

Public Workshop Summary  
Public Workshop #1  
August 2003

Hazard, Hyden and Harlan

**Harlan to Hazard Study**

**Public Comment Form Results Summary**

A total of forty-three (43) comment forms were returned. Five (5) each were received from the Hazard and Hyden meetings, and thirty-three (33) were returned from the Harlan meeting.

**Question 1:** *Do you think there are significant deficiencies in the current highway system between Harlan and Hazard?* (37 responses)

**Safety was the number one issue mentioned by citizens (26 responses). Additional responses that relate to the safety of existing US 421 included narrow lanes (11), poor alignment (13), large trucks (9), school buses (12), and lack of passing areas (2).**

**Question 2:** *If you answered “yes” to question #1, do you have any specific suggestions as where an improved highway between Harlan and Hazard should be built?* (34 responses)

**Almost all of the responses to this question stated that any improvement should be along or close to the existing US 421 connecting to Hyden. (25 responses) The improvement should start somewhere between Baxter and Putney and end at Hyden near the Hal Rogers Parkway. Only two responses mentioned a road from Harlan connecting to Viper and Jeff.**

**Question 3:** *If an improved highway between Harlan and Hazard were built, are there specific areas that the proposed route should avoid? Please identify the areas and why it is important to avoid them?*

**There were very few answers to this question. Areas that were mentioned to avoid include schools, parks, churches, and Blanton Forest. Also a few citizens stated that relocations and impacts to existing businesses should be minimized.**

**Question 4:** *What issues do you think are important for us to examine in this study? (33 responses)*

**Safety and serving the highest amount of traffic were the issues most frequently mentioned (13 responses). Minimizing relocations (4) and costs (4), completing the project as quickly as possible (4), and the benefits to the economy of the area were also mentioned (4).**

**Question 5:** *What concerns do you have about the proposed project? (33 responses)*

**The need to get this project completed quickly (8 responses) and the fairness of the selection process for a preferred alternative (6) were mentioned most frequently. Relocations, serving Leslie County and access to local roads were also mentioned.**

**Question 6:** *Please discuss any other special needs or factors that should be considered in locating a route. (27 responses)*

**The most frequent items mentioned were: serving Leslie County, using US 421 from Harlan to Hyden and access to KY 221 were mentioned as other factors to consider.**

**Question 7:** *Do you know of any specific community groups or individuals who should be involved in this study? And why? (19 responses)*

**Groups mentioned include the Harlan Chamber of Commerce, the local tourism and convention officials, coal operators, citizens, state and local officials, the Stinnett Volunteer Firemen, Northside Community Council, and Judge Joe Greishop.**

**Question 8:** *Additional Comments (24 responses)*

**Most citizens were interested in safety of the existing road and getting a project done quickly. An improved highway would help economic development and tourism. Serving Leslie County was mentioned. Completing US 421 to Virginia was also mentioned.**

Three additional general questions were asked.

*How did you hear about this public meeting?*

**By far, most people indicated that they heard about the meeting from the newspaper. A few people heard about the meetings from friends and the radio.**

*Were you aware of proposals to study a highway project to improve the connection between Harland and Hazard before this meeting was announced?*

**About ninety percent of the people were aware of the project before the meeting was announced.**

*If you were aware, how did you hear about it?*

**The newspaper and elected officials were most frequently selected, but the responses were spread among most of the choices.**

Public Workshop Comment Summary  
 Public Workshop #2  
 December 2003

Hazard, Hyden and Harlan

**Harlan to Hazard Study**

**Public Comment Form Results Summary**

A total of one hundred and sixteen (119) comment forms were returned. Eight (8) were received from the Hazard, eighty-nine (91) in Hyden, and twenty (20) were returned from the Harlan meeting.

*1. How did you hear about this public meeting?*

	<i>Hazard</i>	<i>Hyden</i>	<i>Harlan</i>	<i>Total</i>
Newspaper	6	21	9	34
Letter	0	3	1	4
Friend/Family	1	29	8	36
Flyer	0	2	1	3
Elected Official	0	40	3	43
Radio	0	0	2	2
TV	1	1	0	2
Meeting	0	2	4	6
Other	0	3	4	7
Do Not Recall	0	0	0	0

*2. Based on the information available on the display boards and in the handout, which alternatives do you feel should be advanced for further study? Please circle at least 2 or 3 options:*

	<i>Hazard</i>	<i>Hyden</i>	<i>Harlan</i>	<i>Total</i>
Alternative 1	2	74	5	81
Alternative 1a	2	69	10	81
Alternative 2	0	69	10	79
Alternative 2a	0	28	11	39
Alternative 3	0	11	5	16
Alternative 3a	1	7	2	10
Alternative 3b	0	8	1	9
Alternative 4	1	1	5	7
Alternative 5	1	1	2	4
Alternative 6	2	0	0	2
Alternative 7	1	2	0	3
Alternative 8	2	0	0	2

Alternative 8a            1            0            0            1

3. *Based on the information available on the display boards and in the handout, which alternatives do you feel should be eliminated from further study? Please circle at least 2 or 3 options:*

	<i>Hazard</i>	<i>Hyden</i>	<i>Harlan</i>	<i>Total</i>
Alternative 1	0	3	1	4
Alternative 1a	0	4	1	5
Alternative 2	0	3	0	3
Alternative 2a	0	3	0	3
Alternative 3	0	4	1	5
Alternative 3a	0	4	1	5
Alternative 3b	0	5	1	6
Alternative 4	0	20	4	24
Alternative 5	0	28	5	33
Alternative 6	1	79	12	92
Alternative 7	0	85	17	102
Alternative 8	4	86	18	108
Alternative 8a	4	51	19	74

4. *Please discuss any special needs or factors that you feel should be considered when eliminating or advancing a route.*

- Road should be straight
- Road should have 3 or 4 lanes because of large coal trucks
- Want direct route to Hal Rogers Parkway
- Relocate fewest families
- School bus traffic must be safe
- Connections to existing roads should help economic development, tourism and jobs in Leslie County

5. *Additional Comments.*

- Highway a must for safety and economic growth
- School children safety is our top priority
- Existing US 421 is dangerous
- New road must be done soon, new route doesn't need to go to Cumberland
- If existing US 421 needs to be maintained, makes sense to reconstruct existing road
- Chosen route should not stop in Hyden

**A petition was received at the Hyden public meeting that had 1035 signatures. The petition stated that "...any upgrades and/or work on US 421 will improve the existing route and keep it in the general area of its current location."**

