

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

The FY 2025-2028 Draft STIP was available to the public from August 15, 2024, through September 14, 2024, a period of 30 days for public review via the KYTC web site. Kentucky's County Judge/Executives, Mayors of Kentucky's cities, Transit Providers, various government entities and other persons on our STIP distribution list were made aware that the Draft STIP was available for public review.

The KYTC web site had email capabilities for sending review comments and questions concerning the Draft FY 2025-2028 STIP. KYTC received six emails with comments regarding the Draft STIP.

The Public Notice was published in English and Spanish on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter outlining the 30-day public availability period for public review and comments on the Draft FY 2025-2028 STIP. The Public Notice was also published in the following newspapers.

Ashland Daily Independent  
Bowling Green Daily News  
Cincinnati Enquirer  
Lexington Herald Leader  
Louisville Courier Journal  
Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer  
Paducah Sun  
Somerset Commonwealth-Journal

Minority Newspapers  
Louisville Defender

Spanish Newspaper  
Al Dia en America



# News outlets choose not to print leaked Trump info

Decision contrasts Clinton emails

By DAVID BAUDER  
AP Media Writer

At least three news outlets were leaked confidential material from inside the Donald Trump campaign, including its report vetting JD Vance as a vice presidential candidate. So far, each has refused to reveal any details about what they received.

Instead, Politico, The New York Times and The Washington Post have written about a potential hack of the campaign and described what they had in broad terms.

Their decisions stand in marked contrast to the 2016 presidential campaign, when a Russian hack exposed emails to and from Hillary Clinton's campaign manager, John Podesta.

The website Wikileaks published a trove of these embarrassing missives, and mainstream news organizations covered them avidly.

Politico wrote over the weekend about receiving emails starting July 22 from a person identified as "Robert" that included a 271-page campaign document about Vance and a partial vetting report on Sen. Marco Rubio, who was also considered as a potential vice president. Both Politico and the Post said that two people had independently confirmed that the documents were authentic.

"Like many such vetting documents," The Times wrote of the Vance report, "they contained past statements with the potential to be embarrassing or damaging, such as Mr. Vance's remarks casting aspersions



Republican vice presidential nominee Sen. JD Vance, R-Ohio, and his wife, Usha Chilukuri Vance, order ice cream at Olson's Ice Cream on Aug. 7 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

on Mr. Trump."

## WHODUNIT?

What's unclear is who provided the material. Politico said it did not know who "Robert" was and that when it spoke to the supposed leaker, he said, "I suggest you don't be curious about where I got them from."

The Trump campaign said it had been hacked and that Iranians were behind it.

While the campaign provided no evidence for the claim, it came a day after a Microsoft report detailed an effort by an Iranian military intelligence unit to compromise the email account of a former senior advisor to a presidential campaign.

The report did not specify which campaign.

Steven Cheung, a spokes-

person for Trump's campaign, said over the weekend that "any media or news outlet reprinting documents or internal communications are doing the bidding of America's enemies."

The FBI released a brief statement Monday that read: "We can confirm the FBI is investigating this matter."

The Times said it would not discuss why it had decided not to print details of the internal communications. A spokesperson for the Post said:

"As with any information we receive, we take into account the authenticity of the materials, any motives of the source and assess the public interest in making decisions about what, if anything, to publish."

Brad Dayspring, a

spokesperson for Politico, said editors there judged that "the questions surrounding the origins of the documents and how they came to our attention were more newsworthy than the material that was in those documents."

Indeed, it didn't take long after Vance was announced as Trump's running mate for various news organizations to dig up unflattering statements that the Ohio senator had made about him.

## A LESSON FROM 2016?

It's also easy to recall how, in 2016, candidate Trump and his team encouraged coverage of documents on the Clinton campaign that Wikileaks had acquired from hackers. It was widespread: A BBC story prom-

ised "18 revelations from Wikileaks' hacked Clinton emails" and Vox even wrote about Podesta's advice for making superb risotto.

Brian Fallon, then a Clinton campaign spokesperson, noted at the time how striking it was that concern about Russian hacking quickly gave way to fascination over what was revealed.

"Just like Russia wanted," he said.

Unlike this year, the Wikileaks material was dumped into the public domain, increasing the pressure on news organizations to publish.

That led to some bad decisions: In some cases, outlets misrepresented some of the material to be more damaging to Clinton than it actually was, said

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, a University of Pennsylvania communications professor who wrote "Cyberwar," a book about the 2016 hacking.

This year, Jamieson said she believed news organizations made the right decision not to publish details of the Trump campaign material because they can't be sure of the source.

"How do you know that you're not being manipulated by the Trump campaign?" Jamieson said. She's conservative about publishing decisions "because we're in the misinformation age," she said.

Thomas Rid, director of the Alperovitch Institute for Cybersecurity Studies at Johns Hopkins, also believes that the news organizations have made the right decision, but for different reasons.

He said it appeared that an effort by a foreign agent to influence the 2024 presidential campaign was more newsworthy than the leaked material itself.

But one prominent journalist, Jesse Eisinger, senior reporter and editor at ProPublica, suggested the outlets could have told more than they did. While it's true that past Vance statements about Trump are easily found publicly, the vetting document could have indicated which statements most concerned the campaign, or revealed things the journalists didn't know.

Once it is established that the material is accurate, newsworthiness is a more important consideration than the source, he said.

"I don't think they handled it properly," Eisinger said. "I think they overlearned the lesson of 2016."

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## One-time hero to election deniers, Peters convicted in computer breach

DENVER (AP) — Former Colorado clerk Tina Peters, the first local election official to be charged with a security breach after the 2020 election as unfounded conspiracy theories swirled, was found guilty by a jury on most charges Monday.

Peters, a one-time hero to election deniers, was accused of using someone else's security badge to give an expert affiliated with My Pillow chief executive Mike Lindell access to the Mesa County election system and deceiving other officials about that person's identity.

Lindell is a prominent promoter of false claims that voting machines were manipulated to steal the election from Donald Trump. His online broadcasting site has been showing a livestream of Peters' trial and sending out daily email updates, sometimes asking for prayers for Peters and including statements from her.

Prosecutors said Peters was seeking fame and became "fixated" on voting problems after becoming involved with those who had questioned the accuracy of the 2020 presi-

dential election results.

The breach Peters was charged of orchestrating heightened concerns over potential insider threats, in which rogue election workers sympathetic to partisan lies could use their access and knowledge to launch an attack from within.

Peters was convicted of three counts of attempting to influence a public servant, one count of conspiracy to commit criminal impersonation, first-degree official misconduct, violation of duty and failing to comply with the secretary of state.

She was found not guilty of identity theft, one count of conspiracy to commit criminal impersonation and one count of criminal impersonation, rejecting that in those instances Peters had used the identity of the security badge's owner, a local man named Gerald Wood, without his permission.

Peters stood next to one of her attorneys at the defense table as the verdict was read in a quiet courtroom. Judge Matthew Barrett had warned those in the courtroom that he would not tolerate any outbursts.

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# Economists debate Harris' inflation plan

Opinions vary whether policy would lower food prices for consumers

Medora Lee  
USA TODAY

Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential nominee, announced plans to reduce food inflation with a federal ban on price gouging on groceries, but how much this would help Americans is debatable, economists say.

Over the past few years, President Joe Biden's administration has blamed corporate greed for the surge in inflation, and Harris took up that torch in a speech Friday in Raleigh, North Carolina. Corporations raised prices when snarled supply chains during the pandemic created shortages of nearly everything, and they just never stopped or lowered prices again after supply chains stabilized, they argue.

"Some companies are keeping prices high even though input costs are falling, and supply chains are back to normal," the White House said in a news release in March.

If higher grocery prices are the result of potential mergers between larger supermarkets and food producers and corporate greed, Americans may benefit from Harris' approach.

However, many economists have doubts such a policy would be effective for various reasons, including whether price gouging is the root of inflation at all.

Michael Ashton, managing principal at Enduring Investments LLC, who specializes in inflation analysis, questioned the existence of price gouging "in an industry as competitive as grocery."

"Why did the price gouging just start in 2021-22?" he asked. "Did grocers just not realize they had this power before then or did they not get greedy until 2021?"

Profit margins in the food industry already tend to be among the lowest. Net profit margin in 2023 in the grocery industry hit 1.6%, the lowest level since 2019, according to FMI, The Food Industry Association.



Since inflation only measures the pace at which prices are changing, actual sticker prices remain high from climbing over the past couple of years.

STEFANI REYNOLDS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## What caused food prices to spike?

During the pandemic, economists generally agreed supply chain shortages initially caused price increases.

After supply chains were ironed out, the dispute began. Researchers from the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke separately said last year that fast-rising wages when the economy reopened was a major contributor to rising grocery prices.

However, left-leaning government watchdog Accountable.US and former Labor Secretary Robert Reich say companies have been raising prices on Americans to reward stockholders with dividends and stock buybacks.

"Consumers are getting shafted, as corporations tell Wall Street they expect to be able to keep their prices and profits in the stratosphere," Reich wrote in June.

The Groundwork Collaborative, a nonprofit that earlier this year said "climate change, corporate consolidation, and profiteering" are reasons grocery prices remain high, even quantified in January how much corporate greed contributed to inflation. In the middle of

2023, corporate profit margins accounted for roughly half of inflation and more than a third since the pandemic began, it estimated.

"The industry keeps pushing the envelope to pad profits and bring in enough money for shareholder giveaways, but Americans are fed up," said Liz Zelnick, director of the economic security & corporate power program at Accountable.US, in a news release.

## Could Harris' plan work?

Opinions are mixed.

Reich, who sees corporate greed as the root of soaring inflation, advocated for a policy like what Harris is expected to announce.

"Put blame for high prices squarely where it belongs: on big corporations with monopoly power to keep prices high," he wrote. "And take those corporations on: Condemn them for price gouging. Threaten them with antitrust lawsuits, price-gouging lawsuits, even price controls. Criticize them for making huge profits and giving their top executives record pay while shafting consumers."

Others, like Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla.,

call the plan "federal price controls," which he said don't work.

Harris' solution to fighting inflation "is big government on steroids – where Washington bureaucrats stick their hands into American businesses and say what they can and can't sell a product for," he said in a news release on Thursday. "It never works because it causes companies to make much less of something – destroying supply and causing a mass shortage of goods."

Such a policy could also be difficult to implement because calculating an appropriate profit margin might be tricky, said James Knightley, Dutch bank ING's chief international economist.

"It's critical that we get the economic facts right and avoid political rhetoric," said Sarah Gallo, senior vice president of product policy and federal affairs at the Consumer Brands Association trade group. "The reality is that there are complex economic factors at play."

## Is food inflation still a thing?

Three in 5 Americans said corporate greed was a "major cause" of inflation, according to a poll of 1,000 registered voters by left-leaning polling and research group Navigator Research. However, that was in January when annual inflation was running at a 3.1% pace. Since then, inflation has eased further.

"When looking at the inflation story, it's good now, but the perception among consumers is different because prices are still elevated," Knightley said. "We're not returning to 2019 prices."

Since inflation only measures the pace at which prices are changing, actual sticker prices remain high from climbing over the past couple of years. Inflation in the 12 months through July was 2.9%, sharply down from its 40-year high of 9.1% in June 2022 and the lowest since March 2021. Overall, annual food inflation rose a smaller 2.2%, with grocery prices rising at an even slower 1.1% pace.

"Why intervene?" Knightley said. "From an economics perspective, it's looking like a pretty good place right now. This may be good messaging for the election, but it (inflation) may be falling by the wayside."

# Rare super blue moon a confounding marvel

Doyle Rice  
USA TODAY

A rare sky spectacle will occur Monday night that won't happen again for years: A full moon that can be called both a supermoon and blue moon will grace the night skies over the U.S.

The reason this combination, dubbed a "super blue moon," is rather rare, said NASA's Noah Petro, is that the two different cycles of blue and super moons have to align on the calendar.

If that's not confusing enough, astronomers also have varying definitions for what counts as a supermoon and what counts as a blue moon. Just last year, a full moon met the criteria for both, by some definitions.

## What is a supermoon?

When the moon's orbit brings it closer to Earth than usual, this cosmic combo is called a supermoon. A supermoon occurs when the moon's orbit is closest to Earth at the same time the moon is full. The term was coined by astrologer Richard Nolle in 1979.

"Different publications use slightly different thresholds for deciding when a full moon is close enough to the Earth to qualify as a supermoon," NASA said. "Because the orbit of the moon is not a perfect circle, the moon is sometimes closer to the Earth than at other times during its orbit."

## What is a blue moon?

There are two types of blue moons: seasonal and monthly. The one Monday will be of the seasonal variety.

A seasonal blue moon occurs when there are four full moons in a single season (on this occasion, summer). When this happens, the third of the four is considered a blue moon.

The second definition – which arose from a misunderstanding of the original – is the monthly blue moon, referring to the second full moon in a single calendar month.

The moon's cycle takes 29.5 days, but months can have 28, 29, 30 or 31



A safe bet for the next super blue moon is 2037, according to NASA.

DIANNIE CHAVEZ/ARIZONA REPUBLIC FILE

days.

The two cycles can create odd mismatches resulting in one more moon in a season or month than is typical – and that's a blue moon.

## How rare is a super blue moon? When will the next one occur?

"It's tricky to answer, because it depends on your definition of a supermoon and a blue moon," Edward Bloomer, senior astronomy manager at the U.K.'s Royal Observatory Greenwich said in an email.


The answer is different depending on whether talking about a seasonal blue moon or a monthly blue moon. If the definition of what counts as a supermoon is tweaked, the answer also changes.

In general, blue moons happen once every two or three years on average, according to NASA. The time between super blue moons can be as much as 20 years – but in general, 10 years is the average.

A safe bet for the next super blue moon is January 2037, according to NASA, but those with differing definitions might expect one before then.

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**STORY**

ucts who won Olympic medals).  
Interestingly, it is the recruiting of two former Kentucky head coaches — ex-Wildcats track and field coach Edrick Floreal (now at Texas) and ex-Cats men’s hoops coach John Calipari (now at Arkansas) — which deserves ample credit for launching UK’s gold rush over the past two Olympics.  
What ex-Cats are doing in Olympics women’s hurdles races can only be described as astounding.  
When former Kentucky hurdlers Masai Russell (100 meters) and Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (400 meters) swept gold in the women’s hurdles events in Paris, it marked the second straight Olympics in which UK products won both Olympic women’s hurdles races.  
In Tokyo, it was ex-Cats stars McLaughlin-Levrone (400) and Jasmine Camacho-Quinn (100) who swept the hurdles gold.  
This year, Camacho-Quinn ran third in the 100 meters hurdles behind Russell. Three years ago, it was former Kentucky

stars Camacho-Quinn and Kendra Harrison who ran 1-2 in the Olympic 100 hurdles.  
Add in the silver medal that ex-Kentucky star Daniel Roberts won in the men’s 110-meter hurdles in Paris, and former UK hurdlers have won *seven Olympic medals* combined in the past two Summer Games.  
In France, McLaughlin-Levrone and ex-UK star Alexis Holmes combined to form one half of Team USA’s gold medal-winning 4-by-400 relay team. That quartet, which also included Gabby Thomas and Shamier Little, set an American record (3:15.27) while crushing the competition in “Secretariat wins the Belmont” fashion.  
Former Kentucky stars Bam Adebayo, Devin Booker and Anthony Davis were on Team USA’s gold medal-claiming men’s basketball roster. All three made meaningful contributions as the Americans, led by Steph Curry’s torrid outside shooting and LeBron James’ stat-stuffing all-around play, won a tense gold medal game 98-87 over host France.



ROB SCHUMACHER USA TODAY NETWORK

Former Kentucky guard Devin Booker celebrated after he scored 15 points to help Team USA win the men’s basketball gold medal at the Paris Olympics with a 98-87 win over France.

Quietly, Booker was Team USA’s second-leading scorer, 15 points, and contributed six rebounds and three assists to the win over the French.  
Afterward, Steve Kerr, the Team USA head coach, ended his news conference by saying “Devin Booker is an incredible basketball player. Nobody asked about him. He was our unsung MVP. I just wanted to say that.”  
Davis, too, was a huge factor in Team USA staving off France. In a high-

energy 20 minutes of game time, the ex-UK big man had eight points, nine rebounds, four blocks and two steals.  
Adebayo logged nine minutes of clock in the gold medal game and had two points and one board while providing physical, active defense.  
It was the second straight Olympics in which a gold medal-winning U.S. men’s basketball roster boasted three former Kentucky players. Keldon Johnson joined Booker

and Adebayo on Team USA in Tokyo.  
All-time, 13 players who played men’s college basketball for UK have combined to win 16 Olympic gold medals while hooping for the red, white and blue.  
Even with that, the biggest disappointment in Paris from the Kentucky perspective came in men’s hoops when a talented Team Canada roster — featuring ex-Wildcats Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Jamal Murray and Trey Lyles —

failed to medal.  
In France, two of the premier athletes to perform for Kentucky in the 21st century added Olympic medals to their resumes.  
Avery Skinner, one of the stars of UK volleyball’s 2020 NCAA champions, earned a silver medal as part of Team USA’s indoor women’s squad.  
Former Kentucky women’s basketball star Rhyne Howard won a bronze medal in Paris as part of Team USA’s 3-on-3 squad.  
This past Saturday, when six ex-Cats — Russell (100 hurdles); McLaughlin-Levrone and Holmes (4-by-400 relay); and Adebayo, Booker and Davis (men’s hoops) — combined to claim six gold medals within hours of each other was an especially “golden” day for UK sports.  
During a year when Kentucky Athletics has vacated a 10-win football season (from 2021) due to NCAA rules violations and is facing a lawsuit making distressing allegations of sexual harassment during the tenure of a former UK swim coach, the feel-good vibes created by the ex-Cats in Paris came at a most-welcome time.

Mark Story: 859-444-4731, @markcstory

FROM PAGE 1B  
**CLAY**

have had 1,000-yard rushers in six of the last eight seasons.  
Ray Davis rushed for 1,129 yards in 2023, but the former Vanderbilt transfer was a fourth-round draft selection by the Buffalo Bills. His successor has big shoes to fill.  
Ohio State transfer Chip Trayanum has the inside track. The 5-foot-11, 227-

pounder from Akron, Ohio, rushed for 373 yards on 85 carries last season for the Buckeyes. His four years in Columbus, his most productive was his sophomore season in which he rushed for 402 yards.  
Demie Sumo-Karngbaye transferred to UK last season from North Carolina State. He averaged 6.9 yards per carry on 20 attempts after averaging 5.5 yards per attempt with the Wolfpack in 2022. He’s considered an able

receiver with 26 catches over the last two seasons.  
Keep an eye on a pair of freshmen, one a redshirt, the other a true freshman. First-year player Jason Patterson, the freshman from Sneads, Florida, was running third team in the Fan Day open practice last Saturday. Jamarion Wilcox, a redshirt freshman from Douglasville, Georgia, earned praise after the first scrimmage.  
As the offensive coordinator at Boise State, Hamdan had Ashton

Jeanty, an All-America candidate who rushed for 1,347 yards last season. Watching his new backs, Hamdan is sure to be asking, “Are we good enough?”  
**3. PUNTER**  
Yes, punter. UK’s field goal specialist is set with Alex Raynor, who made 10 of his 11 attempts last season before deciding to return for another season. Punter is a different story.  
Wilson Berry averaged just 39.7 yards per attempt

last season. That ranked 11th in the SEC. In fact, Berry was the only punter with a minimum of 2.5 punts per game that averaged under 40 yards.  
Little wonder the Cats wound up 105th out of the 130 Division I teams in net punting.  
To give Berry competition, Kentucky brought in Aidan Laros, a South African who kicked last season at UT Martin. Laros averaged 47.5 yards per punt and made 10 of his 16 field goal attempts.

There were social media reports of Laros uncorking an 80-yard punt during Saturday’s scrimmage.  
“Punting, we’ve got to make sure we get more consistent there, as well,” Stoops said when asked about his kickers. “When big plays happen, it usually comes down to a bad kick.”  
Thus the universal question: Are we good enough? We shall see.  
John Clay: 859-472-4218, johnclayiv

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# Minn. boosted services to undocumented under Walz

**Rafael Carranza**  
Arizona Republic  
USA TODAY NETWORK

PHOENIX – Vice President Kamala Harris chose a popular politician from a border state as her running mate for the Democratic presidential ticket in November – just not *that* border.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz has led a progressive state government, pushing several immigration priorities through a Democratic-controlled Legislature that expanded state services to undocumented residents.

That includes expanding driver's licenses in 2023 to all Minnesota residents, regardless of immigration status, joining 20 other U.S. states and territories that also provide driver's licenses to all residents. The move was expected to benefit approximately 81,000 undocumented immigrants in the state.

"Ensuring drivers in our state are licensed and carry insurance makes the roads safer for all Minnesotans," Walz said at the time.

Additional changes during that legislative session included expanding in-state tuition to all low-income Minnesota students, including undocumented youths. The Legislature also allowed undocumented immigrants to access MinnesotaCare, the state's publicly subsidized health insurance program for low-income residents.

At the federal level, Walz has voiced support for providing Dreamers, undocumented immigrants brought into the country as children, a legal pathway to remain in the U.S. As a member of Congress, he criticized many of former President Donald Trump's border and immigration policies.

Earlier this year, the Minnesota governor backed an executive action President Joe Biden issued to stem migrant crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border. He also supports a bipartisan border agreement, negotiated in part by Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, I-Ariz. Trump opposed the bill, and it failed to gain traction in Congress.

Walz spoke to CNN earlier this month casting the blame for the bill's



Earlier this year Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz backed an executive action President Joe Biden issued to stem migrant crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border. JOE RONDONE/ARIZONA REPUBLIC FILE

failure on Trump.

"My neighbors, whether Republican or Democrats, don't want to demonize our neighbors, they just want a safe border," Walz told Anderson Cooper on AC360 on Aug. 1. "She's (Harris) got a plan, the Lankford-Sinema bill was a big key to it, and Donald Trump doesn't want it. He thrives on chaos."

Reactions to the announcement of Walz as Harris' vice presidential candidate fell along ideological lines among border and immigration advocates.

Bisbee, Arizona, Mayor Ken Budge, who last month endorsed Harris along with several other of the state's border mayors, said picking Walz was good news for border communities.

"Walz understands the needs of border communities and supports commonsense solutions that work, like the bipartisan border deal that would've made a big difference in Arizona," Budge told The Arizona Republic in a statement.

The Trump campaign, which has once again made border issues a centerpiece of his candidacy, said Harris' decision to choose Walz as her running mate reinforced their message that she was running a far left and "dangerously liberal" campaign that sought to facilitate migrant crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border. They accused Walz of supporting sanctuary city policies.

# Biden unveils rules to tackle helpline wait times

Pro-consumer push says company tactics unfair

**Andrea Shalal**  
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The Biden administration on Monday unveiled new rules and efforts targeting consumer annoyances ranging from hard-to-cancel subscriptions, to cumbersome insurance forms, to not being able to get a live customer service agent on the phone.

The "Time is Money" initiative is aimed at cracking down on endless hold times or deliberately complicated procedures that cost consumers, said Neera Tanden, President Joe Biden's domestic policy adviser.

She said it shouldn't take 45 minutes to cancel a subscription that it took one click to order, and people shouldn't be forced to print out complicated forms to file an insurance claim. Often they give up, she said, leaving companies holding on to money that consumers could spend elsewhere.

"These seemingly small inconveniences don't really happen by accident. They have huge financial consequences," she said.

The push is part of an effort by Biden aimed at easing strains on voters' pocketbooks amid persistent inflation concerns that have eroded support for the Democratic Party.

Vice President Kamala Harris, now the Democratic presidential candidate, is making a similar case as she campaigns across the country.

Business executives have chafed at what they see as efforts by Democrats to vilify and over-regulate industry. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has campaigned on relieving companies of regulatory burdens.

The new actions use existing government oversight tools, Tanden said. They do not require congressional approval, an official said, and some will be phased in over coming months.

The Federal Trade Commission is accepting comments on a proposed



The push to reduce consumer headaches is part of an effort by President Joe Biden aimed at easing strains on voters' pocketbooks amid persistent inflation concerns. MIKALA COMPTON/AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN FILE

"These seemingly small inconveniences don't really happen by accident. They have huge financial consequences."

**Neera Tanden**  
President Joe Biden's domestic policy adviser

rule that would require companies to make it as easy to cancel a subscription or service as it was to sign up, the official said.

The Federal Communications Commission was moving on Monday toward setting similar requirements for cable, broadband and cellphone service.

The Labor and Health and Human Services departments will also write to big health care companies and insurers, urging them to allow consumers to file forms online.

Several U.S. agencies are working on new rules requiring companies to offer customers a single button to reach a real person, instead of navigating a lengthy phone tree "doom loop," the officials said.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is also planning to issue rules cracking down on "time-wasting chatbots" used by banks, the official said.

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## Author Brittany Thurman to visit three Louisville Free Public Library locations



**Brittany J. Thurman**

The Louisville Free Public Library and Kentucky Humanities announce three special family storytimes from acclaimed children's author Brittany Thurman at LFPL locations. Celebrated for her captivating storytelling and engaging children's books, Thurman will read from her book *Forever and Always* at the Jeffersonton, Western, and Iroquois libraries in August. Each storytime will be followed by a meet-and-greet with the author.

- Jeffersonton Library - Monday, August 19, 10:15 a.m.
- Western Library - Monday, August 26, 6 p.m.
- Iroquois Library - Thursday, August 29, 6:30 p.m.

Thurman is the author of several books, and her works often highlight themes of self-discovery, resilience, and the joy of reading. Her most recent book, *Forever and Always*, has enchanted young readers with its heartwarming tale and vibrant illustrations.

"We are excited to bring Brittany Thurman to the Louisville Free Public Library," said Kentucky Humanities Executive Direc-

tor Bill Goodman. "Brittany is an award-winning author who has tremendous talent for writing stories for children. This is a great opportunity for children and families to celebrate a love of reading together and for Kentuckians to see firsthand the literary talent we are so fortunate to have in the Commonwealth."

This program is an expansion of the National Book Festival held in Washington, D.C. each year and organized by the Library of Congress.

The National Book Festival's Roadmap to Reading is made possible by generous support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the National Endowment for the Humanities with additional support from Chief Officers of State Library Agencies. The tour in Kentucky was developed as a partnership with the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, the Kentucky Book Festival, the Kentucky Center for the Book, and Kentucky Humanities.

See Library Visits, page 6A

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**TODAY IN HISTORY**

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 13, the 226th day of 2024. There are 140 days left in the year.  
**TODAY IN HISTORY:**  
 On Aug. 13, 1961, on what would become known as Barbed Wire Sunday, East Germany sealed the border between Berlin's eastern and western sectors before building a wall that would divide the city for the next 28 years.  
**ALSO ON THIS DATE:**

**In 1521**, Spanish conqueror Hernando Cortez captured Tenochtitlan, present-day Mexico City, from the Aztecs.  
**In 1792**, French revolutionaries arrested and imprisoned King Louis XVI; he would be executed by guillotine the following January.  
**In 1889**, William Gray of Hartford, Connecticut, received a patent for the first coin-operated telephone.

**In 1918**, Opha May Johnson became the first woman to join the U.S. Marine Corps.  
**In 1952**, Big Mama Thornton first recorded the song "Hound Dog," four years before Elvis Presley's famous version was released.  
**In 1969**, New York City held a ticket-tape parade for Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins.  
**In 1995**, Baseball Hall of

Famer Mickey Mantle died at a Dallas hospital of rapidly spreading liver cancer at age 63.  
**In 2011**, seven people were killed when a stage collapsed at the Indiana State Fair during a powerful storm just before a concert was to begin.  
**In 2020**, in an interview on Fox Business Network, President Donald Trump acknowledged that he was starving the U.S. Postal Service

of money in order to make it harder to process an expected surge of mail-in ballots.  
**TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:**  
 Former U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders is 91. U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is 78. Opera singer Kathleen Battle is 76. High wire aerialist Philippe Petit is 75. Hockey Hall of Famer Bobby Clarke is 75. Golf Hall of Famer Betsy King is 69. Movie director Paul

Greengrass is 69. Actor Danny Bonaduce is 65. TV weatherman Sam Champion is 63. Actor Dawnn Lewis is 63. Actor John Slattery is 62. Actor Debi Mazar is 60. Figure skater Midori Ito is 55. Country singer Andy Griggs is 51. White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre is 50. Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders is 42. Actor Sebastian Stan is 42. Actor Lennon Stella is 25.

**EVENTS**

FROM PAGE B1

When she isn't performing on the ship, Earle will be able to have some leisure time.  
 "I get to go into the ports and be a tourist on the port days, which is really fun," she said.  
 And Earle is extending the invitation to those who may want to come along.  
 "I just like to invite Owensboro people when I do performances they can come to. When I play in Europe and I do a tour, I can't really invite people, or when I go to China because it's too hectic (logistically)," she said. "... But when I do something like a cruise or Carnegie Hall that I can invite people if they want, it's fun for them."  
 "All the cruises I've played so far through Royal Caribbean and (its) sister (company) Celebrity (Cruises), I've invited people from Owensboro and had quite a few people go and that's been really fun," Earle said.

While Earle said she's been "blessed" to travel with her talents, she said it can be a lonely journey at times and having company helps.  
 "It's really fun for me to invite people and have friendly faces," she said. "... Everybody who's gone on a cruise with me has seemed to really enjoy it ...."  
 Less than six months later, Earle will head east to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City — a venue she's performed at "quite a few" times from playing chamber music, solo recitals, composer recitals, choral recitals and more.  
 This time around, Earle will serve as the special guest pianist for a concert that will include the music of composer and arranger Mark Hayes and the world premiere of the cantata "Amazing Grace: From Blind to Free" by composer and arranger Lloyd Larson and music publisher, writer, producer and broadcaster Mark Cabaniss that will be written for choir, orchestra and piano conducted by Larson.

The concert, which will take place at 7 p.m. July 12, will be hosted by Cabaniss, president and CEO of Jubilate Music Group in Nashville and one of Earle's former KWC colleagues.  
 Despite having the chance to perform at the historic concert hall previously, Earle finds it still exciting every time when she has the opportunity.  
 "First time I played (there) was 2005 and my parents came. My father had always loved Benny Goodman — he loved jazz, swing and big band — and he said that when I walked out on the stage, he got teary because he thought, 'My daughter's walking out on the same stage that Benny Goodman walked out on,'" Earle said.  
 "Whenever I walk on that stage, I think of all my musical heroes and famous people for the last century or more who have walked out on that same stage.  
 "It does a number to your heart ....," Earle said. "... Every time I play there, I am humbled and honored ...."  
 Currently, the Jubilate Music Group is inviting peo-

ple to be part of its 200-voice worship choir and orchestra to perform at the event, which Earle encourages locals to be involved in.  
 "I'm hoping that some Owensboro singers — we have some really talented singers here — will take advantage of that opportunity," Earle said. "... Two years ago, several people from Owensboro went and they loved it. They had a great time."  
 Two packages are being offered for the Carnegie Hall experience: the "singer package" includes four days and three nights at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel, rehearsals with Hayes and Larson, on-stage for the full 2.5 hour concert performance, post-concert celebration dinner cruise, professional photos of rehearsals and concerts, a replica concert poster, limited edition souvenir copy of "Amazing Grace," free time to tour the city and more while the "non-performers" package will include access to rehearsals and the cruise, VIP seating for the concert, historical tour of the

venue and an "all-access pass to enjoy all activities with singing friends/family members."  
 Both packages are dated from July 10-13. Singers and non-performers may room together.  
 Earle hopes people from the local community will help represent Owensboro on the big stage.  
 "I try to bring my 'A' game wherever I play, and that's Carnegie Hall; but I also think it's fun when I can bring Owensboro people to Carnegie Hall," Earle said. "It's like two worlds that are the same but yet they are very different ...."  
 "There's a magic to the beauty of Carnegie Hall .... It gets inside your soul a little bit."  
 For more information on the Celebration Cruise and the Carnegie Hall event, visit [eo.travelwithus.com/tours/fl25011025h58325#eotours](http://eo.travelwithus.com/tours/fl25011025h58325#eotours) and [truenorthpresents.com/grace](http://truenorthpresents.com/grace), respectively.  
 For additional questions or needing more information, contact Earle via email at [dearle@kwc.edu](mailto:dearle@kwc.edu).

**STILL**

FROM PAGE B1

• **Aug. 16**, Wilson Foster and John Jeffries were before Judge McFarland in juvenile court accused of having stolen about \$30 worth of golf balls, \$3 in pennies and quantity of cigarettes from the caddy house at the Country Club. The property belonged to Frank Kidd, professional at the club. The boys were

allowed to go and they will be given a hearing later on. The Foster boy admitted taking the balls and that another boy assisted him. He had sold two of the balls for twenty cents each.  
**50 YEARS AGO**  
 • **Aug. 12, 1974**, about 325 persons swapped bits of ancestral knowledge and talked of sources for information about family history at a weekend seminar of the Central Kentucky Genealogical

Society. Milton Rubincam of Hyattsville, Md., told the meeting of records I the National Archives in Washington that can be helpful to genealogists. There is increased interest in genealogy due to the coming 1976 bicentennial.  
 • **Aug. 13**, construction of Brescia College's new speech and hearing center became a reality with the presentation of a \$20,000 check by Gov. Wendell Ford to the college. The money from Ford's

contingency fund makes up the balance for the new center to be built on Allen Street behind the college library. Construction of the 6,200-square-foot center will begin in mid-October and is expected to be completed by Sept. 1, 1975.  
 • **Aug. 14**, a workman was treated at the Owensboro-Davies County Hospital for a bruised wrist after he fell from a

scaffolding on the outside of a building. George Collignon, owner of the building, said Jackie Bevins fell about one floor to the roof of the Eight Ball Billiard Room. Workmen were making repairs to the building when the bricks at the top of the wall where the scaffolding was hung gave way.  
 • **Aug. 14**, Air Kentucky, an Owensboro-based commuter airline, will

begin flight operations to three cities Sept. 16 and expand the schedule to include three more about a month later. The Federal Aviation Administration notified Air Kentucky on Tuesday that the air taxi certificate required before the service van can get off the ground was granted. Bowling Green, Louisville and Nashville are included in the initial flight schedule.

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Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet  
 From left, KSP Commissioner Phillip Burnett Jr., KSP Post 1 employee Katie Wiggins and Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman pose for a photo during the Civilian Awards Ceremony. Wiggins received a Post Operations Support Award.

## KSP honors Post 1 employee with Post Operations Support Award

BY SUN STAFF

An administrative specialist at Kentucky State Police Post 1 received the 2023 Post Operations Support Award last week during KSP's annual Civilian Awards Ceremony.

Katie Wiggins is has worked for KSP for two years, serving at the post in Mayfield, Kentucky.

"Ms. Wiggins is vital to mission success at Post 1. She is often the first person that the public comes into contact with when arriving at Post 1 for assistance," a statement from Post 1 Commander Capt. David Archer read. "Her tireless work has allowed us to build on the level of service the public has come to expect from Post 1. I can think of no more deserving recipient of this award than Ms. Wiggins."

Wiggins was among 15 civilian employees honored by KSP and Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman during the awards ceremony. KSP has 800 civilian employees who serve in roles such as telecommunications, maintenance, driver testing, information technology, public relations, and records support, the agency noted in a news release.

"Our civilian counterparts are the backbone of this agency and a lifeline to our sworn personnel. The continued success of the state police is a direct result of their

dedicated public service and commitment. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for everything that you do," KSP Commissioner Phillip Burnett Jr. said during the ceremony.

The full list of 2023 KSP civilian employee award recipients is as follows:

### ADMIN SERVICES AWARD

Emily Perkins, Procedures Development Specialist II, Headquarters, Frankfort.

### CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Lou Ann Clayton, Security Threat Assessment Program Coordinator, Driver Testing Central Office, Frankfort.

### COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SUPPORT AWARD

Ramona Lawson, Inspector II, CVE East Region.

### DRIVERS TESTING AWARD

Ronald Pillow, Commercial Driver's License Examiner, Post 3, Bowling Green.

### FORENSIC SERVICES SUPPORT AWARD

Ashley Cook, Forensic Scientist Specialist II, Jefferson Regional Laboratory.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AWARD

Shelvy Riffe, Information Systems Supervisor,

Information Technology Branch, Frankfort.

### POLICE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT AWARD

Gerald Browning, Public Safety Telecommunicator III, Post 10, Harlan.

Alex Jett, Public Safety Telecommunicator III, Post 12, Frankfort.

William Graham, Public Safety Telecommunicator III, Post 3, Bowling Green.

### POST OPERATIONS SUPPORT AWARD

Melissa Brock, Administrative Specialist III, Post 10, Harlan.

Katie Wiggins, Administrative Specialist I, Post 1, Mayfield.

### RECORDS TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Bridget Stone, CJIS Compliance Specialist III, LINK Audit Branch, Post 16, Henderson.

### SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT AWARD

Gary Thomas, Criminal Intelligence Analyst II, Intelligence Branch, Lexington.

### SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Shelly Job, Public Safety Telecommunication Manager, Post 12, Frankfort.

### SUPPLIES PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT

Ricky Simpson, Maintenance Worker II, Post 12, Frankfort.

## Kids Creative Arts Street Fair set for Saturday

BY SUN STAFF

Market House Theatre's Kids Creative Arts Street Fair returns Saturday, Aug. 17, in Market House Square in Paducah.

The annual event has been going strong since 2013, and it marks the beginning of the theater's new season. The fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

In a news release, Market House Theatre said more than a dozen local arts and cultural organizations will participate in this year's fair, offering interactive activities, performances, and workshops that aim to inspire and entertain.

The theater provided the following list of participating organizations

and activities, listed in order from Kentucky Avenue to Broadway Street:

- Market House Theatre: Tie dye T-shirts, sound effects booth, airbrush tattoos, and more. The tie-dye activity has a \$6 fee to cover the T-shirt cost.
- MAKE Studios: Marvelous art MAKING.
- McCracken County Public Library: Bubble wands.
- Harmony Road Music School: Rhythm instruments.
- Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana: Bookmark decorating.
- Lepa Jewelry: Design your own bracelet.
- DanceMHT: Ribbon dancing.
- River Discovery

Center: Make your own "aquarium."

- The National Quilt Museum: Fabric sharpie quilt squares.

- Paducah School of Art and Design: Bubble painting.

- Paducah Convention & Visitors Bureau: UNESCO City coloring sheet.

- Paducah Symphony Orchestra: Instrument petting zoo.

- Maiden Alley Cinema: Green screen activity.

- Yeiser Art Center: Quilt block cube.

- The Carson Center: Outer space adventures.

To learn more about Market House Theatre, visit [markethousetheatre.org](http://markethousetheatre.org) or call 270-444-6828.



Contributed  
 Among the activities expected at Market House Theatre's Kids Creative Arts Street Fair is an "instrument petting zoo" provided by the Paducah Symphony Orchestra.

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New Pulaski County High School Principal Julie Hoff

SUBMITTED

## SCHOOL: Julie Hoff moves up to principal at PCHS after serving as assistant principal there

From Page A1

she said with a laugh — and attended Eastern Kentucky University, with a Bachelor's degree to teach English and a Master's in Instructional Leadership. She started with the district in 2004, teaching English at Southwestern High School, then returned to Pulaski County High School where she's been ever since. She became a curriculum specialist, then assistant principal, a position she held for six years at the school. "I really love this school and we have done a lot of great things already as a school. I love the people, and I know our potential," she said of why she wanted to move up to principal. "I felt very inspired to step up to the opportunity, and I'm very blessed to have the opportunity to serve in this new capacity."

Hoff expressed gratitude for being able to build on the legacy of "great leaders before" her, and having been at the school for so long, the transition to her new job has been a relatively smooth one thanks to that familiarity.

"The first day of school is going very well," said Hoff. "The staff is excited to be here welcoming

our students back. I've seen a lot of smiling faces and had some great conversations today. It's a very positive atmosphere, and I know it's going to be a great school year.

"I'm learning new things every day," she added about the job transition, "but it's been great."

One thing that's been tweaked is how children who take the bus get to school. Due to a lack of available bus drivers, the district has cut back on several routes, combining them with others.

"Knock on wood, right now, we didn't have to cancel any routes today," said Richardson. "We have about 140 bus routes. That's down from the number of routes we've had over the last few years. I think we combined three bus routes last year, and I think we combined five or six this year, so we're down about seven or eight bus routes from what we were (in the past). Buses are a little more full, maybe routes are just a little bit longer, that type of thing."

An exact enrollment count for the district was not available on Thursday, but Richardson said that from

talking to principals, the trend from past years of numbers staying level in the district will continue in 2024-25.

"It's an in-and-out process," said Richardson. "It takes us a few days to get cleaned up to figure out what our final numbers are."

"It would be nice if our numbers were up," he added. "We're always looking to try to grow."

As far as the wellness centers in progress at both Northern and Southern Middle, Richardson said they've been waiting for the equipment needed to open the facilities to arrive, and he was updated on Wednesday that the equipment had started to come in, "so hopefully in a few weeks, we'll be able to get those open for our students and our faculty to be able to use them."

Richardson added that he frequently gets asked about the progress on the new Burnside Elementary School as well, and he said he's optimistic that it will be ready by August of next year.

One public school district in the county has yet to begin classes. Science Hill School has been delayed until August 28 due to construction.

ruled."

If passed, Amendment 2 would allow the Kentucky General Assembly to fund nonpublic schools, such as private or charter schools. Advocates against the amendment say the change could cut into funding for existing public schools.

Beshear, who has been among Kentucky Democrats speaking against Amendment 2 since the Republican-controlled General Assembly approved putting it on the ballot, said that he's been the subject of similar efforts to control his messaging. Last year, the Kentucky Court of Appeals ruled a 2022 piece of legislation that aimed to stop the governor from spending public funds to challenge legislative actions was unconstitutional. "We went to court, and we won that be-

cause that's part of my job," Beshear said. "When you look at Pulaski County, they stand to lose a significant amount of funding, and none of that funding will stay in that region. That is a public school district advocating for its own funding and just being honest with people that if that constitutional amendment passes, it will cut them significantly."

The attorney general's advisory, which was "to remind those entrusted with the administration of tax dollars appropriated for public education that those resources must not be used to advocate for or against" proposed Constitutional Amendment 2, came after Republicans claimed Pulaski County Schools violated state law by using tax dollars to advocate against the amendment.

## BESHEAR: The governor is looking toward Election Day this November

From Page A2

positive movement or change related to it. I see the benefit of going through this process as hopefully benefiting Kentucky and our needs."

The governor's also looking toward Election Day this November. He said he will continue to work toward supporting the Harris-Walz ticket, focusing on sending candidates he supports to the U.S. House and Senate as well as the state legislature, which has a Republican supermajority. A particular issue he plans to focus on is "making sure we defeat" a proposed constitutional amendment that would allow the General Assembly to fund nonpublic schools. He said he will travel the state to campaign against Amendment 2.

"So while that sounds like a lot, I both ran the governor's office and an election last year, and so everybody out there can be assured that they're going to get the best out of me every single day as governor. I recognize that this is a dream job — an important job

— and don't take any moment for granted."

Beshear called it "an honor" to be considered as a choice for Harris' running mate, and noted "massive national coverage of all of the positive things going on in Kentucky." He said that the attention may also position Kentucky to do more in its future, adding that prospective employers that were not otherwise considering the state had reached out to his administration. Plus, rumors about Beshear's 2024 election prospects swirled while he was abroad in Japan and South Korea to discuss economic development.

When asked if he will highlight Kentucky as a speaker at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago next week, Beshear said to "stay tuned."

He added that the convention will mostly focus on Harris and Walz and campaign issues, but the possibility "to have somebody from Kentucky on the stage at the Democratic National Convention is a big deal."

Looking ahead to the next legislative session,

Beshear said his administration plans to work on addressing unfunded mandates, or laws that may have passed but were not funded during this year's budget session. Recently, Beshear and Republican lawmakers have been going back and forth about funding for a new law to provide financial relief for grandparents and other kinship caregivers who are raising children in Kentucky.

The governor said he also wants to focus on laws that were not changed but are "frustrating" to implement.

"Certainly, I want to lay the groundwork for more important changes we need, both in educator pay and in universal pre-K. I also want to spend some of this session looking at how other states invest in economic development," he said, adding as an example that South Carolina has more overseas offices than Kentucky to address foreign direct investment. South Carolina has four international offices, while Kentucky has two.

## LAWMAKER: The Legislative Research Commission is reviewing the matter

From Page A2

agencies, the public, counties and cities, and businesses about the issues that are affecting them. The legislators can workshop those and share knowledge, and think about what bills should be proposed in the upcoming

session."

Whites added that "appropriate voter protection legal options" are being explored.

LRC Public Information Manager Mike Wynn said in an email that "LRC is reviewing information on this matter as it becomes available and commu-

nicating with legislative leaders."

"But as a neutral, non-partisan administrative office, we do not comment on possible investigations or actions that may involve legislators, including committee assignments," Wynn added.

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF PERIOD FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE DRAFT 2025-2028 STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP) FOR KENTUCKY

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), in accordance with its established "Statewide Transportation Planning Interested Parties, Public Involvement, and Consultation Process," hereby provides notice of the availability of the Draft FY 2025-2028 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program for public inspection, review, and comment for a 30-day period beginning August 15, 2024, and ending September 14, 2024.

The Draft FY 2025-2028 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program will be displayed at: [transportation.ky.gov/Program-Management](https://transportation.ky.gov/Program-Management)



Any individual, agency, or organization may provide written comments to:

JAMES BALLINGER, STATE HIGHWAY ENGINEER  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS  
KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET  
200 MERO STREET  
6TH FLOOR  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40622  
PHONE: (502) 564-3730  
SELENA.CURRY@KY.GOV

**TEAM KENTUCKY**  
TRANSPORTATION CABINET

# AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA SOBRE EL PLAN 2025-2028, PROGRAMA DE MEJORA DEL TRANSPORTE ESTATAL DE KENTUCKY (STIP)

El Gabinete de Transporte de Kentucky (KYTC), en acuerdo con las partes interesadas de la planificación del transporte estatal, la participación pública y el proceso de consulta, por este medio notifica la disponibilidad del plan del año fiscal 2025-2028 del Programa de Mejora del Transporte Estatal, para su inspección, revisión y comentarios públicos durante un periodo de 30 días. Comenzando el 15 de agosto de 2024 y finalizando el 14 de septiembre de 2024.

El plan del año fiscal 2025-2028 del Programa de Mejora del Transporte Estatal, estará disponible en:  
[transportation.ky.gov/Program-Management](https://transportation.ky.gov/Program-Management)



Cualquier individuo, agencia u organización puede proveer comentarios por escrito a:

JAMES BALLINGER, STATE HIGHWAY ENGINEER  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS  
KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET  
200 MERO STREET  
6TH FLOOR  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40622  
PHONE: (502) 564-3730  
SELENA.CURRY@KY.GOV



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Review the Draft 2025-2028 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and submit your comments, 8/15 through 9/14.



**DRAFT 2025-2028 STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP)**

  
TEAM KENTUCKY.  
TRANSPORTATION CABINET

**PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD  
AUGUST 15 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 14**

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# **PUBLIC NOTICE OF PERIOD FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE DRAFT 2025-2028 STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP) FOR KENTUCKY**

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DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS  
KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET  
200 MERO STREET  
6TH FLOOR  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40622  
PHONE: (502) 564-3730  
SELENA.CURRY@KY.GOV



# AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA SOBRE EL PLAN 2025-2028, PROGRAMA DE MEJORA DEL TRANSPORTE ESTATAL DE KENTUCKY (STIP)

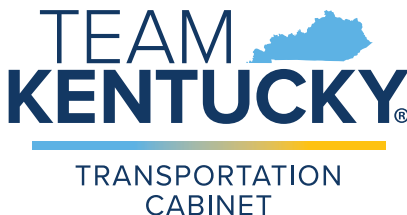
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[transportation.ky.gov/Program-Management](https://transportation.ky.gov/Program-Management)



Cualquier individuo, agencia u organización puede proveer comentarios por escrito a:

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DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS  
KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET  
200 MERO STREET  
6TH FLOOR  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40622  
PHONE: (502) 564-3730  
SELENA.CURRY@KY.GOV



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** FW: Team Kentucky Offers Draft of Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Plan for Public Review, Comment  
**Date:** Monday, August 12, 2024 8:37:11 AM

---

Hello,  
Here's a copy of the news release that was issued Friday.

---

**From:** Kentucky Transportation Cabinet <[kytc.subscriptions.kentucky.gov@public.govdelivery.com](mailto:kytc.subscriptions.kentucky.gov@public.govdelivery.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 9, 2024 11:43 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Team Kentucky Offers Draft of Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Plan for Public Review, Comment

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**Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Transportation Cabinet**

**Andy Beshear, Governor**

**Jim Gray, Secretary**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contacts: Naitore Djigbenou**

502-782-4829

[Naitore.Djigbenou@ky.gov](mailto:Naitore.Djigbenou@ky.gov)

**Allen Blair**

606-748-3716

[Allen.Blair@ky.gov](mailto:Allen.Blair@ky.gov)

**Team Kentucky Offers Draft of Statewide**

# Transportation Improvement Program Plan for Public Review, Comment

*30-day comment period begins Aug. 15, 2024*

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (Aug. 9, 2024)** – Team Kentucky’s draft, federally-required Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) plan for fiscal years 2025 through 2028, part of statewide highway planning efforts to keep Kentuckians safe and support businesses, is ready for public review.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will allow 30 days for inspection and comment beginning Aug. 15, 2024. Any individual, agency or organization may submit comments.

“Safe and effective transportation in Kentucky encompasses everything from the Mountain Parkway expansion and rebuilding the Brent Spence Bridge corridor to countless local road and bridge projects to improve quality of life for all,” Kentucky Transportation Secretary Jim Gray said. “That includes public transportation, aviation and programs designed to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution that are always part of our program.”

The draft STIP includes all federally funded, scheduled projects in the 2024 State Highway Plan enacted by the 2024 Kentucky General Assembly and Gov. Andy Beshear. It also contains links to Kentucky’s nine Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) that identify federal projects in their individual transportation improvement plans. MPOs represent the following urbanized areas: Bowling Green, Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky, Clarksville-Oak Grove, Evansville-Henderson, Huntington-Ashland-Ironton, Lexington, Louisville, Owensboro and Radcliff-Elizabethtown.

“To chart a path for improvement and maintenance of our transportation system, we need citizens of Kentucky and all users of that system to offer feedback,” Secretary Gray said.

The Draft FY 2025-2028 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program is now [available online](#). A 30-day public comment period will run from Aug.15 to Sept.14. The draft STIP is also available at all 12 KYTC Department of Highways district offices.

Any individual, agency, or organization may provide comments to:

James Ballinger



State Highway Engineer  
Department of Highways  
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet  
200 Mero Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Frankfort, Ky 40622  
[selena.curry@ky.gov](mailto:selena.curry@ky.gov)  
502-564-3730

###



[transportation.ky.gov](http://transportation.ky.gov)



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**From:** [Curry, Selena A \(KYTC\)](#)  
**To:** [XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Comment on DRAFT 2025-2028 STIP FOR KY  
**Date:** Friday, September 13, 2024 8:52:00 AM

---

Thank you for reviewing the “Draft” KYTC 2024 STIP, and for taking the time to send us your review comments on public transportation needs for connecting Ashland, Kentucky and Huntington, West Virginia, and for sidewalk needs within Boyd, Carter, and Greenup counties.

We will forward your email to the KYTC Office of Transportation Delivery that works closely with Public Transportation providers throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Also, we will forward your email to the KYTC Division of Planning that works closely with the Hunting-Ashland Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), in coordinating transportation planning activities within the Hunting-Ashland MPO area.

Again, thank you for your comments and suggestions.

Ron

Ronald B. Rigney, PE & PLS  
Transportation Engineering Director  
KYTC Division of Program Management

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---

**From:** XXXXXXXXXXXX**Sent:** Friday, September 13, 2024 12:13 AM  
**To:** Curry, Selena A (KYTC) <[Selena.Curry@ky.gov](mailto:Selena.Curry@ky.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comment on DRAFT 2025-2028 STIP FOR KY

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Dear MS. Curry:

I noticed on the STIP Draft for 2025-2028 that there appeared to be a plan for helping those without or not using cars to be able to get around. This need is one of eastern Ky's biggest drawbacks.

Until my teens I grew up here. The bus in Ashland, Ky could take you across the Catlettsburg bridge into Huntington, WV. From there you could go anywhere in Huntington (the second-largest city in WV). Veterans could ride the bus to the VA Medical Center which is only 13 miles away.

Now the beginning of the mile-long bridge from Catlettsburg, Ky. into Kenova, WV has a lot of damage. If you have a fear of heights, seizures, etc. you'd be afraid to walk, ride or take your electronic scooter over. Many vets in this area have only their electronic scooters to get around in. Buses on both sides have them. But that doesn't help for that mile across the bridge.

To mention the Veteran Medical Center problem again the VA has to have a reason and a special permit to pick up a vet in Ashland because Ashland has a bus system so "it's competition". That makes no sense at all. I was told they could if I lived in any of the local counties (including Boyd) that didn't have a bus system, they could.

Now let's get to Ashland's bus system. We have some new pretty major things going on in the county now. But the bus only goes to the Midland branch of the library. Camp Landing is 2.5 miles away which is like an inside amusement park. There are only 2 others like it in the state both of which are over 100 miles away. So again you need a car which is something most kids don't have access to when wanted. Most that are disabled with a scooter would be afraid to have to ride down on the side of the road w/o a sidewalk.

Another problem is no transportation on Sunday. All activities have to be completed by 5pm if you want to be back in town in time to catch the bus home. If it takes you less than an hour to get home it will take you 2-3 hrs. to get there or if it takes you 2-3 hrs. to get there you'll get home in less than an hour unless you live between the bus service depot and town. All but 2 housing projects have a bus where they only spend an hour or less total to get there and back. There is a bus that goes to Russell now from the Ashland area and back. Plus one that goes from Ironton, to Ashland to Huntington a couple of times a day. But no one I know, knows how to find it's schedule or where to get it so they don't get stranded.

Then lastly there is no transportation and few if any sidewalks to Boyd, Carter and Greenup Co. except Ashland. Thus, many of the tourist spots require transportation, which greatly reduces the local tourism in those areas and them coming here unless they have a car.

As a kid I could catch a Greyhound to go to any of those counties. It was double the local bus fare but I didn't have to be at a bus stop to get it. It was coming in and going two to 3 times a day. Now if you don't want to or afraid to drive that far (most eastern Kentuckians have old cars) or don't have one you shop where you are or online. I fit in this last category as do many of my friends and we live in the largest city in northeastern, Ky.

My 35 yr. old son Michael could probably tell you much more because he is dependent on me (I'm 68) to drive him and the bus system when I physically can't.

Sorry I took so long but there is so much that those who don't use buses don't fully understand.

Sincerely,

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

---

**From:** [Curry, Selena A \(KYTC\)](#)  
**To:** [XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FY 25-28  
**Date:** Friday, August 16, 2024 11:10:00 AM

---

**Thank you for your review comments for the KYTC Draft 2024 STIP.**

**We will forward your suggestions for improvements to US routes in Hardin County, Kentucky, especially for suggested improvements to US 62 in southern Hardin County, to the KYTC Division of Planning to be included in the list of projects to be reviewed during the KYTC data-driven, objective approach to compare capital improvement projects and prioritize limited transportation funds for projects to be considered for including in the 2026 Recommended State Highway Plan for submission to the General Assembly in January 2026.**

**The following is a link the KKYTC Division of Planning website that provides information on the “Strategic Highway Investment Formula for Tomorrow (SHIFT) process.**

[SHIFT | KYTC](#)

SHIFT helps reduce overprogramming and provides a clear road map for construction in the coming years. The formula applies to all transportation funding that isn't prioritized by other means, such as maintenance work, local government projects and dedicated federal projects.

**Again, thank you for your review and list of suggested projects.**

Thanks,

**Ron**

**Ronald B. Rigney, PE & PLS  
Transportation Engineering Director  
KYTC Division of Program Management**

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---

**From:** XXXXXXXXXXXX **Sent:** Thursday, August 15, 2024 10:59 PM  
**To:** Curry, Selena A (KYTC) <[Selena.Curry@ky.gov](mailto:Selena.Curry@ky.gov)>  
**Subject:** FY 25-28

---

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Will they ever consider putting in widening some of the US highways in Hardin county?  
Maybe just adding a shoulder?

I know US 62 in southern Hardin County has picked up considerably more traffic from 222 to 84 since the building of Blue Oval. With so many distracted drivers, larger vehicles and farm equipment it could definitely use a shoulder. Will this ever be part of the plan? It is just too narrow for all the extra traffic flow.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Curry, Selena A \(KYTC\)](#)  
**To:** [XXXXXXXXXXXX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Grade Separation project  
**Date:** Monday, September 16, 2024 9:18:00 AM

---

**Mr. XXXXXX,**

**Thank you for your review of the “Draft” 2024 KYTC STIP.**

**We appreciate the information that you provided us on the “Evergreen Maxi Retaining Wall System”, and we will forward the information to our KYTC Division of Design.**

**Again, thank you for you review and the provided information.**

**Ron**

**Ronald B. Rigney, PE & PLS  
Transportation Engineering Director  
KYTC Division of Program Management**

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---

**From:** XXXXXXXX **Sent:** Friday, September 13, 2024 4:47 PM  
**To:** Curry, Selena A (KYTC) <[Selena.Curry@ky.gov](mailto:Selena.Curry@ky.gov)>  
**Subject:** FWD: Grade Separation project

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Hi Serena, we greatly appreciate if you would please forward this mail to:

Mr. James Ballinger, State Highway Engineer

please see in the attachment the information regarding Grade Separations we have built in 2006/7 in Kansas/Olathe, a 3 miles long Grade Separation for three rails of the BNSF with great success,

and other international projects, which might be of interest for you.

Evergreen Walls. Inc. has designed and built in 1980 the first Evergreen planted wall at the tunnel of the Cumberland Gap Nationalpark for the Federal Highway Administration using special rock like brownish

precast concrete produced by Permatile Concrete Products, Bristol/Virginia, so as with Permatile in 2020/22

six (6) vertical 55 to 65 ft. high walls for the BAE Military with our MAXI wall system.

Please see attachments.

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have .

Sincerely

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



**From:** [Curry, Selena A \(KYTC\)](#)  
**To:** [XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Hwy 62 Southern Hardin County  
**Date:** Friday, August 16, 2024 12:48:00 PM

---

**Thank you for your review comments for the KYTC Draft 2024 STIP.**

**We will forward your suggested improvements to US 62 in southern Hardin County, to the KYTC Division of Planning to be included in the list of projects to be reviewed during the KYTC data-driven, objective approach to compare capital improvement projects and prioritize limited transportation funds for projects to be considered for including in the 2026 Recommended State Highway Plan for submission to the General Assembly in January 2026.**

**The following is a link to the KYTC Division of Planning website that provides information on the “Strategic Highway Investment Formula for Tomorrow (SHIFT) process.**

[SHIFT | KYTC](#)

SHIFT helps reduce overprogramming and provides a clear road map for construction in the coming years. The formula applies to all transportation funding that isn't prioritized by other means, such as maintenance work, local government projects and dedicated federal projects.

**Again, thank you for your review and list of suggested projects.**

**Thanks,**

**Ron**

---

**From:** XXXXXXXXXXXX **Sent:** Friday, August 16, 2024 11:53 AM  
**To:** Curry, Selena A (KYTC) <Selena.Curry@ky.gov>  
**Subject:** Hwy 62 Southern Hardin County

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Please take a look at US 62 in the south end of Hardin County. In the past couple of years the traffic volume has increased and the number of distracted drivers seems to be on the rise. I feel like this road needs to be widened or at least given more of a shoulder. When large trucks or vehicles (that seem to be made wider than in years past) are crossing the center line there is no place but the ditch for oncoming vehicles to go. If the improvements

can be made to US 60 then why can they not be made to US 62 as well? The turning lanes that were constructed recently have helped some but I don't understand why they didn't go ahead and at least widen the entire stretch of road while they were at it. Thank you for considering our suggestions. Have a great day!

**From:** [Curry, Selena A \(KYTC\)](#)  
**To:** [XXXXXXXXXXXXXX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: KY road improvements  
**Date:** Friday, August 16, 2024 11:13:00 AM

---

**Thank you for your review comments for the KYTC Draft 2024 STIP.**

**We will forward your suggestions for improvements to KY 274, KY 267, and Goose Hollow roads near Lake Barkley in Trigg County, Kentucky to the KYTC Division of Planning to be included in the list of projects to be reviewed during the KYTC data-driven, objective approach to compare capital improvement projects and prioritize limited transportation funds for projects to be considered for including in the 2026 Recommended State Highway Plan for submission to the General Assembly in January 2026.**

**The following is a link the KYTC Division of Planning website that provides information on the “Strategic Highway Investment Formula for Tomorrow (SHIFT) process.**

[SHIFT | KYTC](#)

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**Again, thank you for your review and list of suggested projects.**

**Thanks,**

**Ron**

**Ronald B. Rigney, PE & PLS  
Transportation Engineering Director  
KYTC Division of Program Management**

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**From:** XXXXXXXX **Sent:** Friday, August 16, 2024  
12:20 AM  
**To:** Curry, Selena A (KYTC) <[Selena.Curry@ky.gov](mailto:Selena.Curry@ky.gov)>  
**Subject:** KY road improvements

---

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Please widen KY 274, 267 and Goose Hollow (all in Trigg County) roads near Lake Barkley. The boats and campers are a lot larger going to Prizer Point and other facilities in the area. At least put a shoulder on all the roads.

Thank you,

XXXXXXXXXXXX

**From:** [XXXXXXXXXXXX](#)  
**To:** [Curry, Selena A \(KYTC\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Rigney, Ron \(KYTC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: signage for Man o' War Blvd. on Federal highways  
**Date:** Monday, August 12, 2024 9:06:58 AM

---

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Thank you!

On Mon, Aug 12, 2024 at 9:04 AM Curry, Selena A (KYTC)  
<Selena.Curry@ky.gov> wrote:

>

>

>

>

>

> Thank you for your review of the Draft 2024 STIP, and bringing to our attention the spelling of Man o' War Blvd on KYTC road signs.

>

>

>

> We will provide the information to our Division of Traffic Operations and to our Division of Operations and Maintenance.

>

>

>

> Again, thank you for your review comments.

>

>

>

> Ronald B. Rigney, PE & PLS

>

> Transportation Engineering Director

>

> Division of Program Management

>

>

>

>

>

> Selena Curry

>  
> Division of Program Management  
>  
> Kentucky Transportation Cabinet  
>  
> PH: (502) 782-4752 (direct line)  
>  
> selena.curry@ky.gov

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>  
>  
>  
> From: XXXXXXXXXXXX  
> Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 7:16 AM  
> To: Curry, Selena A (KYTC) <Selena.Curry@ky.gov>  
> Subject: signage for Man o' War Blvd. on Federal highways

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>  
> Please consider revising signage for Man o' War Blvd. on Federal highways Interstate signage and US 60 signage have an upper case "O" where the name of the horse had a lower case "o" We required our signage inside the Urban County to present

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