

MINUTES
Public Involvement Meeting

KY 32 Alternatives Study – Rowan/Elliott Counties
KYTC Item No. 9-192.00

Elliottville Baptist Church Meeting Facility
Elliottville, Rowan County, Kentucky
Thursday, July 31, 2008
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Open House)

A public involvement open house meeting was held on Thursday, July 31, 2008, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Elliottville Baptist Church Meeting Facility, Elliottville, Kentucky. The purpose of the meeting was to provide preliminary information to the public on the proposed project and to get public input on possible issues, impacts, and alternates. The following Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), Area Development District (ADD), and consultant staff were in attendance:

Russ Brannon	FIVCO Area Development District
Deanna Miller	KYTC, Highway District 9
Brent Wells	KYTC, Highway District 9
Darrin Eldridge	KYTC, Highway District 9
Allen Blair	KYTC, Highway District 9
Robyn Ramey	KYTC, Highway District 9
Brian Gillum	KYTC, Highway District 9
Thomas Witt	KYTC, Central Office, Division of Planning
David Martin	KYTC, Central Office, Division of Planning
Carl Dixon	Wilbur Smith Associates
Samantha Wright	Wilbur Smith Associates
Amanda Spencer	Wilbur Smith Associates

The public involvement meeting was arranged with several informational display boards in a central location for the public to view. KYTC, ADD, and consultant staff were available at these locations to answer questions and discuss issues. As attendees entered the meeting room, they were invited to participate in the following:

- Sign-In

Upon arrival, attendees were greeted at the door and asked to sign the attendance list. At this station, attendees were given a survey questionnaire and a study information sheet (including a study area map). Attendees were asked to complete the survey prior to leaving the meeting, or return it to KYTC at a later date in the postage-paid envelope provided. State highway maps and information regarding the process for KYTC roadway projects were also available at the sign-in table.

- Presentation

Carl Dixon welcomed the attendees and thanked the Elliottville Baptist Church for hosting the meeting. He explained the purpose of both the KY 32 Alternatives Study and the public meeting. He introduced the KYTC, ADD, and consultant staff and told the attendees that he and they were available during the meeting to answer questions or talk to them one-on-one.

Using a PowerPoint Presentation as a visual aid, Carl explained that the KY 32 Alternatives Study would (1) help the KYTC to decide if an improvement is needed and (2) identify and evaluate possible improvement alternatives if the proposed project was approved. He indicated that there were no preconceived ideas on what type of improvement should be made. Carl described that the purpose of the meeting was to get public input on the need for an improvement, what the purpose of the project should be, issues and concerns about the proposed project, any sensitive areas that should be avoided, areas that should be served by a new improvement, and where and what types of improvements were needed, if any. Carl said that the planning study will take approximately one year to complete and would result in a recommendation as to how KY 32 should be improved, if at all.

He then asked the attendees to walk around and enjoy the refreshments, look at the exhibits, and ask questions of the staff. He encouraged them to complete the survey form that had been given to them. Carl told the attendees that they could also mark on either of two maps lying on tables in the back of the room to indicate traffic or safety problems, areas to avoid, possible alternatives, and other features of importance.

One attendee asked if this was part of the recently completed KY 645 study. Carl explained that this was a completely independent, unrelated study. He went on to say that the KY 32 project concept had been considered long before the KY 645 project concept.

After a few other attendees attempted to ask questions in the large and crowded meeting room, Deanna Miller asked that attendees pose their questions independently to the many available project team members and note their comments privately on their comment forms.

Carl gave the welcome presentation a second time at 5:30 pm to ensure all attendees heard the information and understood the purpose of the project and meeting. During this presentation, State Representative Rocky Adkins added remarks about the need for the project, project funding, and the importance of balancing the protection of sensitive environmental resources with highway safety and mobility. Representative Adkins stressed that all needs could be met through cooperation and collaboration.

- Exhibit Boards

The following maps were presented on exhibit boards:

- Study Area
- Project Description and Preliminary Project Goals
- Environmental Footprint

- Existing Average Daily Traffic/Level of Service
- Future Average Daily Traffic/Level of Service
- Crash Data
- Adequacy Ratings

Attendees were invited to view the project exhibits and discuss any questions or concerns with KYTC, ADD, and consultant staff.

Two large writing tablets were available at either end of the exhibit boards for attendees to note comments. The following comments were written on the tablets:

- Build new road (with 3 check marks next to it – left by other attendees noting their support for the comment);
- Popular motorcycle route;
- For more accurate crash data, visit local body shops;
- Hogtown Hill;
- Straight line;
- Follow existing road – straighten curves; and
- Entire Laurel and Big Caney watersheds have been targeted by KYDFWR (Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources) as areas of concern.

- Map Drawing Exercise

Two tables were set up with study area maps for attendees to draw on. Attendees used markers and post-it notes to identify potential areas of impact, problem locations along the existing route, improvement options, and general comments.

A few people marked on the maps to show the location of:

- Foster's cemetery;
- Two unnamed cemeteries;
- An unnamed church;
- Two "old" post offices;
- "Old" Brown Hospital;
- "Historic" Storell House;
- Several possible archaeology sites; and
- Four proposed alternatives.

- Verbal Comments

Following is a summary of comments made to project team members by citizens in attendance at the public meeting:

- Laurel and Caney Creeks are extremely rare habitats and should be avoided, including any runoff during construction or after completion.
- Look at side hill construction (avoiding the top of the ridge to miss residences and avoiding the valley to miss the streams).
- Homes and farms should be protected from any new alignment options. These are more important than historic and archaeological sites where nobody lives anymore.
- There are more family cemeteries along the route than are shown on the environmental map. These cemeteries should be protected.

- Avoid/protect potential historic sites (post office, hospital, cemeteries).
- Avoid/protect potential prehistoric archeology sites (pre-Native American).
- Provide aesthetically pleasing roadway (overlook areas, blending into natural environment, etc.).
- Keep the old road intact for tourism purposes – build new road.
- KY 32 is a part of a bicycle route; please add wide shoulders at least for bike safety.
- The traffic numbers and crash data do not show a need for the road to be improved.
- Make sure steps are taken to prevent increased heavy truck traffic. There is concern that any improved road would become a “coal haul road” with increased traffic coming from the coal fields headed to the Maysville area market.
- The crash data is not representative of what happens along KY 32. Many crashes are not reported when they are single-vehicle, non-injury, or uninsured drivers.
- The few straight stretches of the route are dangerous as well, because this is where many people try to pass.
- This route is important for emergency services in the area and should be improved.
- Improvements to the road are overdue and should be completed as soon as possible.
- School bus safety is a concern all year, but especially during the winter months because of the steep hills and curves.
- There is need for improved geometrics (flatter curves and better grades).
- Straighten the road and do it quickly.
- Look at KY 173 as an alternate – show the ADTs on surrounding roads on exhibits.
- Build the road south of the existing road.
- Straighten the curves, but leave the rest of the road alone.
- Build a straight line from Elliottville to KY 7.
- Make improvements to the existing route.
- The other sections of KY 32 outside of the study area also need improvement.
- There are a lot more accidents on the section of KY 32 west of Elliottville.
- There is concern about KY 32 from Elliottville to Morehead.
- We need to look at KY 32 from Elliottville to Morehead instead.
- KY 32 from Elliottville to Morehead has a couple of bad curves that need to be fixed.
- There are some blind curves before you get to Elliottville that should be fixed.
- Some local residents think that improving the road will bring more traffic – something that they would not want to happen.
- Widening and straightening the road will make the road less safe since people will be able to go faster.
- Leave the road alone; it's fine.
- You already know where the new road will be built, so why are we filling-out the comment sheets.

- The Cabinet should spend this money on something more worthwhile, like care for the elderly and handicapped.
- This is another Pork-Barrel project that doesn't need to be done with tax-payers money.
- The road is safe as long as you haven't been drinking or taking drugs.

One attendee provided an article about the recently completed Paris Pike project and asked that similar construction aesthetics be used for any KY 32 improvements.

Two attendees requested copies of the KY 645 Planning Study.

- Survey Area

Tables were available for attendees to fill out their survey form and read over the project information sheet.

- Summary

A total of 152 persons signed an attendance sheet at the two-hour public session.

Public comment surveys forms were distributed at the meeting to be returned during the meeting or by mail to KYTC. 68 survey forms were returned during the meeting. Once all of the questionnaires are received by KYTC, these comments will also be considered and included in the official meeting record.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.