



US 68 Scoping Study Metcalf and Green County KYTC Item No. 3-203



Draft Purpose and Need Statements

US 68 stretches approximately 400 miles across the state from Paducah to Maysville, Kentucky. Carrying between 900 and 9,100 vehicles per day through Metcalfe and Green counties, US 68 is a Rural Major Collector of 22 miles in length between the proposed interchange with the Cumberland (Nunn) Parkway north of Edmonton in Metcalfe County and the US 68/KY 61 intersection south of Greensburg in Green County. Through Greensburg, US 68 is a Rural Minor Arterial for 2.3 miles between the south KY 61 intersection and the north KY 61/KY 3535 (Industrial Park Road) intersection. There were 128 crashes reported between 2010 and 2012 along the entire 24.3 miles of US 68 under study. Past Improvements have been made to the US 68 corridor between Greensburg (through Campbellsville) and Lebanon. These have provided a safer and more reliable connection to the Bluegrass Parkway north of Lebanon and Springfield via KY 55 and KY 555.

US 68 Corridor Project

The purpose of the US 68 Corridor Project is to provide a safer, more efficient connection between Greensburg and the Cumberland Parkway by improving substandard geometrics along the corridor. The existing alignment is characterized by horizontal and vertical curvature that does not satisfy current geometric design guidelines. Over the last three years, there were 61 crashes between the parkway and the KY 61 intersection south of Greensburg. Of these crashes, 42 (69 percent) were single vehicle collisions. With a new interchange under construction at the parkway, the demand for travel along the US 68 corridor is expected to increase. Addressing the substandard geometrics will extend previously implemented improvements along US 68 and provide a better connection between Greensburg, southern Green County, and northern Metcalfe County to the Cumberland Parkway.

US 68 Connector Project

The purpose of the US 68 Connector Project is to improve safety, connectivity, and mobility in and through Greensburg. The US 68 Corridor provides the only connection for areas east and west of Greensburg and one of only two crossings of the Green River in the area (the other being KY 417, Legion Park Road). The nearest Green River crossing upstream of Greensburg is KY 55 in Taylor County, and a detour utilizing this route around Greensburg would be approximately 35 miles in length. The nearest downstream crossing is KY 88 in Green County, which would require a detour of approximately 19 miles. Through Greensburg, US 68 currently carries as much as 9,100 vehicles per day, eight percent of which are trucks. Over the last three years, there were 67 crashes between the KY 61 intersection south of Greensburg and the KY 61/KY 3535 (Industrial Park Road) to the north. Providing a new or improved connection through or around Greensburg will better accommodate existing and future traffic volumes, provide a new or improved Green River crossing, and offer a better connection for regional traffic and commercial vehicles.