



HORIZONS

A Quarterly Publication of the Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency
Transportation Division

KYTC begins Taylorsville Road study

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is conducting a study on KY 155 to review traffic access, safety and operations along the roadway. The study will focus on short term improvements that can be implemented quickly along the corridor and at key intersections.

The primary study area includes Taylorsville Road (KY 155) from Watterson Trail in Jeffersontown south to the intersection of KY 155 and KY 148.

"We have several goals in mind with this study," said Jason Richardson, project manager at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's District 5 office. "We want to enhance roadway safety, reduce traffic congestion and improve accessibility while improving on the character of the community."

Specific intersections included in the study:

- KY 155 and Watterson Trail
- KY 155 and Ruckriegel Parkway
- KY 155 and Old Heady Road
- KY 155 and Pope Lick Road
- KY 155 and KY 148

Alternatives that will be examined include turn lanes and new signals; installation of bicycle lanes, trails and sidewalks; transit service provisions and adding new lanes along the corridor.

Partners in the study include KIPDA, consultants Parsons Brinckerhoff, the Louisville Metro Government and the City of Jeffersontown.

"We presented the project to the public at the Gaslight Festival in Jeffersontown in September, and we are eager to hear suggestions from as many people as we can," said Richardson. The study will be completed in midsummer 2007.

For more information, call Jason Richardson at 502-367-6411.



Traffic at Taylorsville Road and Watterson Trail.

Louisville Metro announces new Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator

Mohammad Nouri, Louisville Metro's Assistant Director of Planning and Design Services, recently announced the appointment of Jon Villines as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for Bullitt, Oldham, and Jefferson counties. Responsibilities of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator include design and development of new bike lanes, research and development of the upcoming Bicycle Master Plan, and maintenance of the Bike Louisville website (www.louisvilleky.gov/bikelouisville).

Mr. Villines holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies from Brown University and has studied Urban Design and Architecture in both New York City and Paris, France, through Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.

He commutes to work by bicycle from his home in Old Louisville and he

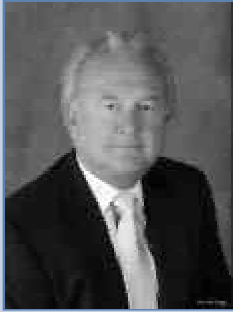
looks forward to making Louisville a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community. He can be contacted at 502-574-0104 or by e-mail at jonathan.villines@louisvilleky.gov.



Louisville Metro Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator Jon Villines on his bike in Downtown Louisville.

Transportation Policy Committee Member Profile

**J.D. Nichols, Chairman of the Board
Louisville Regional Airport Authority**
NTS Corporation, 10172 Linn Station Road
Louisville, KY 40223
502-426-4800



As Chairman of the Board of the Louisville Regional Airport Authority (LRAA) since January 2004, J. D. Nichols has used his business and financial expertise to guide the \$26 million terminal renovation and west runway extension

projects. Under Mr. Nichols' leadership, the LRAA is taking steps to accommodate current airport growth needs and secure the community's economic future by putting infrastructure in place to retain and attract aviation-related companies and jobs.

"Airfield improvements are being designed to support the recently announced acquisition of new aircraft by UPS and the \$1 billion expansion of Worldport – the centerpiece of the UPS global air distribution network – that will create more than 5,000 additional jobs in the Commonwealth," said Mr. Nichols.

In order to ensure that the regional transportation infrastructure keeps pace with the airport's expansion, Mr. Nichols is a member of the Transportation Policy Committee at KIPDA. "Maintaining the condition and safety of our roads, while handling the increases in traffic are key elements in securing the future growth of our region," he said.

Mr. Nichols has been an airport board member since 1991 and is Chairman of NTS Corporation. A Kentuckiana Business Hall of Fame inductee, he has served on the Governor's Council of Economic Development, the Board of Directors of both Actors Theater of Louisville and the Kentucky Opera, and other community organizations. He is a director and past member of the Executive Committee of Greater Louisville, Inc. In addition, Mr. Nichols is an airline transport rated pilot with more than 10,000 hours of flying time.

For more information on the LRAA, visit www.flylouisville.com.

Editor: Nedra Morrell
502-266-6084
nedra.morrell@ky.gov

Jeffersontown plan targets bicycle and pedestrian safety and mobility

Jeffersontown's Gaslight Recreational and Workplace Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan hopes to increase bicycle and pedestrian safety in the city. From better crosswalks, sidewalks and pedestrian technologies to expanding public education and safety programs, the plan's projects should create a more walking and bicycling friendly city.

"Our goal is to enhance the quality of life in our city by providing alternative means to the automobile, and encourage physical fitness," said Matt Meunier, assistant to Mayor Clay Foreman. "Our Mayor has provided the vision for making Jeffersontown a great place to live, work and play, and where residents and visitors will be able to ride and walk with confidence and safety."

A focus group of residents, agency and regional representatives - including KIPDA - participated in creating the goals and objectives for the project. "Community involvement is critical to developing a viable bicycle and pedestrian trail system, and Mayor

Foreman and I appreciate the group's time and talent in shaping the design elements of this plan," said Meunier.

The City Council recently adopted the plan which shows bike and pedestrian trails throughout

Jeffersontown. Paths will go through parks and neighborhoods along priority corridors such as Taylorsville Road, South Hurstbourne Parkway and Watterson Trail. The trails will

connect residents to other neighborhoods, parks and the city's downtown.

Work has already begun on a 1.2-mile trail that will run from Taylorsville Road to Skyview Park and then downtown to the city gymnasium, library and museum.

"The trail will be finished in spring 2007," said Meunier. "The next step is to determine which routes within the plan are the most desired and how those could be funded. Input from residents will continue to be very important."

For more information, contact Matt Meunier at 502-267-8333.



Big Four Bridge concept selected

In the fall of 2005, the City of Jeffersonville contracted with KZF-Design to develop two conceptual designs for bicycle and pedestrian access to the Big Four Bridge that would link Jeffersonville's Greenway to Louisville's Waterfront Park.

"The site around the bridge was not without complications," said Chester Hicks, Director of Planning and Development for the City of Jeffersonville. "The designers had to develop access on and off the bridge that was ADA compliant, had a limited impact on the historic district and neighborhood, and satisfy U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requirements."

In April of 2006, citizens in Jeffersonville

were shown the final two proposals and preliminary cost estimates for each design. "The public overwhelmingly selected the 'hanging ramp' proposal with a cost estimate of \$2.9 million," said Hicks. The cost of the alternative elevator design was estimated at nearly \$4.3 million.



View of the Big Four Bridge from Mulberry Street in Jeffersonville.

US 60 safety initiative continues

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Kentucky State Police, KIPDA and the Bluegrass Area Development District continue to work on the highway safety initiative for the US 60 corridor in Franklin, Jefferson and Shelby counties. The Drive Smart Kentucky campaign goal is to reduce fatalities, injuries and property damage crashes throughout the state, with an emphasis on targeting corridors with a higher than average number of crashes.

Events during the summer included a traffic safety booth at the Middletown Milestone Festival in Jefferson County and the Simpsonville Fall Festival in Shelby County.

KIPDA staff is also in the process of conducting seat belt surveys in locations in Shelby and Jefferson along the US 60 corridor, as well as in other counties in the KIPDA region for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. These surveys will be used to determine 2006 seat belt usage rates for drivers and passengers throughout the region.



Drive Smart Bear at the Middletown Milestone Festival.

If you would like to be part of the US 60 safety initiative, please contact Nedra Morrell at 502-266-6084.



TARC ridership up

With the high gas prices this year, TARC ridership is at its highest level in more than 10 years.

Many companies are helping their employees with bus fares as more commuters look for alternatives to driving alone. Employers are requesting route and schedule materials, as well as information about providing transit tickets and passes or getting tax breaks for employees who may already be using TARC.

If you would like more information about TARC services and commuter discounts, please call Janene Grantz in the TARC marketing department at 502-561-5112. Ms. Grantz can also help you schedule a transit fair at your site to provide employees with TARC information.

Ticket to Ride continues growth

Ticket to Ride is a regional ridesharing program administered by KIPDA and funded through the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the Indiana Department of Transportation. Currently, Ticket to Ride manages twenty-two vanpool groups operating throughout the KIPDA region. Passengers meet at park-and-ride lots and commute daily to their worksites in fully equipped 12 or 15-passenger vans. Monthly fares are determined by the vanpool's monthly mileage and number of passengers.

Savings can be as much as \$300 per month for those commuting longer distances. In addition, vanpoolers are removing their single occupant vehicles off the road resulting in less air pollution for the community.

If you are interested in joining a vanpool or would like more information on how to start up a vanpool from your area, please contact Debbie Kirk with Ticket to Ride at 502-267-5400, toll free 1-866-822-7665, or by e-mail debbie.kirk@ky.gov. For a listing of vanpool locations and schedules, visit www.tickettoride.org.

Ask the Expert!

Have you ever wondered why some intersections have traffic signals and others have stop signs? Or how it is decided where to add a crosswalk to a street?

In each issue of *Horizons*, we will take a question and ask the experts – state transportation departments, local planning agencies, TARC and Federal Highway Administration staff.

Let us help you with that nagging question. It's probably one that plenty of our readers have wondered about as well. We'll review the questions and select one for each issue. Send them via e-mail to kipda.trans@ky.gov with "Ask the Expert" in the subject line, or by mail to:

ASK THE EXPERT
KIPDA Transportation Division
11520 Commonwealth Drive
Louisville, KY 40299

In this issue, we asked Kevin Dant at Highway District 5 of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the following question:

What is NEPA and how is it used in transportation planning?

Mr. Dant's response:

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 was signed into law on January 1, 1970, and established a mandate for federal agencies to consider the potential environmental impact of their proposals, document the analysis and make this information available to the public for comments prior to implementation.

NEPA requires the Federal Highway Administration to examine and avoid potential impacts to the social and natural environment when considering approval of proposed transportation projects. In addition to evaluating the possible environmental effects, FHWA must also take into account the transportation needs of the public in reaching a decision that is in the best overall public interest. The FHWA NEPA

process takes into account potential impacts on people and the environment as well as the public's need for safe and efficient transportation.



Van Pool



KIPDA Transportation Division Meeting Calendar

Transportation Technical Coordinating Committee

November 8, 10:00 a.m.
KIPDA Conference Room

December

No meeting in December.

January 10, 10:00 a.m.
Location to be announced

A map of KIPDA's location can be found at <http://kipda.org/download/KIPDALocaleMap.pdf>.

Transportation Policy Committee

November 28, 10:00 a.m.
Holiday Inn Hurstbourne
1325 South Hurstbourne Parkway

December

No meeting in December.

January 25, 1:00 p.m.
Location to be announced.

For TARC routes and schedules, please visit www.ridetarc.com.

Regional Transportation Council

November 28, 10:00 a.m.
Holiday Inn Hurstbourne
1325 South Hurstbourne Parkway

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**Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change.
Please call KIPDA at 502-266-6084 to confirm, or visit the calendar on our website at www.kipda.org/transport/events.asp.**

Articles contained in this newsletter will be consistent with assisting readers in accessing information from the public government entities or nonprofit organizations in which KIPDA maintains a membership, from which KIPDA is funded, or to which KIPDA contributes funds or with which KIPDA is contractually affiliated. KIPDA reserves the right to accept or deny any articles from other external sources at its discretion.

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