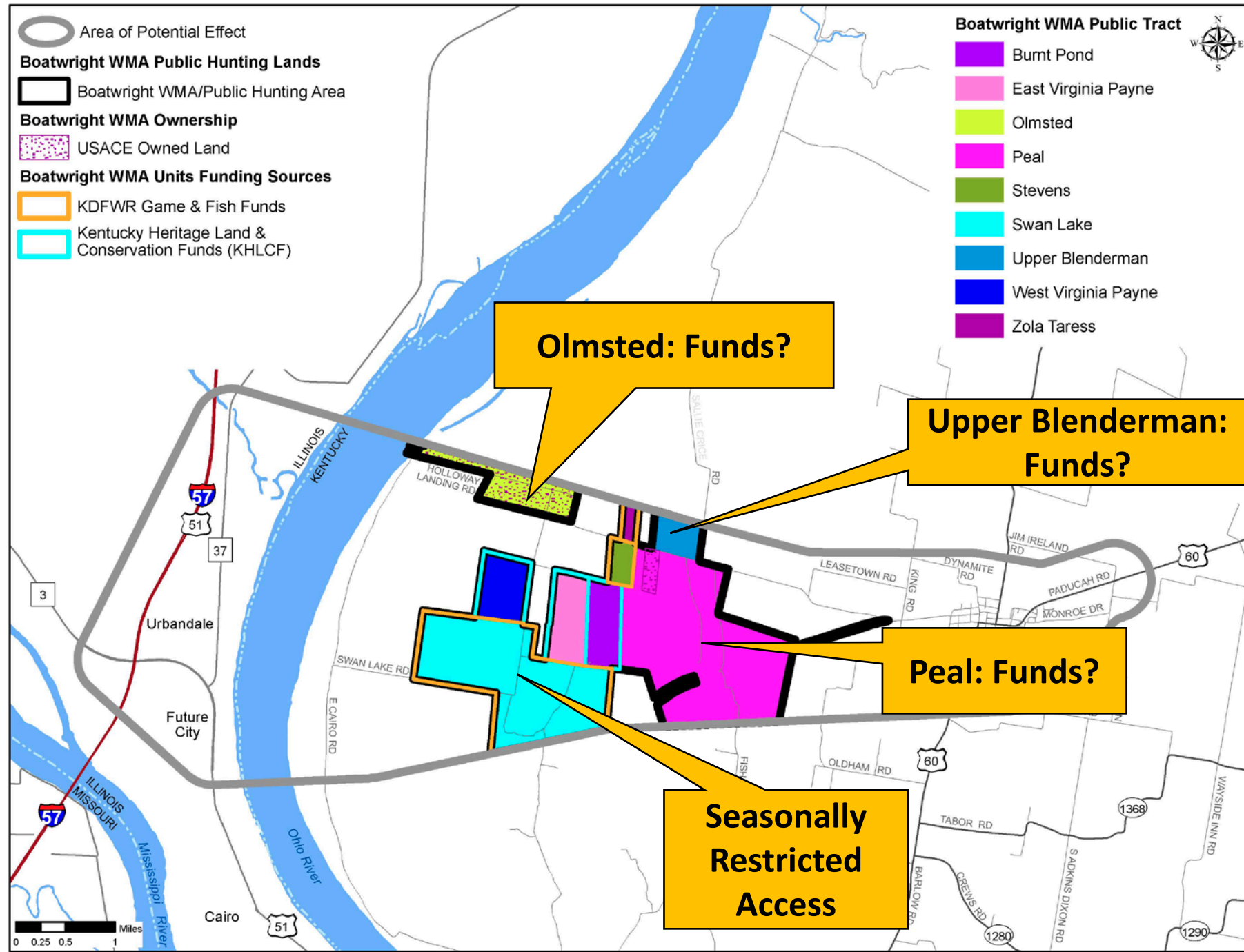
WMA Protections in Study Area

- ❖ Section 4(f)
- ❖ Public Hunting Lands
- ❖ USACE-owned Lanes
- ❖ Funding Sources
 - ❖ Kentucky Heritage Land & Conservation Funds (KHLCF)
 - ❖ KDFWR Game & Fish Fund



WMA Protections in Study Area

- ❖ Section 4(f)
- ❖ Public Hunting Lands
- ❖ USACE-owned Lanes
- ❖ Funding Sources
 - ❖ Kentucky Heritage Land & Conservation Funds (KHLCF)
 - ❖ KDFWR Game & Fish Fund



WMA Tract	Owner	Fund	Public Hunting	Deed Restriction or Easement or Other Protections?
Olmsted	USACE ¹		Yes	
Zola Taress	KDFWR	KDFWR Game & Fish Fund	Yes	
Upper Blenderman	KDFWR		Yes	
Peal	KDFWR, USACE ¹		Yes	
Burnt Pond	KDFWR	KHLCF	Yes	Perpetuity ²
East Virginia Payne	KDFWR	KHLCF	Yes	Perpetuity ²
Swan Lake	KDFWR	KDFWR Game & Fish Fund	Seasonally Restricted from Oct. 15-Mar.15 ³	
West Virginia Payne	KDFWR	KHLCF	Yes	Perpetuity ²
Stevens	KDFWR	KDFWR Game & Fish Fund	Yes	

¹Requires Section 408 Permit. ²Per KRS 146.570 protected in perpetuity. ³301 KAR 4:050 established use restrictions for this tract, noting it shall be closed to all public access from October 15 through March 15 to serve as waterfowl refuge.

We need your help

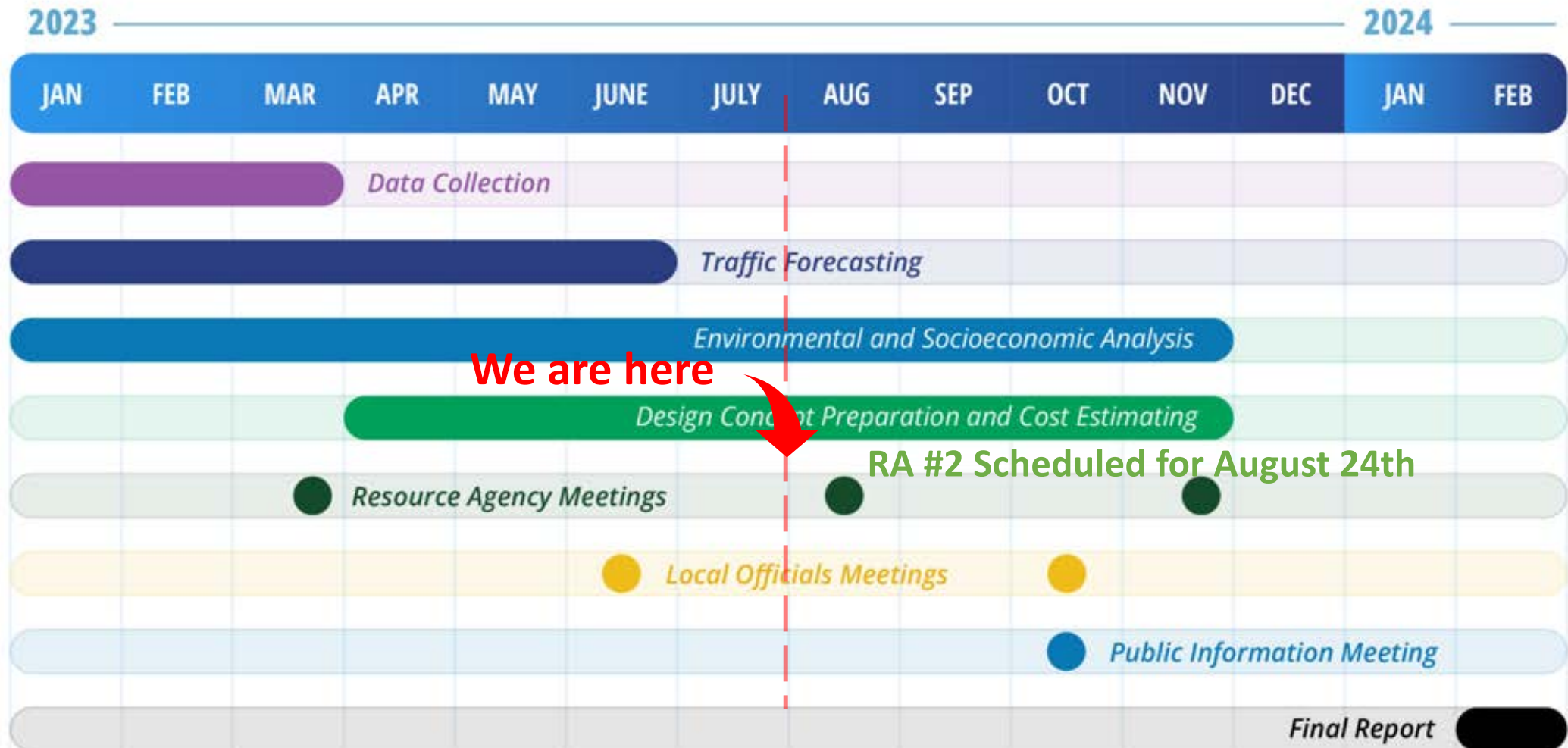
We need your help understanding Boatwright-WMA Specifics:

- Learn more on protections.
- Any protections not already identified.
- Any other funds / funding stipulations we haven't identified.
- Necessary environmental requirements.



Next Steps

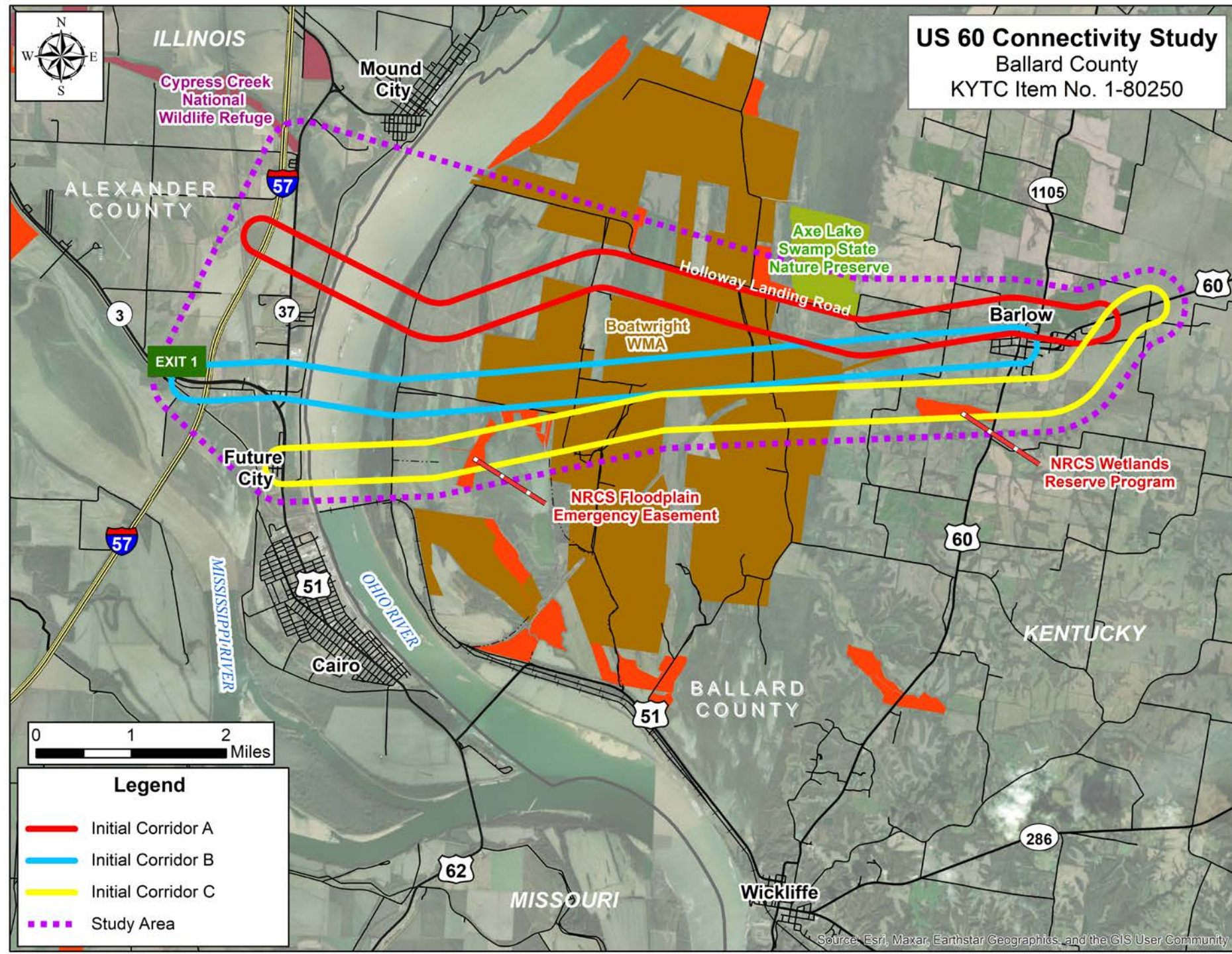
Study Schedule



**Note: tentative study schedule—dates are subject to change*

Initial Corridors (Revised)

- ❖ National Wildlife Refuge
- ❖ State Nature Preserve
- ❖ Wildlife Management Area
- ❖ NRCS Conservation Easements
 - ❖ Floodplain Emergency Watershed Protection Program
 - ❖ Wetland Reserve Program
- ❖ Barlow City Park



RA Coordination Points

RA Coordination Meeting #1

- ❖ Meeting #1: Existing Conditions Review (*occurred March 30, 2023*)

RA Coordination Meeting #2

- ❖ Meeting #2: Initial Corridor Review (*August 24, 2023*)
 - ❖ Draft Purpose and Need Statement
 - ❖ Representative, Initial Concept Corridors

RA Coordination Meeting #3

- ❖ Meeting #3: Refined Corridor Review (*anticipated late Fall 2023*)

Tell us What You Know

 US60ConnectivityStudy.com

 info@US60ConnectivityStudy.com

 KYTC District 1: (270) 898-2431



Meeting Minutes

Project: US 60 Connectivity Study
Ballard County, KY
Item#: 1-80250.00

Purpose: Resource Agency Coordination Meeting #2
Initial Corridor Concepts Review

Place: In-person – Ballard County Co-op Extension Office
110 Broadway, LaCenter, KY 42056
Virtual – Zoom

Date/Time: August 24, 2023 at 1:30 PM CDT

Prepared by: Qk4

Participants:	Name	Organization	Location
	Angela Blank	C2 Strategic Communications	Zoom
	Parry Barrows	C2 Strategic Communications	In-person
	Shayla Lohman	C2 Strategic Communications	Zoom
	Darien Siddall	FHWA – Illinois Division	Zoom
	Irene Pantoja	FHWA – Illinois Division	Zoom
	John Ballantyne	FHWA – Kentucky Division	Zoom
	Mour Diop	FHWA – Kentucky Division	Zoom
	Chris Pressnall	Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Ej	Zoom
	Rita Baker	Illinois Department of Natural Resources - Historic	Zoom
	Bill Milner	Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Water	Zoom
	Jesse Tinch	Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Water	Zoom
	Jeff Kruchten	Illinois Historic Preservation Division	Zoom
	Derek Beard	KDFWR	Zoom
	John Zimmer	KDFWR	In-person
	Wes McFaddin	KDFWR	In-person
	Andrea Fredenburg	Kentucky Division of Water	Zoom
	Wesley Harrod	Kentucky Energy and Environment-Water Resources	Zoom
	RaShae Jennings	Kentucky Heritage Council	Zoom
	Stephanie Dooley	Kentucky Heritage Council	Zoom
	Jason Siwula	KYTC CO	Zoom
	Karl Sawyer	KYTC CO Design	Zoom



US 60 Connectivity Study (KYTC Item No. 1-80250)
Resource Agency Coordination Meeting No. 2
Initial Corridor Concepts Review
August 24, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Name	Organization	Location
Steve De Witte	KYTC CO Planning	Zoom
Catherine Davis	KYTC CO Planning	Zoom
Dave Heil	KYTC CO Planning	Zoom
Brian Mabelitini	KYTC DEA	Zoom
Connor Ouellette	KYTC DEA	Zoom
Craig Craig	KYTC DEA	Zoom
Dan Davis	KYTC DEA	Zoom
Stephanie Lechert	KYTC DEA	Zoom
Kyle Poat	KYTC D1	Zoom
Austin Hart	KYTC D1	In-person
Patsy Rawlins	KYTC D1	In-person
Nick Belen	KYTC	Zoom
Lindsay Hoskins	Qk4	In-person
Tom Springer	Qk4	Zoom
Brian Aldridge	Stantec	Zoom
Ellen Mullins	Stantec	In-person
Len Harper	Stantec	In-person
Taylor Perkins	Stantec	Zoom
Tom Miller	UK Extension Office	In-person
Ben Pitcock	USACE – Memphis Regulatory	Zoom
Kristina Mitchell	USACE – Memphis Environmental Compliance	Zoom
Mitch Elcan	USACE – Memphis Regulatory	Zoom
Alan Edmonson	USACE – St. Louis Regulatory	Zoom
John Boeckmann	USACE – St. Louis Regulatory	Zoom
Tyson Zobrist	USACE – St. Louis Regulatory	Zoom
Kenneth Dean	USEPA – Region 4/Atlanta	Zoom
Katherine Terry	USDA – NRCS	Zoom
Brandon Clark	USDA – NRCS	Zoom
Phil DeGarmo	USFWS – Kentucky	Zoom
Matt Mangan	USFWS – Illinois-Iowa	Zoom
Laura Muzal	USFWS	Zoom
Mark Smith	Unknown	Zoom

The second Resource Agency Coordination (RAC) meeting was held on Thursday, August 24th to review environmental resources within the initial concept corridors (**Figure 1**). **The primary objective of the meeting was to verify the environmental red flags and understand the benefits and impacts of potential corridors.**

The hybrid meeting was invite-only and had 38 people attend (9 in-person, 29 online). Of the in-person attendees, three were Resource Agency representatives. The meeting agenda, presentation, questionnaire, and study website were all shared with invitees.

The study team provided a brief study status update, initial concept corridors, project goals, initial corridor environmental impacts, and requested feedback.

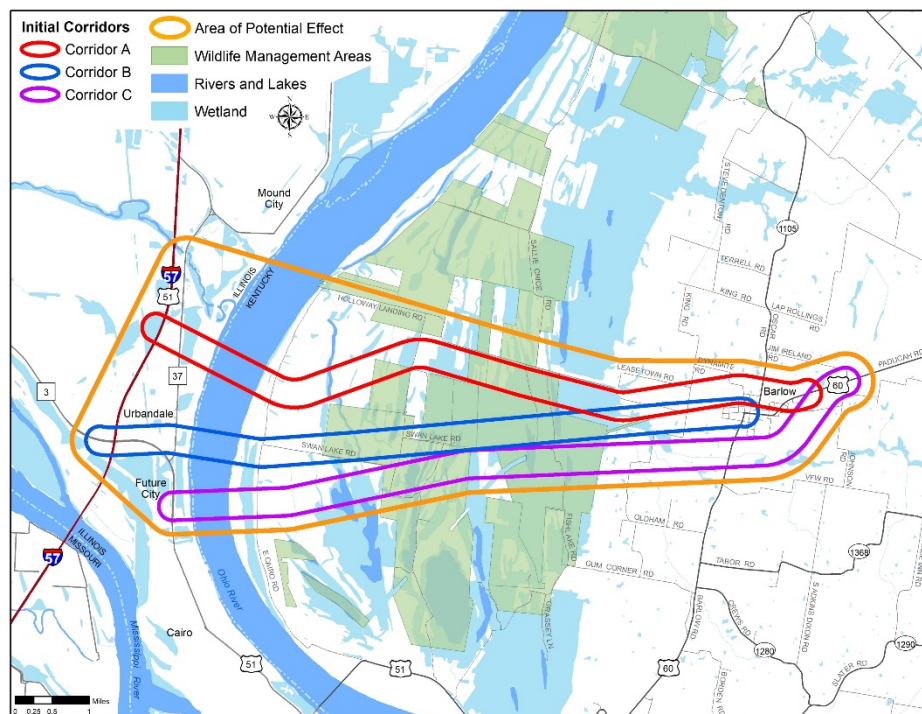


Figure 1. Study Area and Initial Corridors

Study Status Update



This study is evaluating a possible alternative to the US 51 Bridge Replacement Project. It will thoroughly explore relocating the Ohio River crossing to this study area and document the pros and cons.

Wide (2,000-foot) initial corridors have been identified to serve as a screening tool before refining corridors to better estimate potential impacts. The study is near its mid-point, with an anticipated completion date in early 2024. Local Officials and Stakeholders provided feedback at a meeting in June. Eleven surveys were returned. Eight responses were in opposition to a potential new Ohio River crossing in this study area and three responses were supportive. A second round of Local Officials / Stakeholder Meetings are scheduled later this year along with a Public Information Meeting and a final Resource Agency Meeting.

Initial Corridors

Initial corridors were developed considering the initial environmental overview, striving to avoid as many environmental features as possible. These 2,000-ft wide corridors focus in on areas where a roadway may be constructed. However, these are not indicative of right-of-way limits. The locations will be further screened based on impacts and constructability and narrowed down to two alternatives in which cost estimates and environmental impacts will be identified.

Project Goals

Study Goals & Objectives inform future projects Purpose and Need statements, which would define why the expenditure of public funds is necessary and worthwhile. It would serve to provide the merits of the project and allow decision-makers to weigh the proposed action against the potential impacts, and to help screen options at future stages. Project goals include:

- Enhance Regional Mobility
- Provide Economic Development Opportunities
- Remain Sensitive to Environmental Resources

Resource Agencies were asked to share their opinions on the project goals and objectives in the questionnaire.

Environmental Resources

Environmental resources present within the initial corridors were reviewed in detail (see attached slides in **Appendix A**), focusing on:

- Quantity of resources within each corridor
- Seasonal restrictions (surveys, refuge, hunting, construction)
- Property protections

Feedback

Resource Agencies were asked to share their opinions on the project goals and initial corridors in the questionnaire that was provided with the invitation. No surveys were returned.

Comments and questions received during the meeting included the following:

- **How will this study impact the other US 60 projects that have yet to occur in Ballard County?**
 - *Those projects will not be affected by this study.*
- **Trucks currently using the US 62 Mississippi River Bridge will be diverted through Cairo when it is closed.**
 - *The future of the US 62 bridge is uncertain. That will be an IDOT/MODOT decision. It was recently closed for maintenance with additional closures expected for future maintenance.*
- **The study area is frequently flooded which will impact how it can get built.**
 - *Detailed hydraulic analysis would be required to minimize impacts in the floodplain. Much of the approach roadway would likely be on structure to avoid impacts in the floodplain, which would increase the costs.*

After the meeting, the following information was shared:

- **Additional discussion with KDFWR staff present noted:**
 - There are management areas being taken within the WMA to support and promote federally- and state-listed species, as well as species of concern and those listed in the Kentucky State Wildlife Action Plan. There is no other ecosystem like this across the state.
 - Pollinator habitat areas are also present within the Boatwright WMA.

- Other management items include overwintering habitat for waterfowl, monitoring insect populations, and monitoring water quality. Many projects within the Boatwright WMA have had a primary focus on waterfowl and migratory birds. Some of the species within the WMA are only found in this western region of the state.
- Nesting structures have been installed as mitigation and as propagation of species like Prothonotary warblers and wood ducks.
- Alligator gar have been stocked in some WMA lakes.
- Flat Lake is one of the more popularly used lakes/habitat.
- About 40% of the nation's rainfall flows through the confluence.
- An update to the Kentucky State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) is expected soon.
- Within the Boatwright WMA, there are about 50 species of greatest needs; Ballard County has up to 150 species of greatest needs.
- Although located somewhere off-site of the WMA, a known bat hibernaculum is located in the general vicinity of the Boatwright WMA. Follow-up with USFWS would be needed regarding specific location information.
- There may be more USACE-owned properties than identified on the exhibit (1st/2nd Lakes?).
- There are also ingress/egress easement to access the tracts.
- Regarding the economic benefits the WMA provides, there are lots of waterfowl hunters—people apply to the permit lottery system from all over the state.
 - A new road would not provide any better access to these hunting areas – there would be no benefit or interest, and it may make them hunt less.
 - There are similar hunting opportunities in the Ballard WMA.
 - There is a long-term project that would focus more on supporting the hunting in this area.
- General goal to improve hunting opportunities at Boatwright WMA to be similar in success as Ballard WMA. Ballard WMA has maximized its area's capacity, and Boatwright provides a lot of opportunity for expansion and habitat improvements.
 - A wetland review is anticipated in the next year or two where state agencies and their partners will establish a management plan and long-term vision for the WMA. This will enable them to competitively seek federal or grant funding.
 - There are several planned projects, including another NAWCA grant project.

- **Written comment from KDFWR received on October 7, 2023 noted:**

This project would have significant adverse impacts to fish and wildlife, public property, and the sportsmen and women of Kentucky. We also do not feel that any mitigation could compensate for such losses. Specific concerns include:

- *Approximately 50 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) have been reported from Boatwright WMA. Many of them utilize the wetland complexes on the property as habitat.*
- *An additional 130+ SGCN have been reported from Ballard County.*
- *Much of Kentucky's wetlands (especially inundated wetland floodplains) have been lost to development, making conservation of this habitat type a priority for Kentucky's wildlife.*
- *New road development is typically associated with increased spread of invasive plant species, alteration of hydrological flows, introduction of chemicals (mainly heavy metals and salts) that negatively impact native plant and herpetofauna communities, fragmentation of habitat, limited plant and animal dispersal, and negative effects to plant photosynthesis and growth from increased vehicle emissions. These effects range far beyond the road footprint, often extending 10 times beyond the right-of-way width into the adjacent habitats.*
- *Acquisition of lands to mitigate the take of high quality SGCN habitat is problematic for four reasons:*
 - 1.) There is a dearth of existing high-quality habitat available for acquisition.*
 - 2.) Acquiring existing high-quality habitat does not mitigate for the net loss of available wetland for SGCN populations.*
 - 3.) Acquiring noncontiguous existing high-quality habitat does not mitigate for habitat fragmentation and impacts to species dispersal associated with the taking of a portion of the WMA.*
 - 4.) Acquiring existing habitat at a 1:1 ratio does not mitigate for indirect and cumulative impacts to SGCN that extend outside of the Right-of-Way.*
- *The impacts to this potential roadway project effects a near unreplaceable wetland habitat type. This area contains cypress-tupelo wetlands, one of the most unique wetland complexes in the state. This complex is found nowhere else in Kentucky and it is doubtful it could be created elsewhere.*
- *Waterfowl migration - Many waterfowl species migrate down the Mississippi River to its confluence with the Ohio River and then travel up the Ohio River to winter in Kentucky. During the peak of migration, almost one-half million of these birds have been documented using this area. The placement of an interstate highway bridge in their path will greatly impact the wintering dynamics and will result in many waterfowl bypassing Kentucky, as they will be forced further south. The result*

of this will be to further reduce their body condition, thus making them more susceptible to predation and infections. If they cannot find suitable wintering habitat, they will return north in poor condition, which will result in poor reproductive success. The ultimate impact will be reduced waterfowl populations. There is no way to offset such an impact.

- Recreational opportunities. The construction of an interstate highway bridge would physically eliminate habitat and their associated recreational opportunities. The loss of waterfowl populations would eliminate recreational opportunities not only in the immediate area but also throughout the Jackson Purchase, as waterfowl would be directed away from the region. Since waterfowl hunting is a multi-million-dollar industry in this region, this will be a significant and unmitigable impact to the local economy.

- **The USACE – Louisville District, Regulatory Division noted:**

- A project should minimize impacts to aquatic resources, endangered species, and historic properties as much as possible.
- The KDFWR In-Lieu Fee Program may have planned projects near the WMA and/or other reserves in the area that could be affected by a proposed project such as this that will require a lot of stream mitigation.

End of Minutes



Resource Agency Coordination

Meeting #2 | Initial Corridors / KYTC Item No. 1-80250 / August 24th, 2023

Agenda

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Study Status Update
- 3) Initial Corridors
- 4) Project Goals
- 5) Initial Corridor Impacts
- 6) Next Steps
- 7) RA Input

Meeting Objective

Request for feedback after presentation.

We need your help:

- **Verifying environmental red flags within the initial concept corridors**
- **Understanding benefits and impacts of potential corridors**
- **Identifying any avoidance, minimization, or mitigation requirements**



Introductions

Study Team



C2 STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATIONS

TEAM 
KENTUCKY®

TRANSPORTATION
CABINET



Stantec



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



Presenters



Kyle Poat
KYTC Project Manager



Len Harper
Stantec Project Manager



Lindsay Hoskins
Qk4 Environmental Project Manager



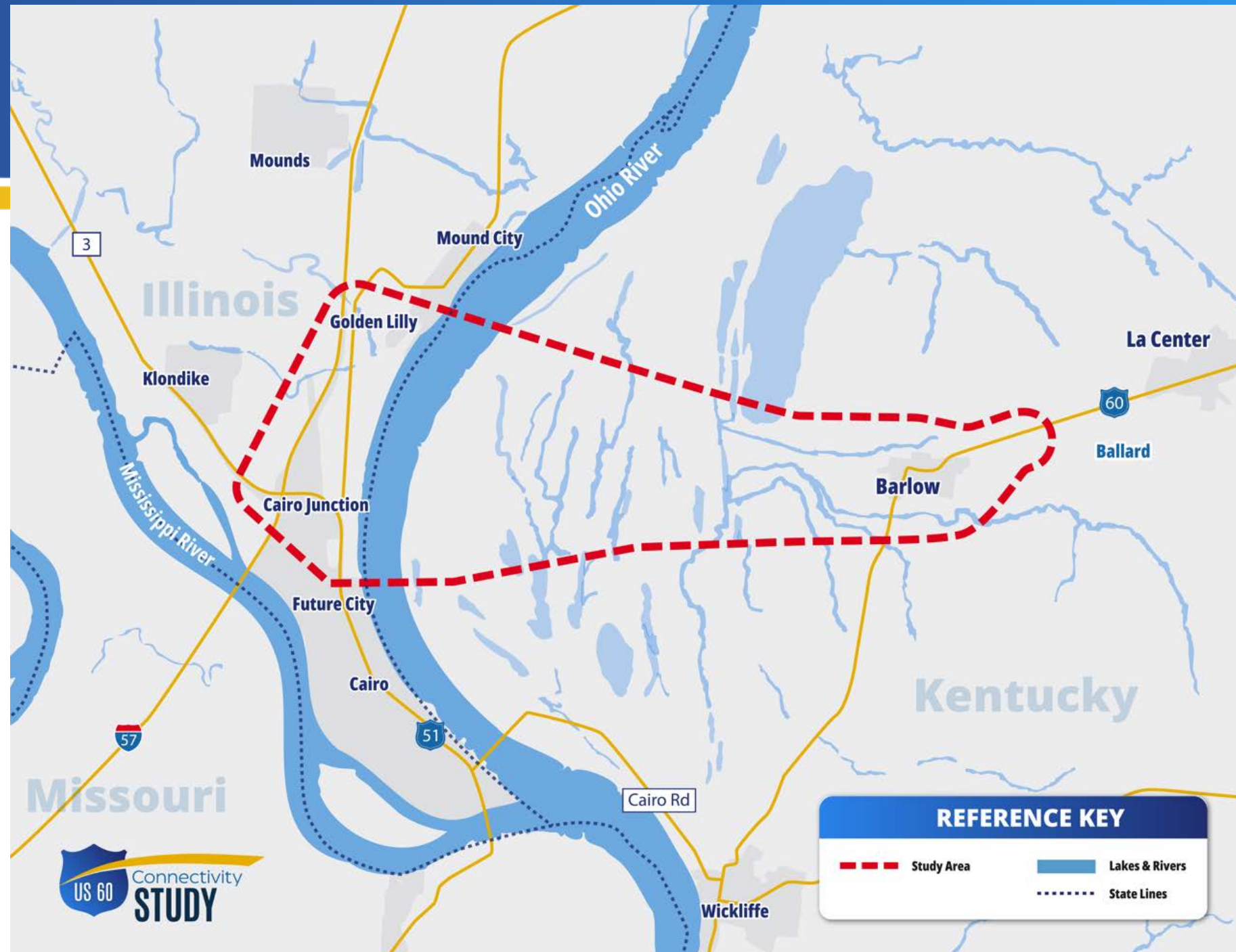
Study Status Update

What are we studying?

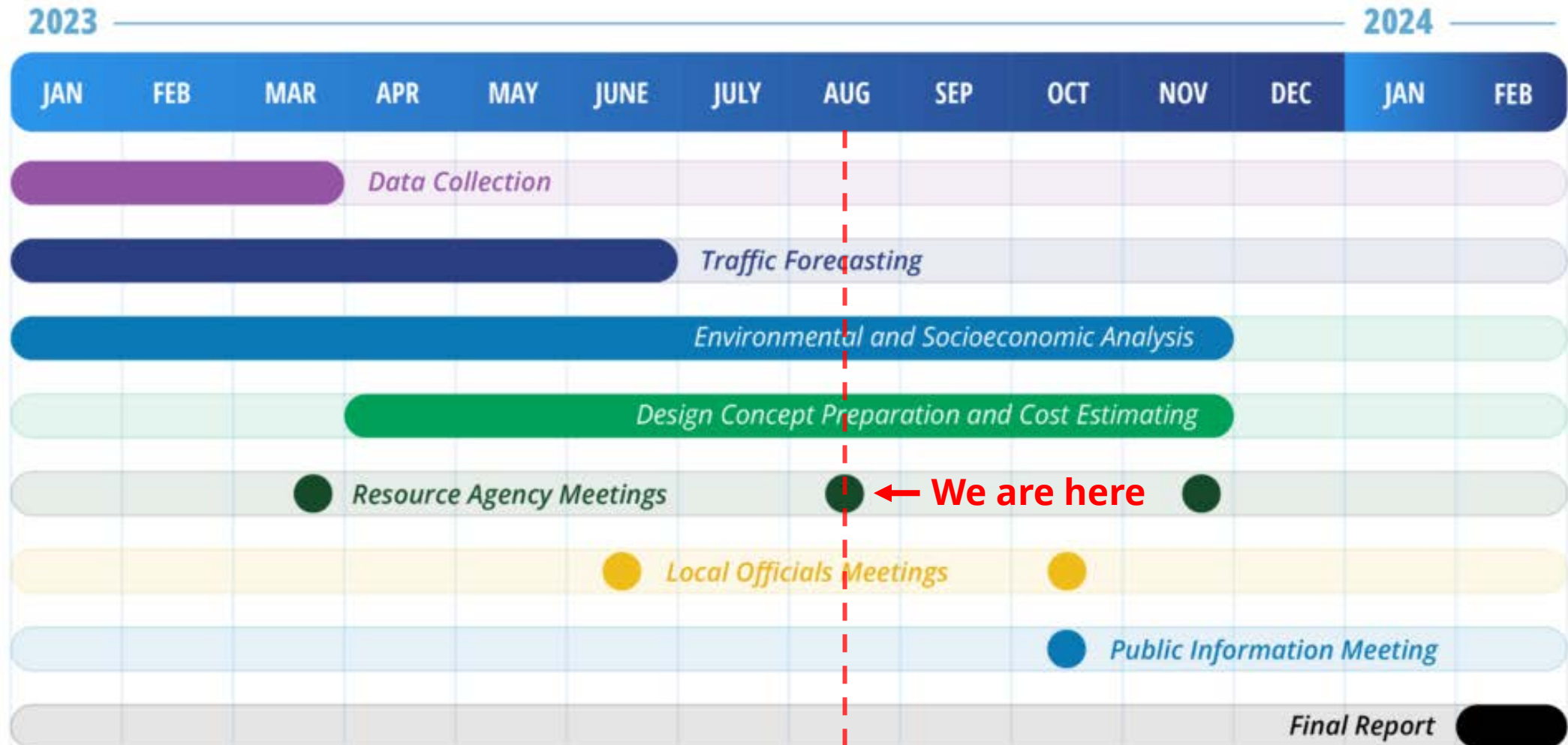
- ❖ The US 60 Connectivity Study will evaluate a possible alternative to the US 51 Bridge Replacement project.
- ❖ The alternative is a new Ohio River crossing connecting US 60 in Ballard County, Kentucky and US 51 / I-57 in Alexander County, Illinois
- ❖ KYTC intends to advance this project OR the US 51 Bridge Replacement project to construction.
- ❖ This study is examining the feasibility, costs, and impacts of extending US 60 over the Ohio River

Study Area

- 16,000 Acres
- Ballard County, KY and Alexander County, IL



Study Schedule



***Note: tentative study schedule—dates are subject to change**

Study Status



**Data
Collection**



**Traffic
Forecasting**



**Environmental
&
Socioeconomic
Research**



**RAC Meeting #1:
Existing
Conditions /
Environmental
Resources**



**Local
Officials
Meeting**



**RAC Meeting #2:
Initial
Corridor
Alternatives
Review**



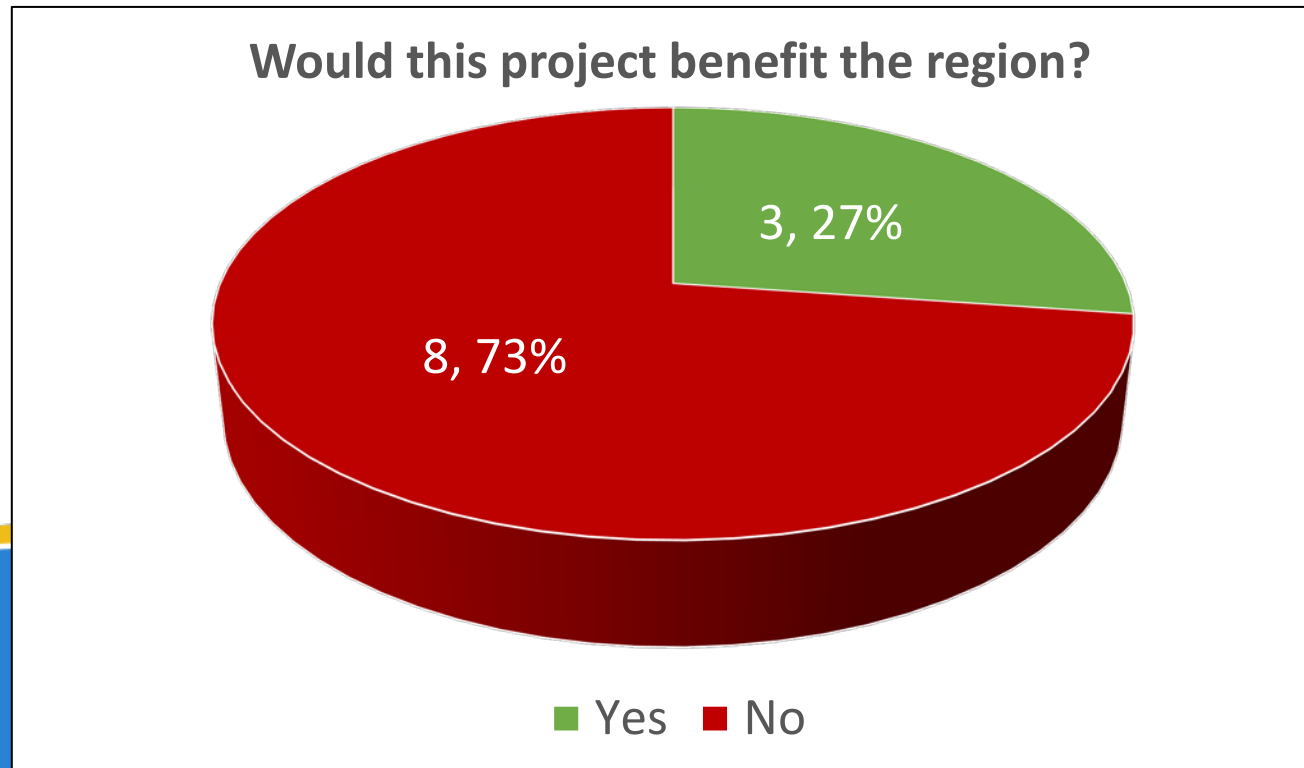
Local Officials and Stakeholders Meetings No. 1

❖ Date: June 15, 2023

❖ 14 Attendees at Meeting in Cairo, Illinois

❖ 24 Attendees at Meeting in Kevil, Kentucky

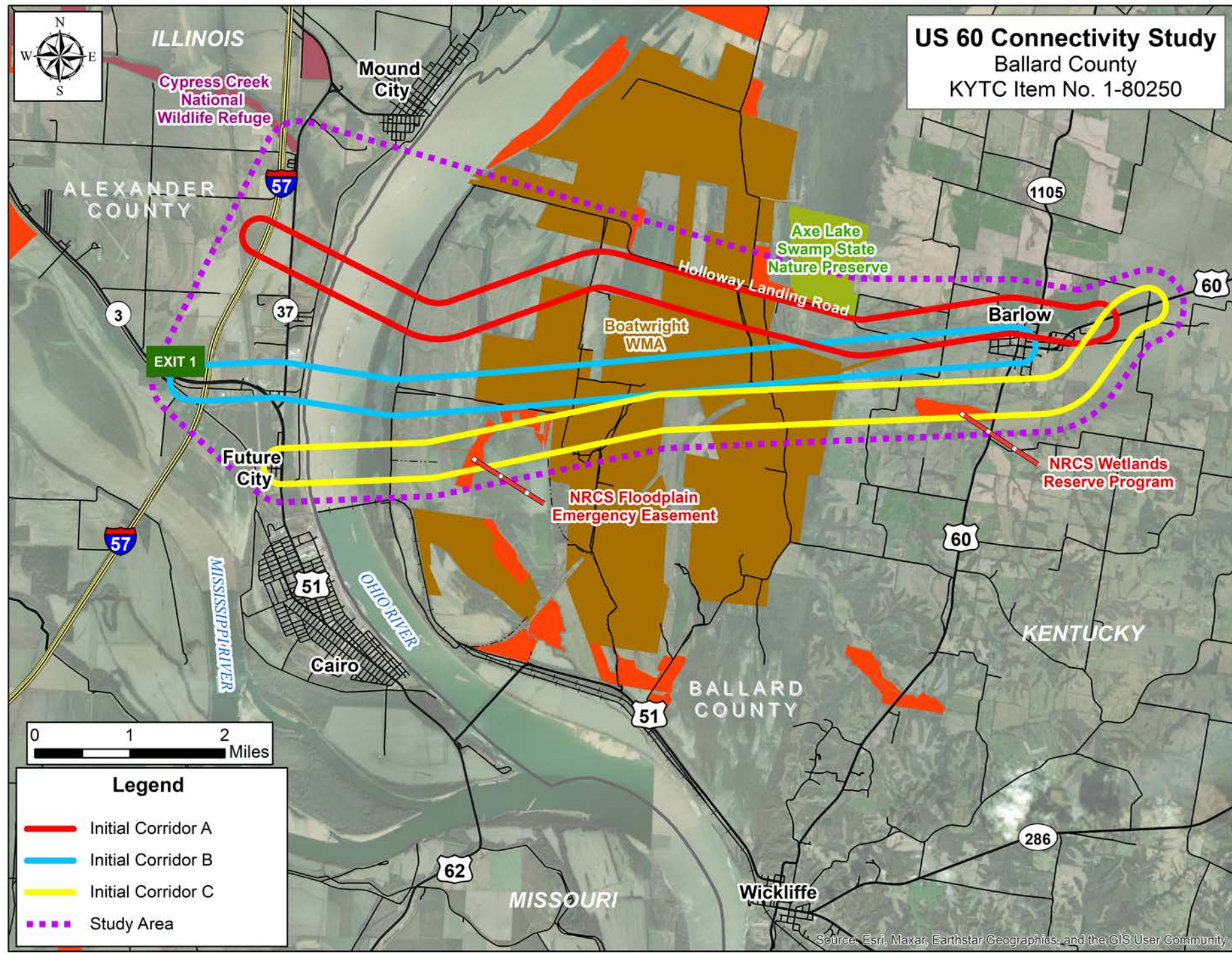
❖ 11 Survey Responses Returned (3 Local Officials and 8 Land / Business Owners)



Initial Corridors

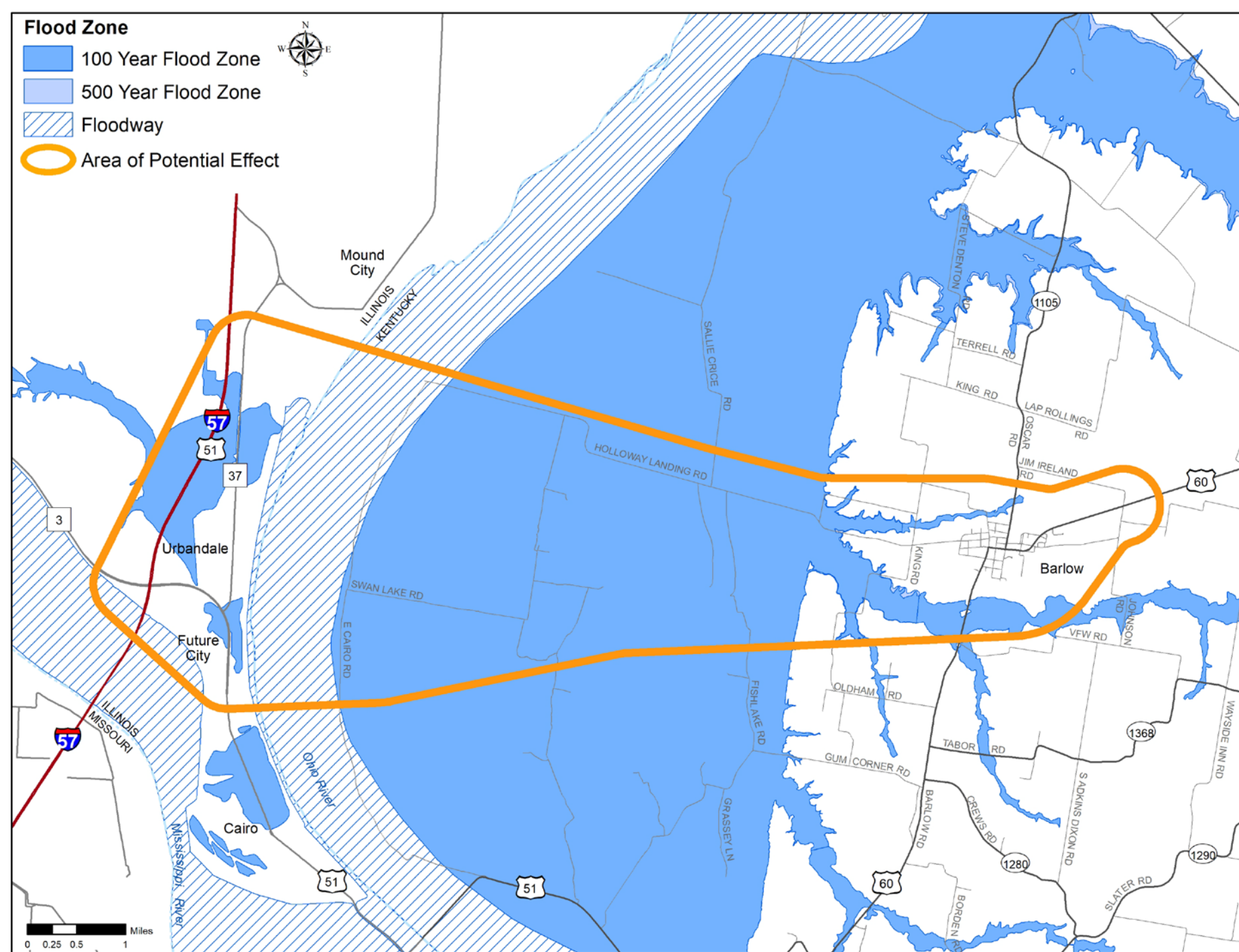
Initial Corridors

- ❖ Wider buffer than what would be required for a roadway
- ❖ Explore Feasibility:
 - ❖ Engineering
 - ❖ Environmental impacts
- ❖ Next Step: Narrow down to refine estimates



Flood Zone

- ❖ Any concepts that may move into design would require detailed hydraulic analysis and coordination with FEMA.
- ❖ Must avoid impacts to Floodway.
- ❖ Must minimize & mitigate any impacts to the 100-year Floodplain.



Project Goals

Project Goals

- ❖ Enhance Regional Mobility
- ❖ Provide Economic Development Opportunities
- ❖ Remain Sensitive to Environmental Resources

Enhance Regional Mobility



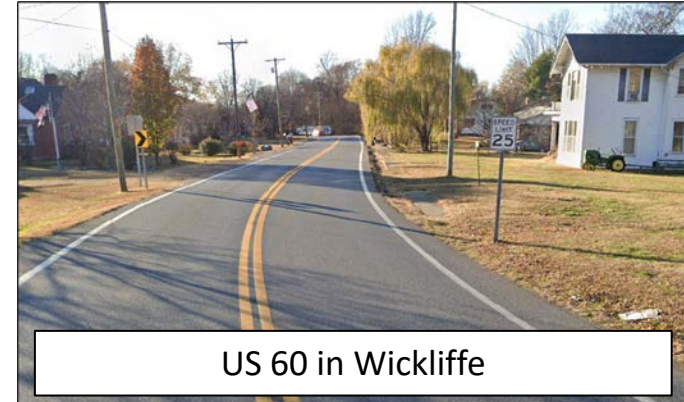
Travel times are increased by diverting south before traveling east-west. The existing US 51 connection between Barlow and I-57 is 17.5 miles and takes 24 minutes.¹



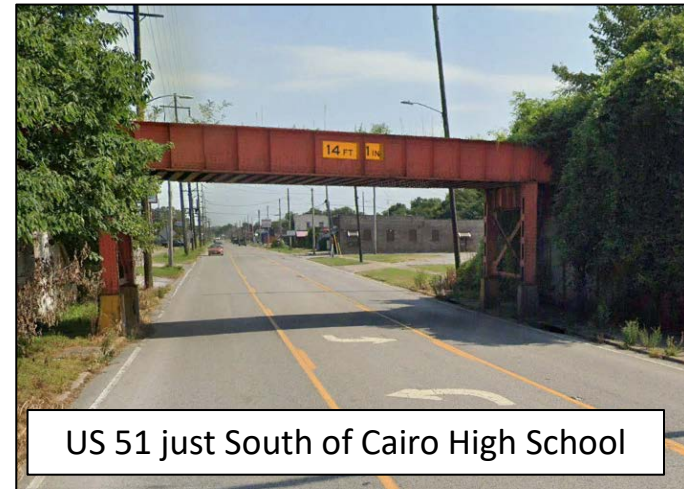
Travel speeds are reduced to 25 mph through Wickliffe and 30 mph through Cairo.



The **vertical clearance** (height of 14'-1") under three railroad bridges on US 51 in Cairo **does not meet current** recommended vertical clearance of 16'.



US 60 in Wickliffe

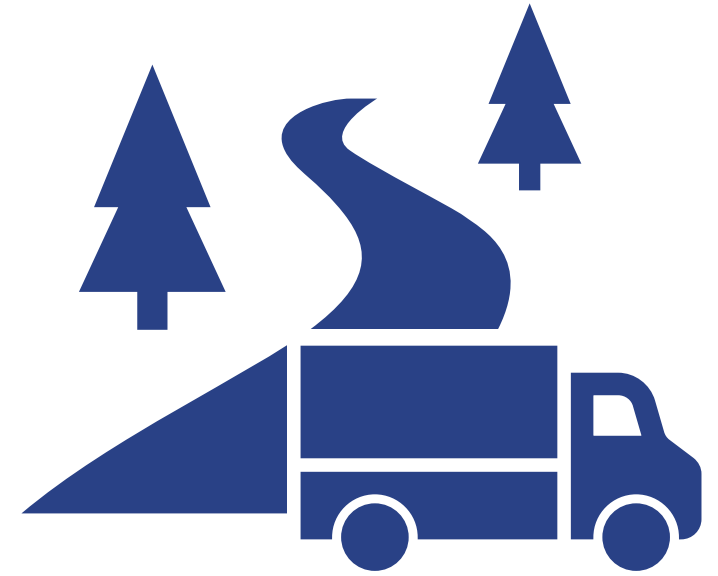


US 51 just South of Cairo High School

¹US 60 (Jim Ireland Road, Barlow, KY) to I-57 (Exit 1, Kessler Rd, IL)

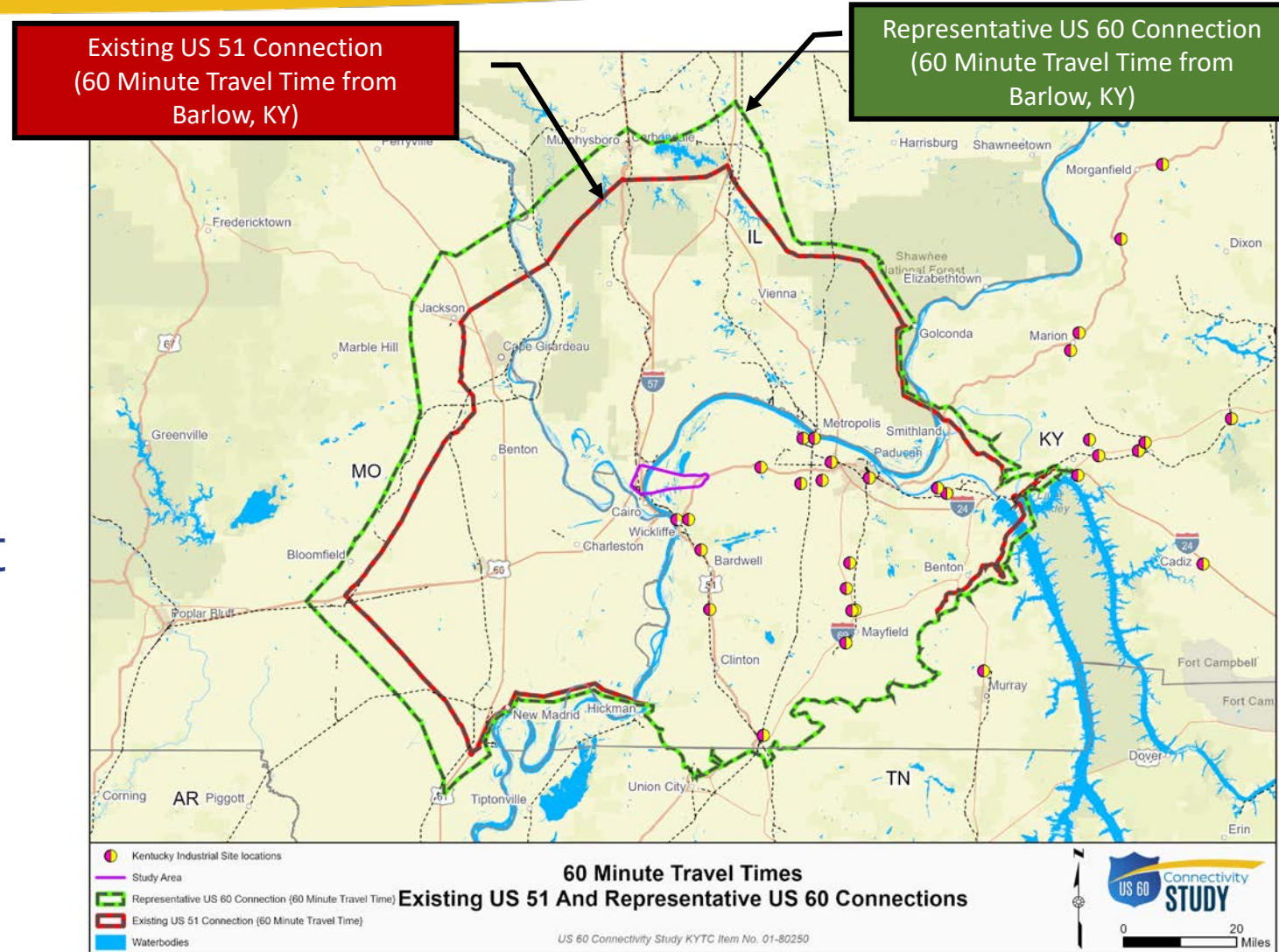
Enhance Regional Mobility

- ❖ US 60 currently provides the only east-west designated truck route west of Paducah, connecting to US 51 near the Ohio River at Wickliffe.
- ❖ 44 percent of all vehicles traveling across the US 51 Ohio River Bridge are trucks.
- ❖ 1,400 semi-trucks travel through Wickliffe daily.
- ❖ 900 semi-trucks travel through Cairo daily.



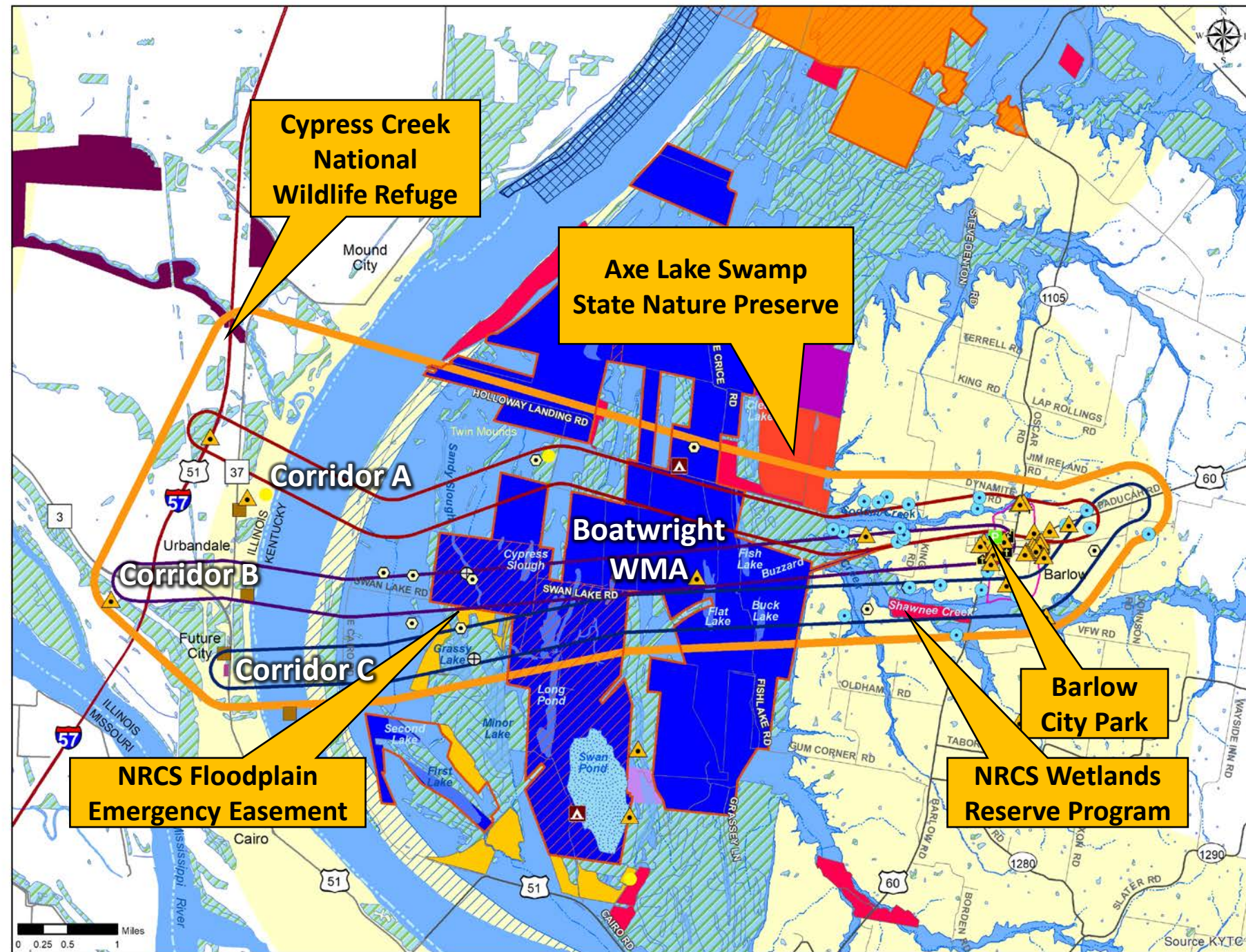
Provide Economic Development Opportunities

- ❖ Expand available jobs and labor pool
- ❖ Increased accessibility for regional destinations
- ❖ Improved freight movement
- ❖ Improved access for developable land



Remain Sensitive to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resources



Impact Estimates

Initial Corridor	A	B	C
Study Area (acres)	2,317	2,200	2,395
Residences	137	144	23
Businesses	4	31	3
Cultural Historic Resources	9	6	13
Archaeological Resources	0	1	4
Cemeteries	1	0	0
Prime & Unique Farmland (acres)	323	385	301
State & Local Important Farmland (acres)	76	74	130
Length of Streams (feet)	63,124	49,548	78,728
Wetlands (acres)	904	932	891
100-Year Floodplain (acres)	1,325	1,287	1,434
Indiana Bat Habitat (acres)	2,186	2,000	2,395

Many Seasonal Considerations for Initial Surveys with Anticipated Construction Influences

Bats

- Inactive season (October 15 – March 31)
- Maternity season (June 1 – July 31)
- Avoidance of known summer roost tree(s)

Waterfowl

- Surveys in winter for migratory bird species
- Swan Lake Unit waterfowl refugia (October 15 – March 15)
- Hunting Seasons:
 - *Wed-Sun only at Boatwright WMA
 - Canada Goose (September 1 - 15, 2023)
 - Early Teal/Wood Duck (September 16 - 24, 2023)
 - Various Waterfowl (November 18, 2023 – February 15, 2024)

Streams

- General fish spawning April 1 – June 30
- Fish and Mussel surveys Spring–Fall, flow and temperature dependent
- General Ohio River navigation considerations

Other

- Deer hunting season (Sept. 2, 2023 – Jan. 15, 2024)
- Turkey hunting season (April - May 7, 2023)
- Year-round traditional fishing season
- Seasonal hunting use on adjacent private lands/clubs
- General ecotourism uses

Seasonal Considerations for Ecological Surveys:													
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Bats	Inactive season					Maternity season					Inactive season		
Fishes				Fish spawning season			Fish survey season						
Mussels				Mussel survey season, temperature dependent									
Migratory Birds			Migratory birds survey season										
Resident Birds	Resident birds survey season (year-round)												
Stream/Wetland	Year-round (growing season preferred)												
Swan Lake Unit	Waterfowl Refuge										Waterfowl Refuge		

Kentucky Hunting Seasons:										*Boatwright WMA hunting allowed Wed-Sun only				
Waterfowl	Various waterfowl								Goose	Teal/ Duck			Various waterfowl	
Deer	Deer								Deer					
Turkey				Turkey										
Fishing	Fishing season (year-round)													

Seasonal Considerations for Ecological Surveys:												
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Fishes				Fish spawning season			Fish survey season					
Mussels				Mussel survey season, temperature dependent								
Migratory Birds			Migratory birds survey season									
Resident Birds	Resident birds survey season (year-round)											
Stream/Wetland	Year-round (growing season preferred)											
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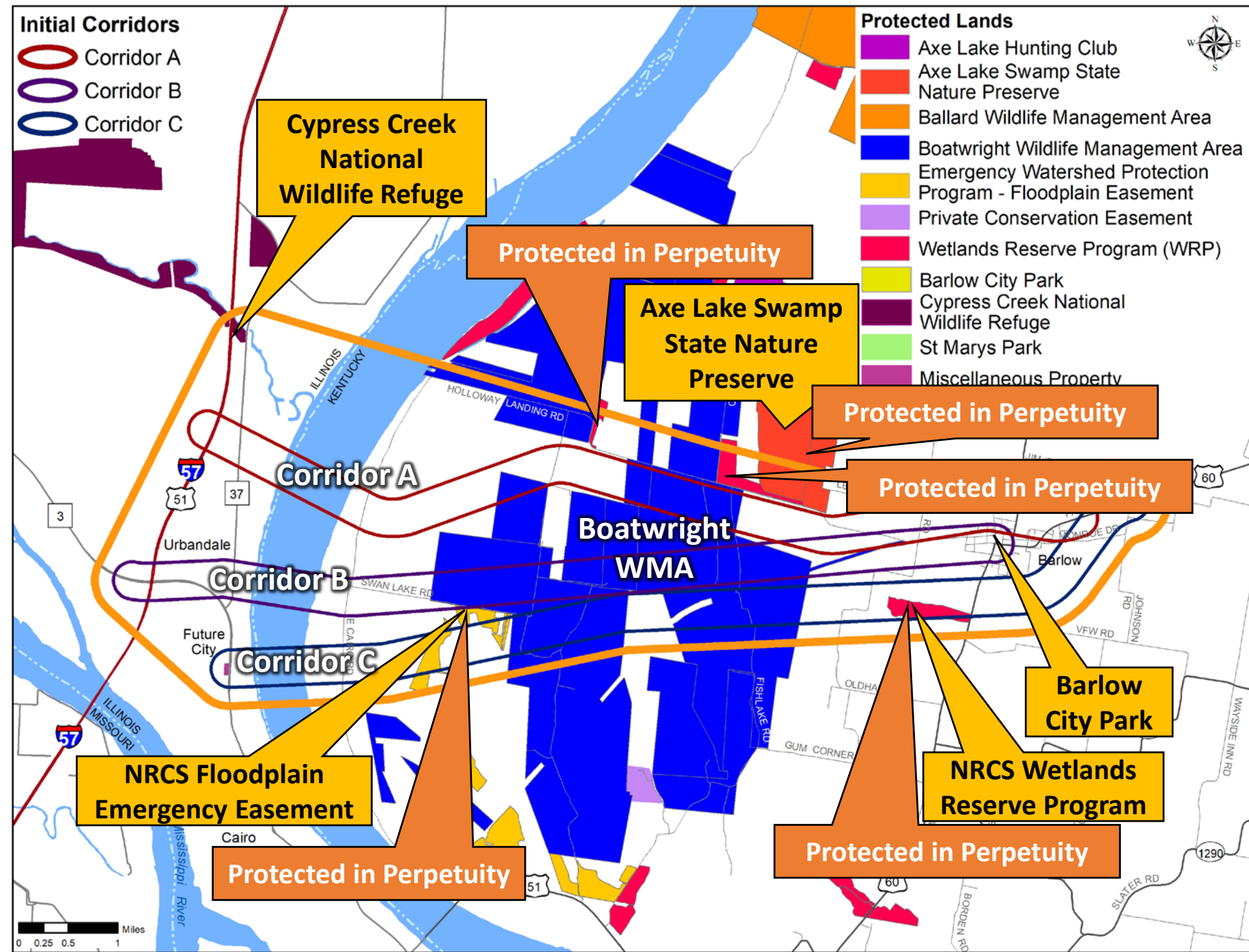
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Turkey				Turkey									
Fishing	Fishing season (year-round)												

Seasonal Considerations for Ecological Surveys:												
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bats	Inactive season					Maternity season					Inactive season	
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Mussels				Mussel survey season, temperature dependent								
Migratory Birds			Migratory birds survey season									
Resident Birds	Resident birds survey season (year-round)											
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Waterfowl	Various waterfowl								Goose	Teal/ Duck			Various waterfowl
Deer	Deer								Deer				
Turkey				Turkey									
Fishing	Fishing season (year-round)												

Protected Lands

- ❖ All Protected Lands *except NRCS easements* would be **Section 4(f) Protected**
- ❖ **Public Hunting Land Protections** (KRS 150.0241(6)) applies to entirety of WMA
- ❖ **NRCS Conservation Easements** have deed restrictions protecting in perpetuity



Impact Estimates

Initial Corridor	A	B	C
Axe Lake Swamp Nature Preserve (acres)	0	0	0
Boatwright Wildlife Management Area (acres)	347	893	603
Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge (acres)	0	0	0
NRCS FPE 1052068 (acres)	0	0	2
NRCS FPE 959343 (acres)	0	2	66
NRCS WRPE 957664 (acres)	0	0	0
NRCS WRPE 986308 (acres)	0	0	0
NRCS WRPE 967117 (acres)	0	0	68
Barlow City Park (acres)	0	0.35	0
Public Hunting Land & Public Fishing Areas (acres)	360	881	607
USACE-Owned Lands	35	0	0
Illinois DNR Property (acres)	0	0	3

Protected Lands

Section 4(f)

- ❖ Applies to USDOT; Substantive Law
- ❖ When multiple alternatives use Section 4(f) property and there is no feasible and prudent avoidance alternative, then FHWA may approve only the alternative that causes the **least overall harm**

Protected Lands

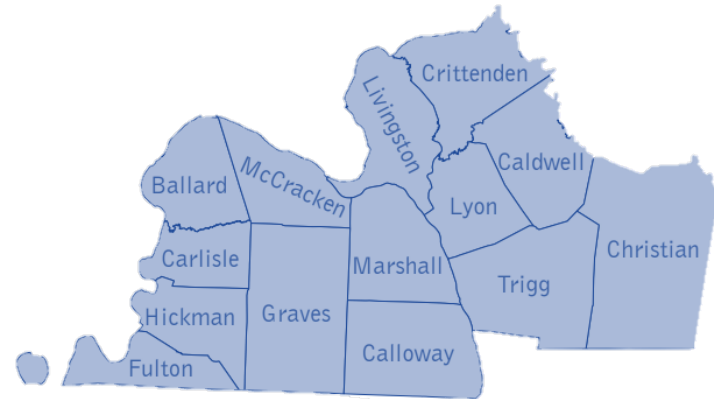
Section 4(f)

- ❖ Per 23 CFR 774.3(c), **Least overall harm** is determined by balancing:
 - ❖ the ability to mitigate adverse impacts to each Section 4(f) property;
 - ❖ the relative severity of the remaining harm, after mitigation, to the protected activities, attributes, or features that qualify each Section 4(f) property for protection;
 - ❖ the relative significance of each Section 4(f) property;
 - ❖ the views of the official(s) with jurisdiction over each Section 4(f) property;
 - ❖ after mitigation, the magnitude of any adverse impacts to resources not protected by Section 4(f); and
 - ❖ substantial differences in costs among alternatives.

Protected Lands

Public Hunting Lands

- ❖ “No Net Loss” (KRS 150.0241(6)):
 - ❖ Maintain at least the same level of available public hunting land that currently exists
 - ❖ Replacement lands (1:1)
 - ❖ **Expedientiously** find replacement acreage
 - ❖ In **same commission district** and **consistent with hunting discipline**



Commission District 1

Boatwright WMA

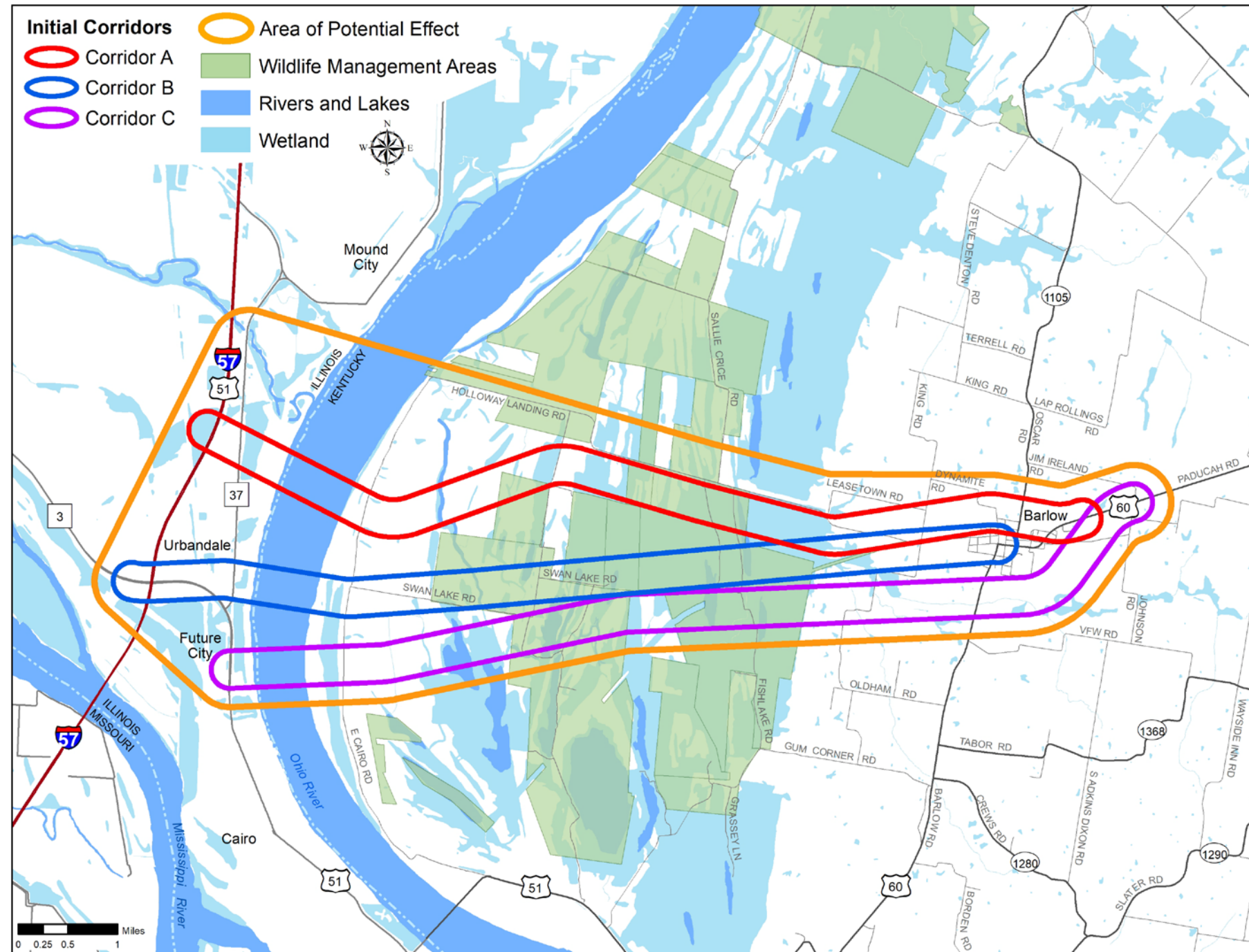
❖ Impacts would be unavoidable

❖ Corridor Impacts
(WMA Acreage Impacts - least to highest)

❖ Corridor A

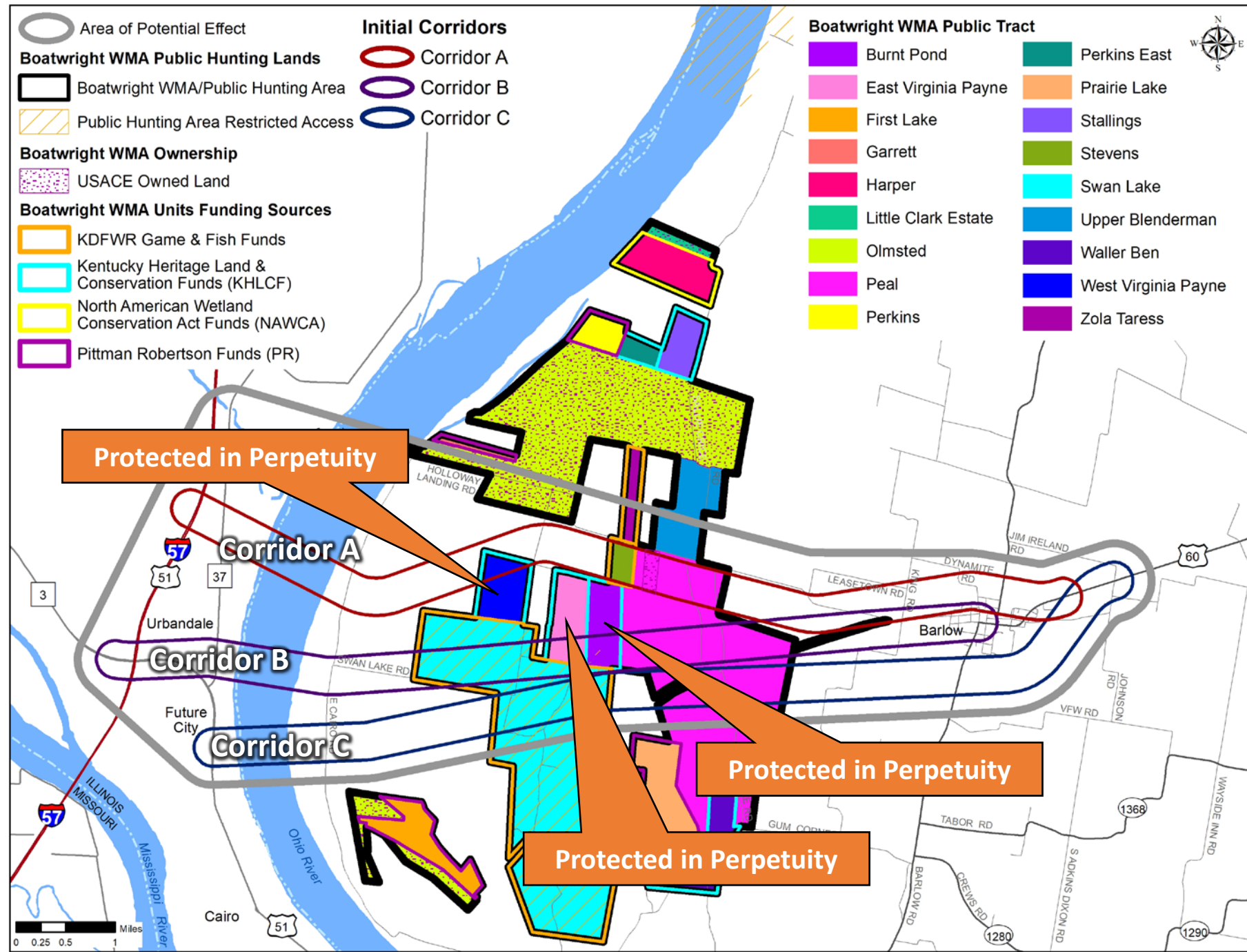
❖ Corridor C

❖ Corridor B



Boatwright WMA

- ❖ Tracts have different ownership
- ❖ USACE
- ❖ KDFWR
- ❖ Additional restrictions by funding source:
 - ❖ KHLCF – protected in perpetuity

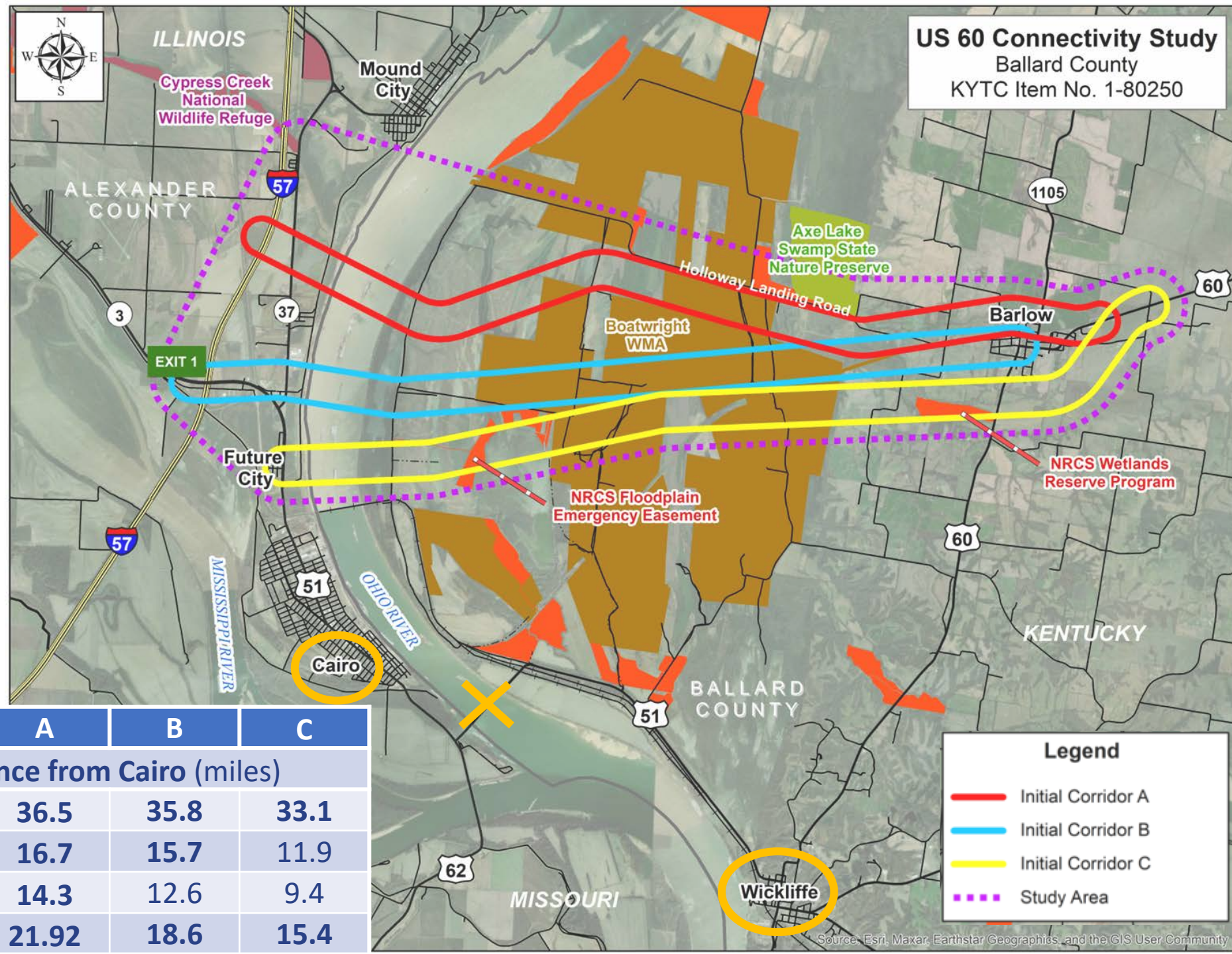


Boatwright WMA Tracts Impact Estimates

WMA Tract	Owner	Fund	Public Hunting	Deed Restriction / Easement	A (acres)	B (acres)	C (acres)
Burnt Pond	KDFWR	KHLCF	Yes	Perpetuity	0	79	0
East Virginia Payne	KDFWR	KHLCF	Yes	Perpetuity	0	65	0
Olmsted	USACE	?	Yes	?	0	0	0
Peal	KDFWR	?	Yes	?	230	410	313
Upper Blenderman	KDFWR	?	Yes	?	0	0	0
Stevens	KDFWR	KDFWR Game & Fish Fund	Yes	?	63	0	0
Swan Lake	KDFWR	KDFWR Game & Fish Fund	Seasonally Restricted (10/15-03/15)	?	0	339	290
West Virginia Payne	KDFWR	KHLCF	Yes	Perpetuity	54	0	0
Zola Taress	KDFWR	KDFWR Game & Fish Fund	Yes	?	0	0	0

Environmental Justice

- ❖ Alexander County, study area CT 9578
- ❖ **38%** below poverty
- ❖ **61%** Black/African American
- ❖ **4%** Hispanic/Latino



	Existing	A	B	C
Location	Distance from Cairo (miles)			
McCracken County	30.8	36.5	35.8	33.1
Ballard County	14.2	16.7	15.7	11.9
Barlow	13.1	14.3	12.6	9.4
Wickliffe	6.9	21.92	18.6	15.4

Environmental Resources Impacts

❖ Corridor Impacts

(Ranked Highest to Lowest)

❖ Overall Quantity of Impacts

❖ Corridor C

❖ Corridor A

❖ Corridor B

❖ Properties Protected in Perpetuity

❖ Corridor B

❖ Corridor C

❖ Corridor A

Environmental Resource	A	B	C
Residences	137	144	23
Businesses	4	31	3
Cultural Historic Resources	9	6	13
Archaeological Resources	-	1	4
Cemeteries	1	-	-
Farmland (acres)	399	459	431
Trees/Indiana Bat Habitat (acres)	2,186	2,000	2,395
Streams (linear feet)	63,124	49,548	78,728
Wetlands (acres)	904	932	891
100-Year Floodplain (acres)	1,325	1,287	1,434
Barlow City Park (acres)	-	0.35	-
Boatwright WMA (acres)	347	893	603
Boatwright Properties Protected in Perpetuity (acres)	54	144	-
Illinois DNR Property (acres)	-	-	3
NRCS Properties Protected in Perpetuity (acres)	-	2	136
Public Hunting Lands & Public Fishing Areas (acres)	360	881	607
USACE-Owned Lands (acrs)	3	-	-

Environmental Resources Impacts

❖ Corridor A would have **fewest impacts** to:

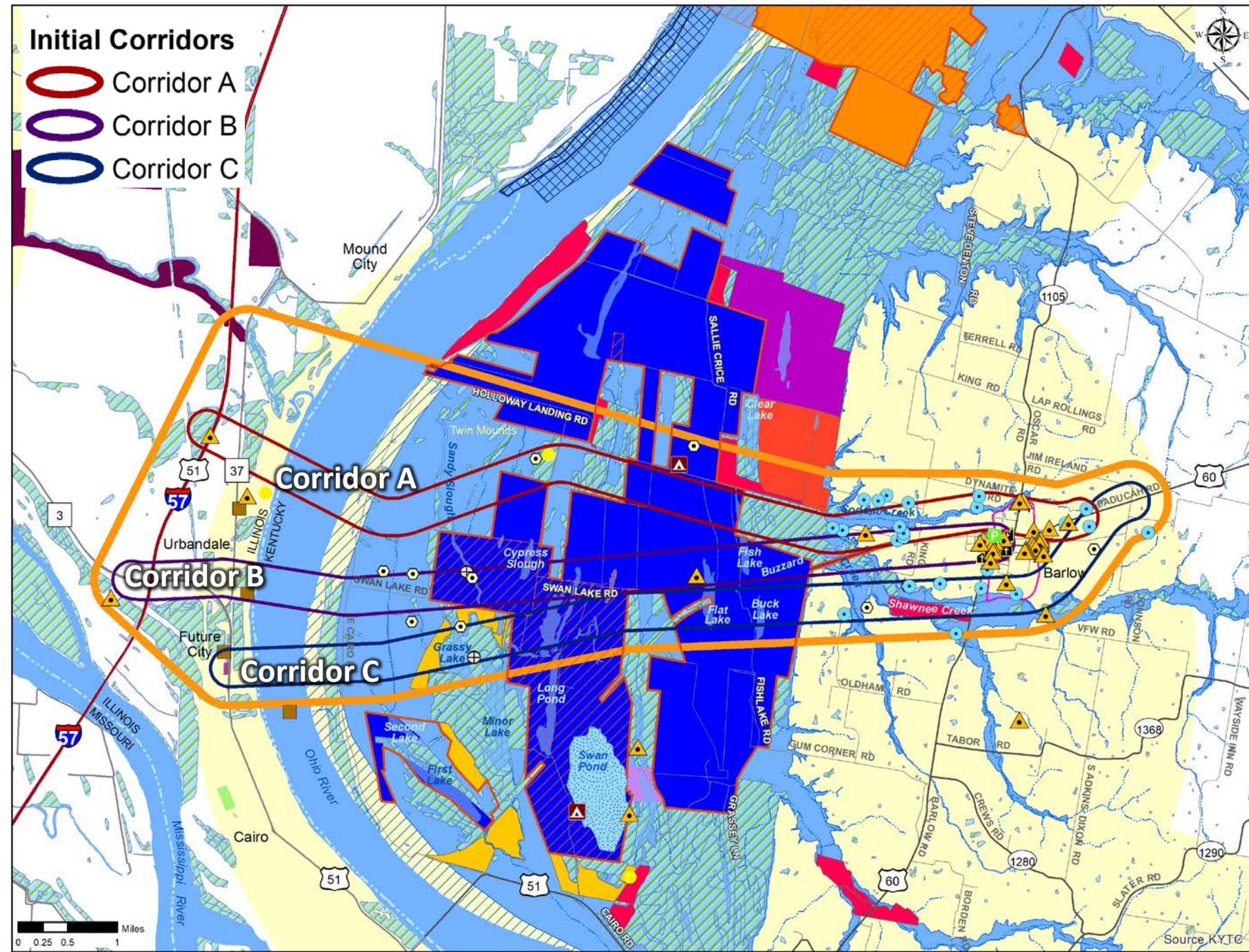
- ❖ Properties protected in perpetuity
- ❖ Boatwright WMA

❖ Corridor B would have the **most impacts** to:

- ❖ Boatwright WMA
- ❖ Properties protected in perpetuity
- ❖ Farmland
- ❖ Wetlands
- ❖ Public hunting lands

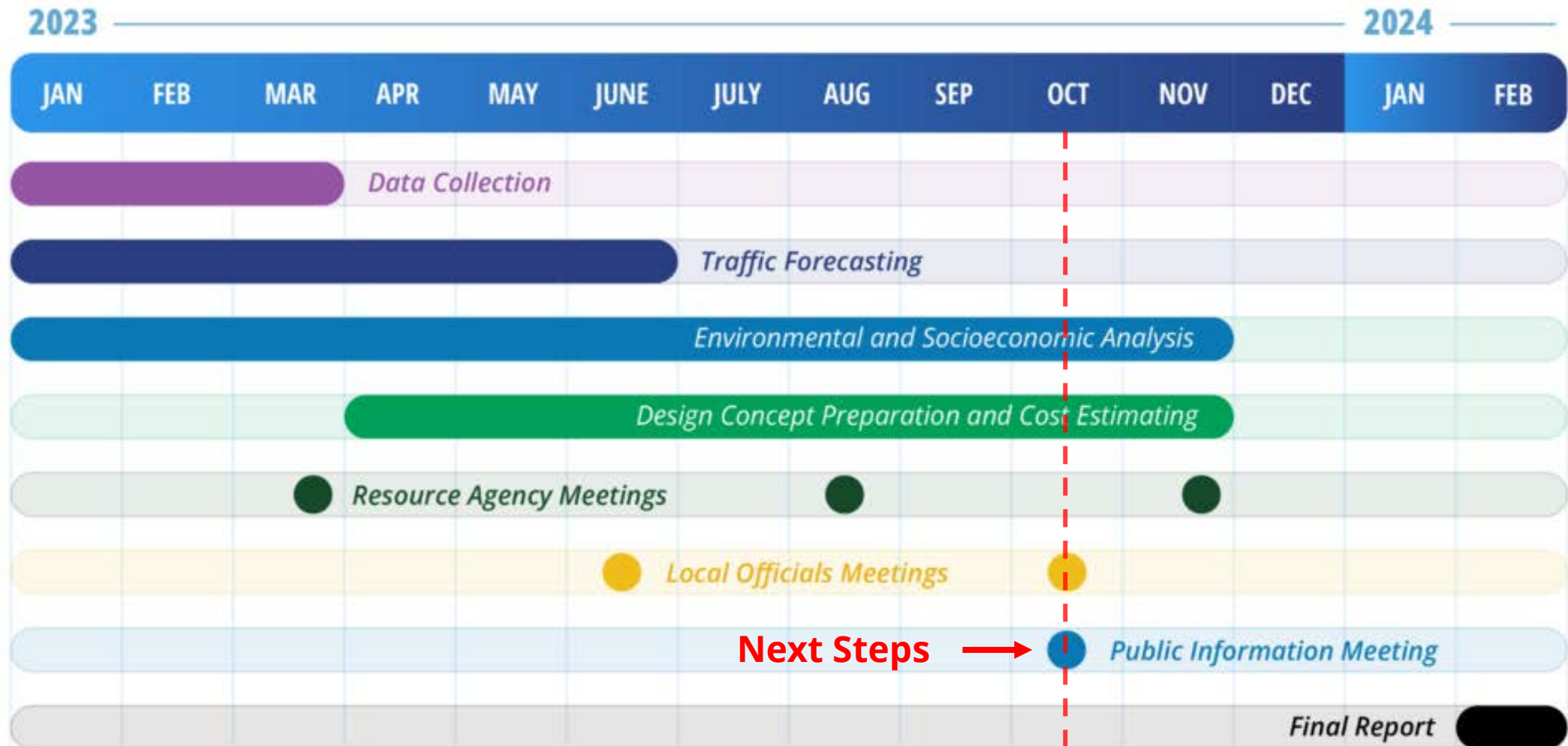
❖ Corridor C would have the **most overall impacts**, especially regarding environmental resources:

- ❖ Streams
- ❖ 100-year floodplain
- ❖ Trees



Next Steps

Study Schedule



***Note: tentative study schedule—dates are subject to change**

RA Coordination Points

Post Meeting #2 : Initial Corridors

- ❖ Provide study team with your feedback.
 - ❖ info@US60ConnectivityStudy.com
 - ❖ Return by [Thursday, August 31st](#)
- ❖ Check study website for updates.
 - ❖ US60ConnectivityStudy.com

Next RA Coordination Meeting

- ❖ Meeting #3: Refined Corridor Review (*anticipated November 2023*)
 - ❖ Recommend environmental impact assessment methodologies for a future project to consider
 - ❖ Weigh-in on avoidance, minimization, or mitigation requirements

Resource Agency Input

Meeting Objective

Request for feedback after presentation.

We need your help:

- **Verifying environmental red flags within the initial concept corridors**
- **Understanding benefits and impacts of potential corridors**
- **Identifying any avoidance, minimization, or mitigation requirements**



Thank You

Please complete and return questionnaire by **Thursday, August 31st**



US60ConnectivityStudy.com



info@US60ConnectivityStudy.com



KYTC District 1: (270) 898-2431

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Public Meeting Notebook
US 60 Connectivity Study

Local Officials Meeting
Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023
2:00-3:00 PM

Ballard County Public Meeting
Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023
6:00-8:00 PM

Cairo Public Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023
6:00-8:00 PM

Contents

- 1.Meeting Summary
- 2.Public Outreach (Prior to Meetings)
- 3.Meeting Photos
- 4.Media Coverage (Post-Event)
- 5.Sign-in Sheets (Redacted Not for Public Release)
- 6.Comment Summary
- 7.Comment Log (Redacted Not for Public Release)

1. Meeting Summary



MEETING SUMMARY

Project: US 60 Connectivity Study

Purpose: Public Information Meetings and Local Officials Meeting

Locations:

Local Officials Meeting

Fort Jefferson Welcome
Center
87 Fort Jefferson Hill Road
Wickliffe, KY 42087

Kentucky Public Meeting

Ballard Memorial High School
3561 Paducah Rd
Barlow, KY 42024

Illinois Public Meeting

Cairo High School
4201 Sycamore St
Cairo, IL 62914

Two public meetings were held by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for the US 60 Connectivity Study – one in Barlow, Kentucky on Nov. 29, 2023, and one in Cairo, Illinois on Nov. 30, 2023. Both meetings were in an open-house format with project team members available to answer questions.

These meetings informed the public about the Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) study, which assesses the feasibility of a new U.S. 60 corridor and Ohio River bridge crossing between U.S. 60 at Barlow, Ky., and Interstate 57 near Future City, Il.

242 people attended the Barlow, Kentucky public meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 29.

89 people attended the Cairo, IL public meeting on Thursday, Nov. 30.

A meeting was held on Nov. 29th by invitation only for local officials and representatives. 25 people were in attendance.

2. Public Outreach (Prior to Meetings)



Public Outreach

The project team performed outreach via multiple channels to inform the public about the meetings and the opportunity to provide feedback about the project. Those included:

- Article in The Advance Yeoman – Nov. 17, 2023
- Ad in Paducah Sun – Nov. 11 and Nov. 25, 2023
- Ad in the West KY News Group papers and the Monday Pub in Alexander County, IL – Nov. 13 and Nov. 27, 2023
- Press release “Two Public Meetings Scheduled for U.S. 60 Connectivity Study” – Nov. 15, 2023
- Press release “Public Invited to Meetings on U.S. 60 Connectivity Study Scheduled for Next Week” – Nov. 21, 2023
- Press release “First of Two Public Meetings on U.S. 60 Connectivity Study Scheduled for Wednesday Night” – Nov. 28, 2023
- Social media

Two Public Meetings Scheduled for U.S. 60 Connectivity Study

Meetings set for LaCenter, Ky. on Nov. 29, Cairo, Il. on Nov. 30

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) has scheduled two public information meetings to inform the public about the U.S. 60 Connectivity Study. This Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) study is to assess the feasibility of a new U.S. 60 corridor and Ohio River bridge crossing between

U.S. 60 at Barlow, Ky., and Interstate 57 near Future City, Il.

The first meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 29 at Ballard County High School in LaCenter, Ky. The second meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 30 at Cairo High School in Cairo, Il. Each meeting will be held from 5-7 p.m. CT in an open house format. Interested citizens can stop by to review presentations and provide

input. KYTC staff and members of the study team will be available to answer questions and gather public comments. The same information will be presented at both meetings.

KYTC District 1 Chief Engineer, Kyle Poat, encourages anyone interested in the study to attend one of the public information meetings.

"We are inviting area residents to attend one of the in-person meetings," Poat said.

"We will showcase displays and provide updates on the environmental study. We look forward to receiving open feedback from the public regarding the study."

The purpose of the U.S. 60 Connectivity Study is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the benefits and impacts of developing a more direct route between U.S. 60 in western Kentucky and I-57 in southern Illinois.

The study examines the environmental, social and economic effects of a potential new corridor. KYTC will use the study findings to determine if they will advance this U.S. 60 project or the U.S. 51 Bridge Replacement project.

Informational handouts, displays and public comment forms will be available at both meetings. Anyone who is unable to attend one of the two meetings may view displays and

materials at the KYTC Paducah office or at US-60Connectivity-Study.com. Public comment forms will also be available online following the Illinois meeting.

Individuals or organizations who wish to submit comments outside of the public meetings may also contact Kyle Poat, PE, at the KYTC District 1 Office at 5501 Kentucky Dam Road, Paducah, Ky., 42003 or by call-

ing 270-898-2431. Comments will be accepted until Dec. 30 and all comments will become part of the official meeting record.

*Kentucky meeting Wednesday, Nov. 29, 5-7 p.m. CT
Ballard County High School 3561 Paducah Rd., Barlow, Ky.*

*Illinois meeting Thursday, Nov. 30, 5-7 p.m. CT
Cairo High School 4201 Sycamore St., Cairo, Ill.*



PUBLIC MEETINGS

For

Ballard County, KY & Alexander County, IL

for

U.S. 60 Connectivity Study

Between Barlow, KY & Cairo, IL

Two Meetings Are Scheduled

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

5 to 7 p.m., CT

Ballard County High School

3561 Paducah Rd • Barlow, KY 42024

+++

Thursday, November 30, 2023

5 to 7 p.m., CT

Cairo High School

4201 Sycamore St • Cairo, IL 62914

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) has scheduled two public information meetings to provide residents with information on the U.S. 60 Connectivity Study, a Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) study to examine the feasibility of a new U.S. 60 corridor and Ohio River crossing between U.S. 60 at Barlow, Ky. and I-57 near Future City, IL. (Item #1-80250).

The meetings will be conducted in-person with an open house format, allowing attendees to talk to the study team and ask questions about the study. The same study information will be presented at both meetings.

Forms will be available at the meetings to make it easier for the public to provide written comments. Comments may also be submitted by mail before December 30, 2023, to Kyle Poat, Chief Engineer, KYTC District 1 Office, 5501 Kentucky Dam Rd, Paducah, Kentucky 42003.

Following the meetings, displays and materials presented at the meetings will be available at the KYTC District 1 Office in Paducah. Office Hours are Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., CT, with comments accepted until Dec. 30, 2023. All meeting materials, including comment forms, will also be available online at US60connectivitystudy.com.

All comments will become part of the official meeting record. Once compiled, the meeting record and supporting documentation will be made available for review and copying only after an Open Records Request has been received and approved. All Open Records Requests must be submitted to the Transportation Cabinet, Office of Legal Services, Transportation Office Building, 200 Mero St, Frankfort, KY 40622, or via email to kytc.openrecords@ky.gov.



In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if anyone has a disability and will require assistance, please notify Kyle Poat no later than November 27, 2023. Please call 270-898-2431 or mail request to KYTC District 1 Office, 5501 Kentucky Dam Rd, Paducah, Kentucky 42003.

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

Ballard County, KY and Alexander County, IL

for

U.S. 60 Connectivity Study

Between

Barlow, KY & Cairo, IL

Two Public Meetings Are Scheduled

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

5 to 7 p.m., CT

Ballard County High School

3561 Paducah Rd • Barlow, KY 42024

+++

Thursday, November 30, 2023

5 to 7 p.m., CT

Cairo High School

4201 Sycamore St • Cairo, IL 62914

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) has scheduled two public information meetings to provide residents with information on the U.S. 60 Connectivity Study, a Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) study to examine the feasibility of a new U.S. 60 corridor and Ohio River crossing between U.S. 60 at Barlow, Ky. and I-57 near Future City, Il. (Item #1-80250).

The meetings will be conducted in-person with an open house format, allowing attendees to talk to the study team and ask questions about the study. The same study information will be presented at both meetings.

Forms will be available at the meetings to make it easier for the public to provide written comments. Comments may also be submitted by mail before December 30, 2023, to Kyle Poat, Chief Engineer, KYTC District 1 Office, 5501 Kentucky Dam Rd, Paducah, Kentucky 42003.

Following the meetings, displays and materials presented at the meetings will be available at the KYTC District 1 Office in Paducah. Office Hours are Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., CT, with comments accepted until Dec. 30, 2023. All meeting materials, including comment forms, will also be available online at US60connectivestudy.com.

All comments will become part of the official meeting record. Once compiled, the meeting record and supporting documentation will be made available for review and copying only after an Open Records Request has been received and approved. All Open Records Requests must be submitted to the Transportation Cabinet, Office of Legal Services, Transportation Office Building, 200 Mero St, Frankfort, KY 40622., or via email to kytc.openrecords@ky.gov.



In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if anyone has a disability and will require assistance, please notify Kyle Poat no later than November 27, 2023. Please call 270-898-2431, or mail request to KYTC District 1 Office, 5501 Kentucky Dam Rd, Paducah, Kentucky 42003.

4.85 x 11.25

1/4 page
Plus 1 inch



KYTC District 1

34

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Two Public Meetings Scheduled for U.S. 60 Connectivity Study

Meetings set for LaCenter, Ky., on Nov. 29; Cairo, Ill., on Nov. 30

PADUCAH, Ky. (Nov. 15, 2023) — The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) has scheduled two public information meetings to inform the public about the U.S. 60 Connectivity Study. This Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) study is to assess the feasibility of a new U.S. 60 corridor and Ohio River bridge crossing between U.S. 60 at Barlow, Ky., and Interstate 57 near Future City, Ill.

The first meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 29 at Ballard County High School in LaCenter, Ky. The second meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 30 at Cairo High School in Cairo, Ill. Each meeting will be held from 5-7 p.m. CT in an open house format.

Interested citizens can stop by to review presentations and provide input. KYTC staff and members of the study team will be available to answer questions and gather public comments. The same information will be presented at both meetings.

KYTC District 1 Chief Engineer, Kyle Post, encourages anyone interested in the study to attend one of the public information meetings.

"We are inviting area residents to attend one of the in-person meetings," Post said. "We will showcase displays and provide updates on the environmental study. We look forward to receiving open feedback from the public regarding the study."

The purpose of the U.S. 60 Connectivity Study is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the benefits and impacts of developing a more direct route between U.S. 60 in western Kentucky and I-57 in southern Illinois. The study examines the environmental, social and economic effects of a potential new corridor. KYTC will use the study findings to determine if they will advance this U.S. 60 project or the U.S. 51 Bridge Replacement project.

Informational handouts, displays and public comment forms will be available at both meetings. Anyone who is unable to attend one of the two meetings may view displays and materials at the KYTC Paducah office or at US60ConnectivityStudy.com. Public comment forms will also be available online following the Illinois meeting.

Individuals or organizations who wish to submit comments outside of the public meetings may also contact Kyle Post, PE, at the KYTC District 1 Office at 5501 Kentucky Dam Road, Paducah, Ky., 42003 or by calling 270-698-2431. Comments will be accepted until Dec. 30 and all comments will become part of the official meeting record.

Kentucky meeting Wednesday, Nov. 29, 5-7 p.m. CT
Ballard County High School 3561 Paducah Rd., Barlow, Ky.

Illinois meeting Thursday, Nov. 30, 5-7 p.m. CT
Cairo High School 4201 Sycamore St., Cairo, Ill.

To sign up for KYTC District 1 news releases and traffic advisories/alerts via email, please go to <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/KYTC/signup/13651>. Click on the District 1 counties you regularly drive through, or on any of the specialty corridors listed. Check your SPAM filtering to ensure Gov Delivery is on your approved list.

You may also follow KYTC Highway District 1 at [KYTC District 1](https://www.facebook.com/KYTCDistrict1). You do not have to be a Facebook member to access this page.



Connectivity
STUDY



2

3 comments 7 shares



Kentucky Transportation Cabinet • District 1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Keith Todd
270-898-2431 (office)
270-210-8009 (cell)
Keith.Todd@ky.gov

Two Public Meetings Scheduled for U.S. 60 Connectivity Study

Meetings set for LaCenter, Ky. on Nov. 29, Cairo, Ill. on Nov. 30

PADUCAH, Ky. (Nov. 15, 2023) — The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) has scheduled two public information meetings to inform the public about the U.S. 60 Connectivity Study. This Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) study is to assess the feasibility of a new U.S. 60 corridor and Ohio River bridge crossing between U.S. 60 at Barlow, Ky., and Interstate 57 near Future City, Ill.

The first meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 29 at Ballard County High School in LaCenter, Ky. The second meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 30 at Cairo High School in Cairo, Ill. Each meeting will be held from 5-7 p.m. CT in an open house format. Interested citizens can stop by to review presentations and provide input. KYTC staff and members of the study team will be available to answer questions and gather public comments. The same information will be presented at both meetings.

KYTC District 1 Chief Engineer, Kyle Poat, encourages anyone interested in the study to attend one of the public information meetings.

"We are inviting area residents to attend one of the in-person meetings," Poat said. "We will showcase displays and provide updates on the environmental study. We look forward to receiving open feedback from the public regarding the study."

The purpose of the U.S. 60 Connectivity Study is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the benefits and impacts of developing a more direct route between U.S. 60 in western Kentucky and I-57 in southern Illinois. The study examines the environmental, social and economic effects of a potential new corridor. KYTC will use the study findings to determine if they will advance this U.S. 60 project or the U.S. 51 Bridge Replacement project.

Informational handouts, displays and public comment forms will be available at both meetings. Anyone who is unable to attend one of the two meetings may view displays and materials at the KYTC Paducah office or at US60ConnectivityStudy.com. Public comment forms will also be available online following the Illinois meeting.

Individuals or organizations who wish to submit comments outside of the public meetings may also contact Kyle Poat, PE, at the KYTC District 1 Office at 5501 Kentucky Dam Road, Paducah, Ky., 42003 or by calling 270-898-2431. Comments will be accepted until Dec. 30 and all comments will become part of the official meeting record.

Kentucky meeting Wednesday, Nov. 29, 5-7 p.m. CT
Ballard County High School 3561 Paducah Rd., Barlow, Ky.

Illinois meeting Thursday, Nov. 30, 5-7 p.m. CT
Cairo High School 4201 Sycamore St., Cairo, Ill.

To sign up for KYTC District 1 news releases and traffic advisories/alerts via email, please go to <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/KYTC/signup/13651>. Click on the District 1 counties you regularly drive through, or on any of the specialty corridors listed. Check your SPAM filtering to ensure Gov Delivery is on your approved list.

You may also follow KYTC Highway District 1 at www.facebook.com/kytcdistrict1. You do not have to be a Facebook member to access this page.

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Kentucky Transportation Cabinet • District 1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Graphics Attached

Media Contact: Keith Todd
270-898-2431 (office)
270-210-8009 (cell)
Keith.Todd@ky.gov

Public Invited to Meetings on U.S. 60 Connectivity Study Scheduled for Next Week

Meetings set for LaCenter, Ky. on Nov. 29, Cairo, Ill. on Nov. 30

PADUCAH, Ky. (Nov. 21, 2023) — The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is continuing to urge area citizens to attend one of the public information meetings planned on the U.S. 60 Connectivity Study.

This Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) study is looking at the feasibility of a new U.S. 60 corridor and Ohio River bridge crossing between U.S. 60 at Barlow, Ky., and Interstate 57 near Future City, Ill.

Two public meetings are planned:

Wednesday, November 29, 2023
5 to 7 p.m., CT
Ballard Memorial High School Cafeteria
3561 Paducah Rd
LaCenter, KY 42056

Thursday, November 30, 2023
5 to 7 p.m., CT
Cairo High School
4201 Sycamore St
Cairo, IL 62914

Each meeting will be held from 5-7 p.m., CT, in an open house format. Interested citizens can stop by to review presentations and provide input. KYTC staff and members of the study team will be available to answer questions and gather public comments. The same information will be presented at both meetings.

KYTC District 1 Chief Engineer Kyle Poat encourages anyone interested in the corridor to attend.

"We encourage area citizens to attend one of the in-person meetings," Poat said. "The study team will share displays and provide updates on the environmental study. We look forward to discussing the study with the public and receiving comments."

The U.S. 60 Connectivity Study is to provide an assessment of the benefits and impacts of developing a more direct route between U.S. 60 in western Kentucky and I-57 in southern Illinois. The study examines the environmental, social and economic effects of a potential new corridor. KYTC will use the study findings to determine if they will advance this U.S. 60 Corridor or the U.S. 51 Bridge Replacement project near the existing U.S. 51 Ohio River "Cairo" Bridge.

The same informational handouts, displays and public comment forms will be available at both meetings. Anyone who is unable to attend one of the two meetings may view displays and materials at the KYTC Paducah office or at [US60ConnectivityStudy.com](https://www.kytc.gov/US60ConnectivityStudy). Public comment forms will also be available online following the Illinois meeting.

Individuals or organizations who wish to submit comments outside of the public meetings may also address them to Kyle Poat, PE, at the KYTC District 1 Office at 5501 Kentucky Dam Road, Paducah, Ky., 42003 or by calling 270-898-2431. Comments will be accepted until Dec. 30, with all comments becoming part of the official meeting record.

To sign up for KYTC District 1 news releases and traffic advisories/alerts via email, please go to <https://public.notifylvr.com/accounts/KYTC/news/12651>. Click on the District 1 counties you regularly drive through, or on any of the specialty corridors listed. Check your SPAM filtering to ensure Gov Delivery is on your approved list.

You may also follow KYTC Highway District 1 at www.facebook.com/kytcdistrict1. You do not have to be a Facebook member to access this page.

###



Connectivity STUDY

PUBLIC MEETINGS:
Nov. 29 and 30, 2023



KENTUCKY



Wednesday, Nov. 29
5 - 7 p.m. CT



Ballard Memorial High School
LaCenter, KY

ILLINOIS



Thursday, Nov. 30
5 - 7 p.m. CT



Cairo High School
Cairo, IL



Kentucky Transportation Cabinet • District 1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Graphics Attached

Media Contact: Keith Todd
270-898-2431 (office)
270-210-8009 (cell)
Keith.Todd@ky.gov

First of Two Public Meetings on U.S. 60 Connectivity Study Scheduled for Wednesday Night

Second meeting set for Thursday night

PADUCAH, Ky. (Nov. 28, 2023) — The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) has scheduled two public information meetings on the U.S. 60 Connectivity Study.

This Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) study is looking at the feasibility of a new U.S. 60 corridor and Ohio River bridge crossing between U.S. 60 at Barlow, Ky., and Interstate 57 near Future City, Il.

Two public meetings are planned:

Wednesday, November 29, 2023
5 to 7 p.m., CT
Ballard Memorial High School Cafeteria
3561 Paducah Rd
Barlow, KY

Thursday, November 30, 2023
5 to 7 p.m., CT
Cairo High School
4201 Sycamore St
Cairo, IL

Each meeting will be in an open house format. Interested citizens can stop by to review presentations and provide input. KYTC staff and members of the study team will be available to answer questions and gather public comments. The same information will be presented at both meetings.

The U.S. 60 Connectivity Study is to provide an assessment of the benefits and impacts of developing a more direct route between U.S. 60 in western Kentucky and I-57 in southern Illinois. The study examines the environmental, social and economic effects of a potential new corridor. KYTC will use the study findings to determine if they will advance this U.S. 60 Corridor or the U.S. 51 Bridge Replacement project near the existing U.S. 51 Ohio River "Cairo" Bridge.

The same informational handouts, displays and public comment forms will be available at both meetings. Anyone who is unable to attend one of the two meetings may view displays and materials at the KYTC Paducah office or at US60ConnectivityStudy.com. Public comment forms will also be available online following the Illinois meeting.

Individuals or organizations who wish to submit comments outside of the public meetings may also address them to Kyle Post, PE, at the KYTC District 1 Office at 5501 Kentucky Dam Road, Paducah, Ky., 42003 or by calling 270-898-2431. Comments will be accepted until Dec. 30, with all comments becoming part of the official meeting record.

To sign up for KYTC District 1 news releases and traffic advisories/alerts via email, please go to <https://public.notification/accounts/KYTC/signup/13651>. Click on the District 1 counties you regularly drive through, or on any of the specialty corridors listed. Check your SPAM filtering to ensure Gov Delivery is on your approved list.

You may also follow KYTC Highway District 1 at www.facebook.com/kytdistrict1. You do not have to be a Facebook member to access this page.

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The graphic features the US 60 Connectivity Study logo at the top, followed by a blue banner reading "PUBLIC MEETINGS This Week". Below this, two blue boxes list the meeting details for Kentucky and Illinois. The Kentucky box specifies Wednesday, Nov. 29, 5 - 7 p.m. CT at Ballard Memorial High School LaCenter, KY. The Illinois box specifies Thursday, Nov. 30, 5 - 7 p.m. CT at Cairo High School, Cairo, IL. At the bottom is a map of the study area showing the Ohio River, Kentucky, and Illinois, with a red dashed line indicating the proposed corridor. A reference key identifies symbols for the study area, existing roads, and proposed infrastructure.

KENTUCKY	ILLINOIS
Wednesday, Nov. 29 5 - 7 p.m. CT	Thursday, Nov. 30 5 - 7 p.m. CT
Ballard Memorial High School LaCenter, KY	Cairo High School Cairo, IL

REFERENCE KEY

- Study Area
- Existing Roads
- Proposed Roads
- Proposed Bridge
- Proposed Corridor

3. Meeting Photos

Local Officials Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023

A sign-in sheet for the US 60 Connectivity Study Local Officials Meeting. The sheet is white with a blue header. The header contains the US 60 logo and the text "Connectivity STUDY". Below the header, the text "US 60 CONNECTIVITY STUDY LOCAL OFFICIALS MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET" is displayed in a bold, blue font. On the right side of the sheet, there is a blue box containing the date and location: "Wednesday, November 29, 2023" and "Fort Jefferson Welcome Center, Wickliffe, KY". The sign-in sheet has several rows of fields for "Name:", "Address:", "Email:", and "Phone:". A black marker is resting on the sheet, pointing towards the "Name:" field.





Ballard County Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023









Cairo, IL Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023









4. Media Coverage (Post-Event)

U.S. 60 Connectivity Study Media Coverage

November 2023 Public Meetings

Nov 24, 2023 - Dec 1, 2023

C2 Strategic Communications



Summary

Total Mentions: 11

Total Reach: 1.1M

Total Publicity Value: \$1.1K

Top Articles

Top Articles

DATES	HEADLINES	OUTLET	REACH
11/28/2023	KYTC announces two public meetings for U.S. 60 Connectivity Study	KFVS-TV Online	47,663
11/28/2023	KYTC hosting 2 public meetings about U.S. 60 Connectivity Study	KFVS-TV Online	47,663
12/1/2023	KYTC hosts 2 public meetings about U.S. 60 Connectivity Study	KFVS-TV Online	47,663
11/30/2023	Public shares concerns over wildlife impact at meeting on U.S. 60 corridor study	WPSD-TV Online	42,578
11/30/2023	Western Ky. residents express confusion, concern over U.S. 60 Connectivity Study	WKMS-FM Online	4,684
11/24/2023	Upcoming events in southeast MO, southern IL, western KY	Fox 23 KBSI	1,774
11/30/2023	Kentucky Transportation Cabinet hosts public meeting to discuss U.S. 60 Connectivity Study	Fox 23 KBSI	1,774
11/30/2023	Public shares concerns over wildlife impact at meeting on U.S. 60 corridor study	(Print) Paducah Sun, The	0
12/1/2023	90 attend Cairo meeting to discuss new US 60 connection between Kentucky and Illinois	West Kentucky Star	N/A
11/28/2023	Meetings on U.S. 60 Bridge Connectivity Study	WLOX-TV Online	N/A
11/28/2023	Meetings on U.S. 60 Bridge Connectivity Study	WBRC-TV Online	N/A

Top Outlets

OUTLET	NUMBER OF CLIPS	REACH	PUBLICITY VALUE
KFVS-TV Online	3	142,989	\$32.89
Fox 23 KBSI	2	3,548	\$0.82
The Paducah Sun	1	0	\$1,066.07
WPSD-TV Online	1	42,578	\$9.79
WKMS-FM Online	1	4,684	\$1.08
Western Kentucky Star			
WLOX-TV Online			
WBRC-TV Online			

Public shares concerns over wildlife impact at meeting on U.S. 60 corridor study

Taylor Bryan Nov 30, 2023 Updated Dec 1, 2023



Facebook, X, Email, Print, Share, Bookmark

BARLOW — Wednesday night, a west Kentucky community that could be affected by a proposal for a more direct route between U.S. 60 in west Kentucky and Interstate 57 in southern Illinois gave leaders their input on the plans being considered.



About 300 people attended a public meeting Wednesday night at Ballard Memorial High School on a study to assess the feasibility of a new U.S. 60 corridor and Ohio River bridge crossing between U.S. 60 at Barlow, Kentucky, and I-57 near Future City, Illinois. TAYLOR BRYAN | The Sun

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet hosted a public forum at Ballard Memorial High School in Barlow, Kentucky, about a feasibility study looking into a possible new U.S. 60 corridor and Ohio River bridge that would cross between U.S. 60 at Barlow and I-57 near Future City, Illinois.

At the hearing about the U.S. 60 ongoing connectivity study, some people were not happy about the proposal. Sam Schilli was one of them; he is a wildlife education major at Murray State University. He worries about the potential risks the new bridge could have for wetlands and their wildlife.



Murray State University student Sam Schilli said he worries about the potential risks the new bridge could have for wetlands and wildlife that live there. TAYLOR BRYAN | The Sun

“The air that we breathe is going to be affected; the food that we eat is going to be affected; the water we drink is going to be affected, so having these species out there is ultimately going to help us really just live a better life, whether we realize it or not, helping them will help us,” he said.

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Schilli said there are better options. “Looking at this sheet of paper, there are a couple different options... or repair the currently existing one. If we just repaired the existing bridge, compared to the first option, 82 acres of wetland would be completely unaffected,” he said.

The existing bridge is the U.S. 51 Ohio River “Cairo” Bridge.

Kevin Murphy with the League of Kentucky Sportsmen shared similar concerns.



Kevin Murphy with the League of Kentucky Sportsmen said he's concerned about how the proposed project could affect the future of hunting in the area if the proposed corridor and bridge affects the wetlands in the area. TAYLOR BRYAN | The Sun

“I care about future sportsmen, kids, so that they have a place to go hunting. I've run my race... I'm here for those people who don't have an opportunity to be here — maybe the people who haven't been born yet,” Murphy said.

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Schilli had this to say about what the place could look like if the wetlands were negatively impacted by the construction of the corridor and bridge: “It's really not a life worth living if there's no wildlife.”



Meeting attendees were able to talk with members of the project team and shared their opinions on the options being considered for a new U.S. 60 corridor and bridge. TAYLOR BRYAN | The Sun

Another public meeting on the connectivity study will be held in Cairo, Illinois, Thursday evening. The meeting is scheduled from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Cairo High School.

WEATHER FORECAST

Currently in Paducah
41° 41° / 24°

Photo Galleries

GALLERY: Paducah's 2023 Labor Day Parade

GALLERY: Viewer photos show flooding on Aug. 4, 2023

GALLERY: Western Kentucky flooding July 19, 2023

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Kentucky Opry 7:00PM

JAN 9 Rock

Attaboy: The Overdrive Tour

Murray Family Church 7:00PM

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Articles

- Local woman accused of stealing more than \$400,000 from Bristol Broadcasting Paducah
- Kentucky State Police searching for two missing teens from Graves County
- Actor David Soul, one half of 'Starsky and Hutch,' dies at 80
- Greyhound leaves dozens stranded in St. Louis, MO
- Murray Police Department searching for Deon Howard
- IRS new tax tool could eliminate people doing their taxes
- SIU medical student represents Illinois in upcoming Miss America competition
- Superintendent of Eldorado School responds after school board fires five coaches
- Teacher accused of threatening to behead student over Israeli flag comments 'no longer an employee' at school, district says
- A judge gets violently attacked in court by a defendant during sentencing, and a marshal suffers 'significant' injuries

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5. Sign-In Sheets
(Redacted Not for Public Release)

6. Comment Summary



PUBLIC COMMENTS SUMMARY

What: US 60 Connectivity Study, Public Comments/Feedback

Overview

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet held a public information meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023, in Barlow, Kentucky and Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023 in Cairo, Illinois to share information and gather public feedback on the U.S. 60 Connectivity Study.

Information was presented in an open house format, allowing attendees to view various exhibits and talk directly with KYTC representatives about the study.

Collectively, 331 people attended the meetings and each attendee was encouraged to submit their thoughts and feedback on the study. Attendees could submit written comment forms on-site at the meetings or mail the forms to the project team at a later date. Comment forms were also available for submission on the project's website, US60ConnectivityStudy.com. The public comment period for this study was open through Saturday, Dec. 30.

KYTC received 815 total responses about the project (251 Written Comment Forms, 504 Online Forms, 41 email/website/letter submissions, 20 Elected Officials Comment Forms).

680 responses (83% of total) were against the idea of relocating the Ohio River crossing to the US 60 study area and expressed their support for the bridge replacement along US 51.

**The data presented in the following section covers responses from both in-person and online comment form responses exclusively. **

A significant portion of feedback came from people who do not own property in the US 60 study area however, most did visit the Kentucky portion of the US 60 study area for recreational use (72% do not own property, 84% visits KY portion for recreation). Most of the people who submitted comments do not believe the relocation of the Ohio River crossing to this study area would enhance economic development opportunities or regional mobility and recommended KYTC advances the US 51 Bridge Replacement project to construction. (85% in favor of US 51 Bridge Replacement).

Additional qualitative comments against the US 60 Connectivity Study shared common themes concerning local wildlife preservation and recreational use within the study area (256 combined responses with wildlife/recreation concerns). Project cost and overall economic impact of the region was cited as a recurring negative theme in the additional comments section of the form (113 combined responses with cost/economic concerns).

A summary of all quantifiable comment form questions and responses is provided below:

Comment Form Responses (In-person and Online, 755 Responses)

- 1. Do you own property in the U.S. 60 Study area?**
 - Yes – 210
 - No – 535
 - No response – 10
- 2. Do you visit the Kentucky portion of the U.S. 60 Study area for recreation use?**
 - Yes – 632
 - No – 112
 - No response – 11
- 3. Would the relocation of the Ohio River crossing to this study area enhance regional mobility?**
 - No – 595
 - Yes – 130
 - No response – 30
- 4. Would relocation of the Ohio River crossing to this study area enhance economic development opportunities?**
 - No – 629
 - Yes – 95
 - No response – 31
- 5. Would relocation of the Ohio River crossing to this study area remain sensitive to environmental resources?**
 - No – 524
 - Yes – 199
 - No response – 32
- 6. KYTC intends to advance either this project OR the US 51 Bridge Replacement project to construction. Please select your preferred option below.**
 - US 51 Bridge Replacement – 643
 - US 60 Study Area – 65
 - Conceptual Corridor 1 – 35
 - Conceptual Corridor 2 – 25
 - No response – 24
 - Other – 23

**Responses listed as “other” contain a variety of suggestions related to the location of the new Ohio River Crossing. The following bullets include recurring themes found amongst participants:*

- Neither option, do not build
- New four lane crossing in Wickliffe
- New four lane crossing south of Cairo

Local Officials Meeting Overview

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet held a local officials meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023, in Wickliffe, Kentucky to share information and gather public feedback on the U.S. 60 Connectivity Study. Information was provided through a formal presentation, followed by an open question and answer period.

Collectively, 23 people attended the meeting and each attendee was encouraged to submit their thoughts and feedback on the study. Attendees could submit written comment forms on-site at the meetings or mail the forms to the project team. Comment forms were also available for submission on the project's website, US60ConnectivityStudy.com. The public comment period for this study started online on Friday, Dec. 1 and goes through Saturday, Dec. 30.

KYTC received 20 total responses about the project during the local officials meeting (20 Written Comment Forms).

The data shown in the following paragraph covers responses from both in-person and online comment form responses exclusively. Submissions that left relevant sections blank were not calculated

45% of local official respondents own property within the US 60 Connectivity Study project area and 50% state they use the Kentucky portion of the area for recreational use. 75% of responses selected the US 51 Bridge Replacement as their preferred option over the relocation of the Ohio River Crossing. A summary of all quantifiable comment form questions and responses is provided below:

7. Do you own property in the U.S. 60 Study area?

- Yes – 9
- No – 11

8. Do you visit the Kentucky portion of the U.S. 60 Study area for recreation use?

- Yes – 10
- No – 8
- No response – 2

9. Would the relocation of the Ohio River crossing to this study area enhance regional mobility?

- No – 7
- Yes – 7
- No response – 6

10. Would relocation of the Ohio River crossing to this study area enhance economic development opportunities?

- Yes – 9
- No – 7
- No response – 4

11. Would relocation of the Ohio River crossing to this study area remain sensitive to environmental resources?

- No – 7
- Yes – 7
- No response – 6

12. KYTC intends to advance either this project OR the US 51 Bridge Replacement project to construction. Please select your preferred option below.

- US 51 Bridge Replacement – 15
- US 60 Study Area – 4
- No response – 1

7. Comment Log
(Redacted Not for Public Release)



Coordination Results

Project:	US 60 Connectivity Study Ballard County, KY Item#: 1-80250.00
Purpose:	Resource Agency Coordination #3 Refined Corridor Concepts Review
Place:	Virtual – Email and Online Survey
Date/Time:	January 11, 2024 – January 26, 2024
Prepared By:	Qk4

The third Resource Agency Coordination (RAC) effort included an email circulation of public feedback and refined corridor concepts impacts (**Appendix A**). An online survey supplemented this effort to collect Resource Agency opinions on the potential concepts ability to meet study goals (enhance regional mobility, enhance economic development opportunities, and to remain sensitive environmental resources); preferred concept; and any avoidance, minimization, or mitigation efforts to be considered.

Feedback

Eleven Resource Agency Representatives provided responses. Agencies represented include:

- Ballard County Extension Office
- Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources
- Kentucky Division of Water
- Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Division of Environmental Analysis
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



1. **Most believe the relocation of the Ohio River crossing to the study area would enhance regional mobility.**
 - Yes – 5
 - No – 3
 - No Response – 3
2. **The relocation of the Ohio River crossing to this study area's ability to enhance economic development opportunities was mixed.**
 - Yes – 4
 - No – 4
 - No Response – 3
3. **Most believe the relocation of the Ohio River crossing to this study area would not remain sensitive to environmental resources.**
 - Yes – 3
 - No – 7
 - No Response – 1
4. **The majority indicated they would like to see the US 51 Bridge Replacement Project advance to construction.**
 - Relocation of the Ohio River Crossing to the US 60 Study Area - 3
 - US 51 Bridge Replacement Project – 8
5. **Opinions were divided on the preferred Ohio River Crossing within the US 60 Study Area.**
 - US 60 Conceptual Corridor 1 - 2
 - US 60 Conceptual Corridor 2 -2
6. **If a corridor were to advance from this study, avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation efforts to considered, include:**
 - Outstanding State Resource Waters are present and mussel surveys should be completed for any concepts that advance.

- Avoidance of the Emergency Watershed Protection Program - Floodplain Easements (EWPP-FPE) held by U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
- Complete avoidance of the study area was recommended, noting concern for the potential catastrophic negative effects to the ecology, specifically considering the interconnections of the wetland habitat and recreational public lands.
- Avoidance and minimization of impacts to aquatic resources, wildlife habitat, and historic/cultural resources. Specifically:
 - Endangered Species habitats (forested, wetland, and riparian)
 - Waters of the U.S. (rivers, streams, wetlands)
- Wetland/waterfowl habitat restoration and mitigation.

About half of the responses noted mitigation for the significant environmental impacts would be challenging, if even feasible. Current study mitigation estimates do not fully reflect all mitigation efforts that would be required (e.g., Section 4(f), public hunting lands, recreational economic impacts, etc.).

End of Summary

Appendix A

Final Study Update to Resource Agencies



Final Resource Agency Study Update

AUGUST 2023

Resource Agency Coordination #2

NOVEMBER 2023

Local Officials / Public Meetings

JANUARY 2024

Resource Agency Coordination #3

EARLY 2024

Study Complete

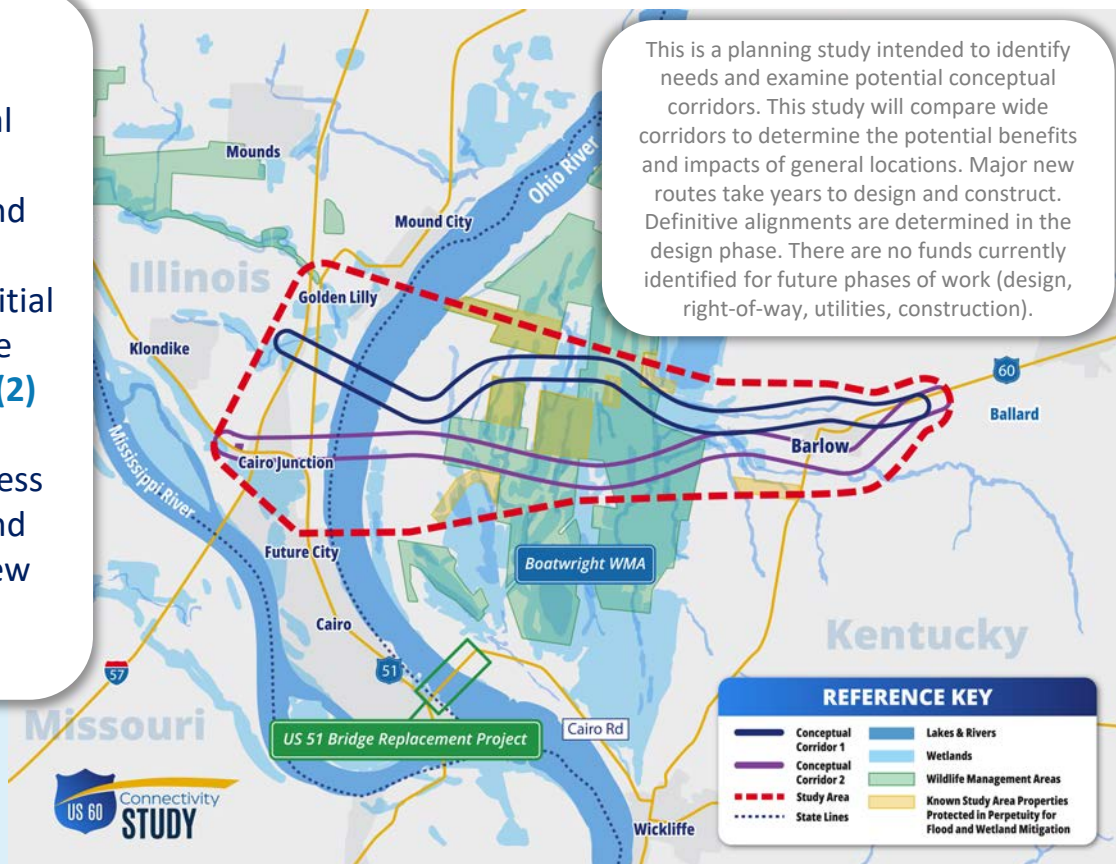
Initial Corridor Review

Refined Corridor Review

Refined Corridor Review

Considering environmental resources, protections, and engineering feasibility, the initial corridors were refined to **two (2) conceptual corridors** to assess the benefits and impacts of a new US 60 route.

This is a planning study intended to identify needs and examine potential conceptual corridors. This study will compare wide corridors to determine the potential benefits and impacts of general locations. Major new routes take years to design and construct. Definitive alignments are determined in the design phase. There are no funds currently identified for future phases of work (design, right-of-way, utilities, construction).



Two Public Meetings

November 29th & 30th, 2023

Barlow: 242 attended

Cairo: 89 attended

A total of **815** surveys received through December 30th, 2023.

679 (85%) were against relocating the US 60 corridor to the study area.

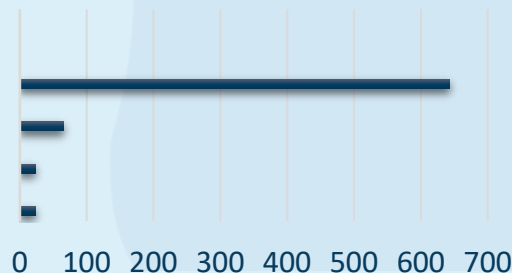
Survey Results of Public's Preferred Build Option

US 51 Bridge Replacement

US 60 Study Area

Other

No Response



Environmental Resources within Conceptual Corridor	1	2
Residences	6	3
Businesses	0	3
Cultural Historic Resources	0	0
Archaeological Resources	0	1
Cemeteries	0	0
Farmland (acres)	177	137
Trees/Indiana Bat Habitat (acres)	83	56
Streams (linear feet)	4,972	4,118
Wetlands (acres)	91	55
100-Year Floodplain (acres)	196	113
Parks (acres)	0	0
Boatwright WMA (acres)	23	68
Boatwright Properties Protected in Perpetuity (acres)	0	0
Illinois DNR Property (acres)	0	0
NRCS Properties Protected in Perpetuity (acres)	0	0
Public Hunting Lands (acres)	23	68
USACE-Owned Lands (acres)	0	0

Conceptual Corridor 1 would have **fewest impacts** to:

- ❖ Businesses
- ❖ Archaeological Resources
- ❖ Boatwright WMA
- ❖ Public Hunting Lands

Conceptual Corridor 2 would have **fewest impacts** to:

- ❖ Residences
- ❖ Farmland
- ❖ Indiana Bat Habitat
- ❖ Streams
- ❖ Wetlands
- ❖ 100-Year Floodplain

Both corridors would increase travel times for Environmental Justice (low-income and minority) persons near the study area.

KYTC Item No. 1-80250 / Resource Agency Update

The purpose of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet’s **US 60 Connectivity Study** is to **assess the benefits and impacts** of a potential **new US 60 corridor and Ohio River bridge crossing between Barlow, Kentucky and I-57 near Cairo, Illinois**. This includes examining the economic, social and environmental effects of a new corridor.

Study Goals

ENHANCE REGIONAL MOBILITY



US 60 currently provides the only east-west designated truck route west of Paducah, connecting to US 51 near the Ohio River at Wickliffe.

- **35 percent of all vehicles traveling across the US 51 Ohio River Bridge are trucks.**



Travel times are increased by diverting south before traveling east-west. The existing US 51 connection between Barlow and I-57 is 17.5 miles and takes 24 minutes.*



Travel speeds are reduced to 25 mph through Wickliffe and 30 mph through Cairo.

PROVIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES










- Expand available jobs and labor pool between Kentucky, Illinois, & Missouri by decreasing travel times.
- Increased accessibility for regional destinations and industrial parks.
- Improved freight movement
- Support existing industries and future development.

REMAIN SENSITIVE TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES



Study area is in a **highly environmentally sensitive area**. Avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating for project impacts would be crucial.

KYTC will use the study findings to determine if they will **advance a corridor from the US 60 Connectivity Study OR the US 51 Bridge Replacement Project.**

	US 60 Conceptual Corridor 1	US 60 Conceptual Corridor 2	US 51 Bridge Replacement
 Total Project Cost (2023 dollars)	\$1.3 billion	\$1.2 billion	\$383 million
 Travel Time*	13 minutes	11 minutes	24 minutes
 Project Lengths	9.9 miles	10.5 miles	1.9 miles
IMPACTED ENVIRONMENTAL REASOURCES			
 Boatwright WMA (acres)	23	68	0
 Streams (linear feet)	4,972	4,118	598
 Wetlands (acres)	91	55	9

*from US 60 (Barlow, KY) to I-57 (Exit 1, IL)

KYTC Item No. 1-80250 / January 2024



Resource Agency Survey

Would relocating the Ohio River crossing address study goals?

Which option do you prefer?

What avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation
should be considered?

Tell us what you think!

Click [here](#) to take the online survey.