

CAG Meeting Minutes

Project Item Number: 8-59

County and Route: Pulaski, New Route

Project Description: Somerset Northern Bypass is a 4-lane, limited access highway that will alleviate congestion in and around Somerset. The bypass extends from the Louie B. Nunn Parkway west of Somerset and heads north bypassing Somerset. It then intersects with KY 80 east of Somerset in the Barnesburg community.

Project Manager Contact information (Cabinet): David Beattie, (606) 677-4017

Project Manager Contact Information (Consultant): Mike Bruce (Design) and Paul Biggers (Environmental) both of JDQ, (859) 277-3639

Other contacts: Cathi Blair, Environmental Coordinator, (606) 677-4017

Approximate dates: December 13, 2001

Comments (number of people reached, effectiveness of the technique, what you would do differently, etc.): Very effective to keep members up to date particularly if they had to miss a meeting.

**Somerset, KY Northern Bypass
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
12/13/01**

The meeting opened at 6 p.m. with a light supper and introductions by David Beattie of the KYTC District Office and Paul Biggers of JDQ Engineers who explained project goals and objectives and the project study schedule over the next year and one-half. KYTC staff was introduced, including David Beattie, Cathi Blair and David Kratt, as was Mary Murray of the FHWA. Greg Michaud of JDQ Engineers discussed meeting rules (draft copy attached) and Sue Laue of JDQ Engineers discussed public involvement goals and media relations objectives.

Council members in attendance were:

J.P. Wiles	Carrol Estes	Mark Harrell
Wayne Bennett	Lee Florea	Ron Tarter
Jim Bentley	Robert Hargis	Jannetta Hislope (Alternate for Diane Smith)
Darrell Beshears	Ben Mattingly	Arthur Crawford (Alternate for Allen Crawford)
Steve Dunn		

Council members unable to attend were:

Carrie Altmaier	Ken Bean	Keenan Turner
John Perkins	Dan Crockett	John Tuttle

Each Council member was provided a notebook containing an agenda and handout materials covering the evening's discussions.

Regarding the draft meeting rules, Council members agreed with the rules with the following amendments:

1. They may accept emergency calls on cell phones during meetings but they will not make outgoing calls.
2. They will contact the Advisory Council Chair if they cannot attend a meeting.
3. Each Council member may designate one person to attend meetings on his/her behalf when unable to attend. Substitutions, however, will be kept to a minimum.

Council Constituencies

To assure that any individual concerned with a Council member's interest area, ie., agriculture, business, economic development/tourism, environment, government or community neighborhoods, is included in the project's public involvement program, Council members will assist in developing mailing lists to help the KYTC to coordinate contacts.

Regional Transportation System

JDQ and KYTC staff explained that the northern bypass will be built as a four-lane interstate-type highway and that several alternates will be studied including the expansion of KY 80. There would be four interchanges on the fully-access controlled highway, one at each end of the project, one at U.S. Route 27 and one at KY 39.

Some Council members would like for the cost of building each bypass alternate to be provided by KYTC so they can include them in the comparisons. Council members also would like a copy of the corridor map with landmarks on it so they can discuss specific impacts with interest area constituents (especially the community neighborhoods group).

Ron Tartar of the LCADD said that the area has a history of developing major highways but underestimating future traffic volumes. He urged that the bypass not be under-designed, and that projected traffic volumes not be based only on the population size of Somerset since traffic also emanates from adjacent outlying areas which are being heavily developed.

Somerset proper has a population of about 11,000, he said, and the suburban area population is about 35,000. To facilitate traffic flow, he hopes eventually that Somerset will have a bypass circling the city with two major highways intersecting in the middle of the circle, providing for north to south and east to west travel as well as access from the perimeter of the city.

Several Council members asked about the development of a transmodal park at Somerset, similar to one being developed privately in Bowling Green. Some had read an article in the *Lexington Herald-Leader* recently stating that \$5 million may be authorized by Congress to build such a park. Staff and meeting attendees did not have information regarding such a park but will try to obtain information for the next Advisory Council meeting. (Information obtained since the 12/13/01 meeting indicates a transmodal park for London, not Somerset.)

Other Issues

Some meeting attendees asked that KYTC provide information about the northern bypass study on its web site.

Next Meeting

The next Advisory Council meeting will be a working session on February 5 at 6 p.m. in the KYTC Annex to begin developing criteria in each interest area for gauging the impacts of a northern bypass and its alternatives.

Prepared by Sue Laue, JDQ Engineers