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**From:** Ryan Brumfield <[rbrumfield@arc.gov](mailto:rbrumfield@arc.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 4:43 PM  
**To:** McKenzie, Shane (KYTC) <[Shane.McKenzie@ky.gov](mailto:Shane.McKenzie@ky.gov)>  
**Subject:** Science Hill Railroad Crossing Scoping Study

Hi Shane,

We received the attached request from KYTC to provide comments on the Science Hill Railroad Crossing Scoping Study. See below for comments:

- ? ARC does not have any active projects in the Science Hill community.
- ? I am not aware of any pending or proposed ARC projects in the Science Hill community.
- ? I am not aware of any significant issues or concerns in the project area that should be considered when analyzing alternatives.
- ? We generally agree with the purpose and need as described.
- ? Regarding the alternatives described based on the purpose and need:
  - o A key aspect of the purpose and need is to improve safety. However, many of the high crash locations shown are outside of the study area and not directly related to railroad crossings. Proposed alternatives do not appear to address safety issues at the high crash locations listed. If the purpose is to improve safety at the rail crossings themselves, then the safety data for unrelated intersections on US 27 should be deprioritized or not mentioned at all and solutions to improve safety at crossings should be emphasized. If the purpose does include improving safety at locations along US 27, those should be added to the study area and proposed alternatives should offer solutions that would address safety at those locations.
  - o The limited number of rail crossing crashes (19 since 1975) could mean that grade crossing technology like stop arms can sufficiently address safety concerns at crossings that remain in place. Are these enhancements/upgrades assumed to be a part of the various alternatives or should that be a separate alternative?
  - o Some of the alternatives could be considered in combination with other alternatives to meet the purpose and need. For example, the Molen Street Connector could be considered in combination with the Green or Yellow alternative. Maybe a “hybrid” alternative is needed or a statement that multiple alternatives may be considered in combination to meet the purpose and need.
  - o It would be helpful if Table 1 had a rough estimate of benefits from each alternative, including estimated travel time savings and number of crashes prevented.

Let me know if additional information is needed. Thanks for the opportunity to review.

Ryan

**Ryan Brumfield, P.E.**  
**Senior Transportation Advisor**  
**APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
1666 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW, SUITE 700  
WASHINGTON, DC 20009-1068  
202.884.7706 | [rbrumfield@arc.gov](mailto:rbrumfield@arc.gov)  
[www.arc.gov](http://www.arc.gov) | [Subscribe to ARC news and updates](#)

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**From:** Bean, Robert (EEC) <[robert.bean@ky.gov](mailto:robert.bean@ky.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2019 10:10 AM  
**To:** McKenzie, Shane (KYTC)  
**Cc:** Wright, James R (EEC); Dykes, Seth (EEC)  
**Subject:** Science Hill Railroad Crossing Scoping Study

Mr. McKenzie,

The Division of Forestry is unaware of any Forestry resources that would be impacted by this project.

Robert Bean  
Chief Forester  
Division of Forestry  
Campbellsville Branch  
270-465-5071  
[robert.bean@ky.gov](mailto:robert.bean@ky.gov)

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**From:** Houlihan, John F (KYTC) <[john.houlihan@ky.gov](mailto:john.houlihan@ky.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2019 9:16 AM

**To:** McKenzie, Shane (KYTC)

**Subject:** Science Hill Railroad Crossing Scoping Study, Pulaski County, KYTC Item No. 8-9010.00

Shane, the KY Airport Zoning Commission (KAZC) jurisdiction starts at 200 feet above ground in regards to the project limits of the study. Any structure or construction equipment exceeding 200 feet above ground level will require a permit from the KAZC. Thank you.

Kentucky Airport Zoning Commission (KAZC)

John Houlihan, Administrator

Department of Highways, District Six

421 Buttermilk Pike

Covington, KY 41017

Office 859-341-2700, Office 1-800-928-2700, Desk 859-341-2707 Ext. 277, Cell 502-330-3955

KAZC webpage: <https://transportation.ky.gov/Aviation/Pages/airportzoning.aspx>

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**Subject:** FW: Science Hill RR Crossing

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**From:** Katie Haller <[katie@kbt.net.org](mailto:katie@kbt.net)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 06, 2019 7:43 AM

**To:** McKenzie, Shane (KYTC) <[Shane.McKenzie@ky.gov](mailto:Shane.McKenzie@ky.gov)>; Spencer, Amanda R (KYTC) <[Amanda.Spencer@ky.gov](mailto:Amanda.Spencer@ky.gov)>

**Cc:** [John.moore@ky.gov](mailto:John.moore@ky.gov)

**Subject:** Science Hill RR Crossing

Good morning Shane et. al.

KBT will not be providing comment in regards the Science Hill RR Crossing.

I apologize for the delay in our response – the letter was addressed to our old address and we just received it in the mail.

Can someone change our address to the one below my signature or let me know who I can send that information too?

Best regards,  
Katie

**Katie Haller**, Member Services Director  
**Kentuckians For Better Transportation**  
8000 Lyndon Centre Way, Ste. 101  
Louisville, KY 40222  
(502) 491-5600  
Cell (502) 639-4450  
[www.kbt.net.org](http://www.kbt.net.org)



**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET  
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

**Matthew G. Bevin**  
Governor

**Don Parkinson**  
Secretary

#1 Sportsman's Lane  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
Phone (502) 564-3400  
1-800-858-1549  
Fax (502) 564-0506  
[fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov)

**Regina Stivers**  
Deputy Secretary

**Rich Storm**  
Commissioner

15 February 2019

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet  
Division of Planning  
Attn: Shane McKenzie, P.E.  
200 Mero Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Flr.  
Frankfort, KY 40622

RE: Science Hill Railroad Crossing Scoping Study  
Pulaski County  
KYTC Item No. 8-9010.00

Dear Mr. McKenzie:

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) has received your request for information pertaining to the subject project. The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Information System indicates that the federally-listed Northern Long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Grey bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Cumberland Bean (*Villosa trabalis*), Fluted Kidneyshell (*Ptychobranchus subtentum*), and Cumberlandian Combshell (*Epioblasma brevidens*) are known to occur within close proximity of the project area. Additionally, the state-listed Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*), Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*), Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*), Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*), Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*), Great Egret (*Ardea alba*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*), and Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) are known to occur within close proximity to the project area. Please be aware our database system is a dynamic one that only represents our current knowledge of various species distributions.

No caves or other unique natural areas are known to occur within the project area. KDFWR recommends that you coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Kentucky Field Office, and contact the appropriate US Army Corps of Engineers office and the Kentucky Division of Water prior to any work within the waterways or wetland habitats of Kentucky. Additionally, KDFWR recommends the following for the portions of the project that impact streams:

- Channel changes located within the project area should incorporate natural stream channel design.
- If culverts are used, the culvert should be designed to allow the passage of aquatic organisms.
- Culverts should be designed so that degradation upstream and downstream of the culvert does not occur.



- Development/excavation during low flow period to minimize disturbances.
- Proper placement of erosion control structures below highly disturbed areas to minimize entry of silt into area streams.
- Replanting of disturbed areas after construction, including stream banks, with native vegetation for soil stabilization and enhancement of fish and wildlife populations. We recommend a 100 foot forested buffer along each stream bank.
- Return all disturbed instream habitat to a stable condition upon completion of construction in the area.
- Preservation of any tree canopy overhanging any streams within the project area.

To minimize indirect impacts to the aquatic environment, the KDFWR recommends that erosion control measures be developed and implemented prior to construction to reduce siltation into waterways located within the project area. Such erosion control measures may include, but are not limited to silt fences, staked straw bales, brush barriers, sediment basins, and diversion ditches. Erosion control measures will need to be installed prior to construction and should be inspected and repaired regularly as needed. KDFWR would prefer alternatives that achieve the projected safety concerns for motorists while minimizing impacts to fisheries, wildlife, and water resources.

I hope this information is helpful to you, and if you have questions or require additional information, please call me at 502-892-4453.

Sincerely,



Dan Stoelb  
Environmental Scientist

Cc: Environmental Section File



MATTHEW G. BEVIN  
GOVERNOR

CHARLES G. SNAVELY  
SECRETARY

## ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CABINET

300 SOWER BOULEVARD  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
TELEPHONE: 502-564-3350  
TELEFAX: 502-564-7484

R. BRUCE SCOTT  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

Feb. 11, 2019

Shane McKenzie, P.E.  
KYTC/Division of Planning  
200 Metro Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
Frankfort, KY 40622

Project: KYTC Item No. 8-9010.00

Dear Mr. McKenzie,

This letter is in response to your request for information, comments or suggestions we believe are important for consideration in regards to this project. We have reviewed our Natural Heritage Program Database to determine if any of the endangered, threatened, or special concern plants and animals or exemplary communities monitored by the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves (OKNP) occur within your general project area. We have also reviewed our databases to determine if any managed areas occur within your project area. Your project does pose the following concerns at this time:

Karst and cave resources and associated fauna occur near or within your project area and could be impacted by the proposed project.

For more detailed information please submit a formal data request to Evelyn Pickett, data manager (evelyn.pickett@ky.gov).

If you have any questions, or if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Martina Hines  
Environmental Control Manager



**MATTHEW G. BEVIN**  
GOVERNOR

**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS**

**DON PARKINSON**  
SECRETARY

**JENEAN HAMPTON**  
LT. GOVERNOR

2 Hudson Hollow, Unit 1  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-4311  
Phone 502-564-2172  
Fax 502-564-9015  
www.parks.ky.gov

**DONNIE J. HOLLAND**  
COMMISSIONER

March 4, 2019

Ms. Shane McKenzie, P.E.  
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet  
Division of Planning  
200 Mero Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor West  
Frankfort, KY 40622

RE: Science Hill Railroad Crossing Scoping Study

Dear Ms. McKenzie:

Thank you for contacting the Department of Parks regarding the subject study.

Our staff has reviewed the package of information provided. The Department has no input or comments to provide.

Our agency appreciates the Transportation Cabinet's cooperation and looks forward to successful ongoing and future partnerships.

If you have questions, please contact me at (502) 892-3361.

Respectfully,

Donnie J. Holland  
Commissioner  
Kentucky State Parks

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**MAR - 6 2019**

**Div. of Planning**



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**From:** Sublette, Derek <[Derek.Sublette@nscorp.com](mailto:Derek.Sublette@nscorp.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 06, 2019 2:26 PM  
**To:** McKenzie, Shane (KYTC) <[Shane.McKenzie@ky.gov](mailto:Shane.McKenzie@ky.gov)>  
**Subject:** Science Hill crossing study

Shane

Thank you for contacting Norfolk Southern regarding the Science Hill crossing study. NS is in favor of any project that improves the safety of railroad crossings. Generally speaking we prefer solutions that consolidate underutilized crossings and/or those crossings that are deemed to impose increased safety concerns. At this time we would be happy to discuss these proposed projects with the Cabinet at your convenience. While we have reviewed the attachments and cover letter we are hesitant to provide written comments until we can better understand the local needs in the area.

Please let me know and I can schedule a time for NS representatives to discuss in more detail. Thanks.

**Derek Sublette**  
**Government Relations - IN, KY, MO**  
**Norfolk Southern Corporation**  
**101 W. Ohio Street, Suite 2000**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46204**  
**317.472.2844 (o) | 317.509.7122 (c)**



MATTHEW G. BEVIN  
GOVERNOR

DON PARKINSON  
SECRETARY

**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET  
KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL  
THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

410 HIGH STREET  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
PHONE (502) 564-7005  
FAX (502) 564-5820  
[www.heritage.ky.gov](http://www.heritage.ky.gov)

REGINA STIVERS  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

CRAIG A. POTTS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
& STATE HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION OFFICER

February 19, 2019

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**FEB 22 2019**

**Div. of Planning**

Mr. Shane McKenzie, P.E.  
KYTC / Division of Planning  
200 Mero Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40622

Re: Science Hill Railroad Crossing Scoping Study, Pulaski County, Kentucky  
KYTC Item No. 8-9010

Dear Mr. McKenzie,

Thank you for your submission of a study area map for the above-referenced project. We recommend that you also contact Dan Davis at KYTC regarding this matter. Typically, information on transportation projects comes to our office through KYTC's Division of Environmental Analysis subject matter experts in accordance with an existing Programmatic Agreement.

Should this project not fall under those stipulations for some reason, information on how to submit information to our office, and what specific information is required for our review follows. Regarding your inquiry pertaining to GIS data for cultural resources within the study area, we refer you to our website: <https://heritage.ky.gov>. Select *Review and Compliance* in the upper left hand corner of the page. Instructions for obtaining KHC data for above-ground resources is provided there, as well as instructions for contacting the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) to request archaeological data. Once that data has been obtained, you may submit it to our office with the additional documentation required as stated on the *Review and Compliance* section of our webpage. The list of required information includes:

- Clear, current photographs of the project site and anything over 50 years of age in or visible from it;
- Site map/plan indicating the exact location and boundaries of the project area;
- Detailed description of the project (may include plans, scope of work, and other available information);
- Documentation of prior ground disturbance (e.g. maps, photographs, underground utility plans, etc.); and
- Any known information about the history/use of the property and local significance.

It is likely that cultural resources exist within the proposed study area and continued consultation will be required as plans develop. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nicole Konkol of my staff at [nicole.konkol@ky.gov](mailto:nicole.konkol@ky.gov).

Sincerely,



Craig A. Potts,  
Executive Director and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

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FEB 13 2018

Div. of Planning

CP: nk; KHC # 53491  
cc: Dan Davis (KYTC)

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**From:** Greg Speck <[greg.speck@pulaskisheriff.com](mailto:greg.speck@pulaskisheriff.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 07, 2019 12:07 PM  
**To:** McKenzie, Shane (KYTC) <[Shane.McKenzie@ky.gov](mailto:Shane.McKenzie@ky.gov)>  
**Subject:** Railroad Crossing Study

Mr. Mckenzie

I have reviewed your correspondence regarding the railroad crossing study in Science Hill. The Pulaski 911 center receives many complaints of trains blocking roadways in the Science Hill area and in the Burnside area. I have been contacted by several residence and businesses complaining of roadways being blocked for hours at times. One business owner on Ware road in Science Hill has told me he may be forced to close his business due to customers not being able to enter and leave due to the trains blocking Ware road. The business is Summit Meats the owner is Kyle Turpen (606-271-8067 ). Mr. Turpen has documentation I am sure he would share with you . In the Burnside area, Richardson road is often blocked, causing children to be late for school, blocking first responders on several occasions. Two of my deputies were blocked in on Richardson lane for 45 minutes after responding to a call. I have cited Norfolk Southern under Kentucky statute which prohibits a train from blocking a roadway for over five minutes. The local courts fined the Railroad. Norfolk Southern has now sued me in Federal court under a federal commerce claim. In conclusion all I can add to your extensive study is this problem is extremely disruptive and potentially dangerous. I appreciate your efforts to resolve this issue. If I can be of further assistance please contact me.

Sincerely,  
Greg Speck

**Sheriff Greg Speck**  
**P.O. 752**  
**Somerset, Kentucky 42502**  
**606-678-5145 (Main)**  
**606-679-3119 (Fax)**  
<http://www.pulaskisheriff.com/>

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April 1, 2019

Shane McKenzie, P.E.  
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet  
Division of Planning  
200 Mero Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor West  
Frankfort, KY 40622

**RE: Science Hill Railroad Crossing Scoping Study – Pulaski County**

Dear Mr. McKenzie:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has reviewed the information submitted for the subject Transportation Cabinet project in Pulaski County. The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is concerned with potential impacts that projects might have upon prime farmland soils, farmlands of statewide importance, PL-566 watershed structures, wetlands identified under the Food Security Act, Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) easements. Based upon the information provided, Kentucky NRCS does not anticipate the proposed actions will affect these resources or special environmental concerns.

NRCS is not aware of any plans or activities related to ongoing efforts in the defined project area. However, the area in question does appear to contain prime farmlands and farmlands of statewide importance. If it is anticipated that federal dollars will be used to permanently convert wetlands or important prime farmlands from agricultural uses to non-agricultural uses, a Form AD-1006 (or Form NRCS-CPA-106 if the project is a corridor type project) must be submitted to the local NRCS office. These forms may be obtained from any local NRCS office and are also available as electronic forms on the web at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eForms/welcomeAction.do?Home>.

NRCS has no further environmental comments regarding the proposed project. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the scoping of this project. If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Casey Shrader, NRCS KY State Biologist at (859) 224-7372 or [Casey.Shrader@ky.usda.gov](mailto:Casey.Shrader@ky.usda.gov).

Sincerely,

C. GREGORY STONE  
State Conservationist

cc: Casey Shrader, State Biologist, Lexington, KY  
Steve Blanford, State Soil Scientist, Lexington, KY

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APR 04 2019

**Div. of Planning**

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commander  
Eighth Coast Guard District

1222 Spruce Street, Room 2.102D  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
Staff Symbol: (dwb)  
Phone: (314) 269-2378  
Fax: (314) 269-2737

16211  
February 26, 2019

Shane McKenzie, P.E.  
KYTC/Div. of Planning  
200 Mero Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Frankfort, KY 40622

Subj: Science Hill Railroad Crossing Scoping Study, KYTC Item No. 8-9010.00

Dear Mr. McKenzie:

This is in response to your letter dated February 6, 2019 and corresponding information requesting whether the Coast Guard will require a permit and navigational lighting for the referenced bridge project. We have examined the proposed project area with regard to its status as a navigable water of the United States for purposes of Coast Guard bridge jurisdiction.

Our examination indicates that there is no sufficient factual support for concluding that the study area, at the project location, has current or historic navigation occurring on a waterway. Since this is the case, a Coast Guard bridge permit or exemption will not be required for the referenced bridge project.

In consideration of the uses of the waterway, bridge lighting is not required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric A. Washburn", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

ERIC A. WASHBURN  
Bridge Administrator, Western Rivers  
By direction of the District Commander

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MAR - 8 2019

**Div. of Planning**