

Press Release for Heartland Parkway

Project Item Number: 4-132

County and Route: Washington, Marion, Taylor, Adair; Possible New Route or Reconstruction

Project Description: Corridor analysis for parkway location that will connect the Cumberland Parkway to the Bluegrass Parkway

Project Manager Contact information (Cabinet): Gary Valentine, KYTC-D4, 270-766-5066

Project Manager Contact Information (Consultant): Palmer Engineering, Gary Sharpe, 859-744-1218 and QK4, Bob Gustafson, 502-585-2222

Other contacts: Becky Judson, KYTC-D4, 800-459-3566

Approximate dates: March 3, 2005

Comments (number of people reached, effectiveness of the technique, what you would do differently, etc.): A mass mailing went out to the property owners letting them know about the public meetings. Notices/releases were sent to each of the media outlets in the respective communities. The meetings were held at the local college universities (Campbellsville and Lindsey Wilson) and were very well attended with over 250 attending. There was an overwhelming amount of interest in the community to move forward with this project. The CAG members worked very well together and communicated with the community to get additional input from potential property owners that may have been affected by the project. The media responded well with follow-up interviews, either by radio or print.



Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Office of Public Affairs

For Immediate Release

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PLANNING STUDY COMPLETED FOR HEARTLAND PARKWAY PROJECT

63 mile corridor recommended for interchange

ELIZABETHTOWN, KY. (March 3, 2005) - The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has completed an alternatives planning study for the Heartland Parkway. The route recommended in the study for the 63-mile corridor begins at the new KY 61 interchange on the Louie B. Nunn Cumberland Parkway in Adair County and extends to the KY 555 interchange on the Martha Layne Collins Blue Grass Parkway in Washington County. The purpose of this study was to identify and evaluate potential corridors for a new route and/or the reconstruction of existing routes. The project goals are to: Improve Regional Access for Economic Development; Existing Industry, Truck Access, Tourism, Higher Education, Agricultural Economy; Improve Safety; Improve Highway Capacity in Certain Locations; Decrease Delays through Communities; and Improve Emergency Response Times.

Utilizing local input throughout the study process, this report evaluated three build alternatives: a four lane fully controlled access facility on new alignment, a four lane limited access facility along the existing alignment and a two lane limited access facility with a one mile long truck passing lane every three miles along the existing alignment. The four lane limited access facility along the existing alignment was the recommended alternative to advance to future project phases as funding becomes available.

The recommended corridor consists of widening the existing KY55/US68/KY555 route to a four-lane partially controlled access facility. It would follow the bypasses currently under design around the west sides of Columbia and Lebanon. Both of these bypasses would be widened to four lanes. This option would provide a four-lane bypass around the southeast side of Campbellsville. This corridor is summarized in eight segments, which describes the work required in upgrading the route to a four-lane roadway.

Major issues and concerns were identified within the study area and addressed in the Alternatives Study. These include: Access to major expressway-type systems in the region (i.e., I-75, I-65, and the proposed I-66 corridor); Improving economic development and tourism opportunities in Adair, Green, Taylor, Marion, and Washington Counties; Poor geometrics, including narrow lane widths, narrow shoulders, substandard horizontal/vertical alignments, poor sight distance, no passing lanes, and access type; Truck Access for existing and future industries; and, Improving traffic congestion in Adair, Green, Taylor, Marion, and Washington Counties in certain locations.

Design of the approximately \$390 million roadway is planned to begin when funding is available. The Final Report can also be found on the Division of Planning's web site under the "Planning Projects" link at <http://transportation.ky.gov/planning/index2.asp>.

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