



HORIZONS

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

Big Four Bridge under construction, needs additional funding

The Big Four Bridge, which will serve as a bridge for pedestrians and bicyclists, is showing some progress as it is being rehabilitated.

The ramp for the Kentucky side of the bridge has been built, but there is still more work to be done. Mike Kimmel, Vice President of the Waterfront Development Corporation, said the project is waiting on \$12.5 million dollars, which should be available in July 2011, to complete the rehab work on the bridge and its decking as well as placement of lights and benches.

Indiana officials are also working out details before construction for their portion can begin. Andy Crouch, City of Jeffersonville Engineer, said the ramp on the Indiana side will have complete plans and approvals within the next few months.

Crouch said the consultant is currently working through some historic and environmental issues. He also said that once the design is complete the only hold-up is a monetary issue.

He said the Indiana portion of the project is believed to be about \$7-\$9 million. "We don't have that funding available at this point," he said. "We have applied for both recent TIGER grants, but were not awarded in either instance. We are still searching for other funding at this moment."

Meanwhile, Kimmel said that if the Indiana portion is not completed by the time the rest of the bridge is done, the north end of the bridge construction will include an overlook until the ramp into Southern Indiana could be built.



The ramp leading up to the Kentucky side of the bridge has been completed. *Photo courtesy of The Waterfront Development Corporation.*

New Albany receives federal aid for safety projects

The City of New Albany has received federal funds through the Indiana Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) to begin making intersection improvements at Silver and Spring streets and at Charlestown Road and Beechwood Avenue.

John Rosenbarger, City of New Albany's Public Works Facilities Supervisor, said the improvements are being made to help decrease high accident rates.

Spring Street will be widened at Silver Street to provide opposing left

turn lanes. The traffic signal will be replaced to accommodate the new lane configuration and allow for the wider pavement. Rosenbarger said Spring Street is a high traffic area and carries well over 20,000 vehicles at this intersection. The total cost of the project is \$800,000 and the city received \$720,000 through HSIP.

Rosenbarger also said this intersection is where many side-swipe and rear-end collisions take place. Accident data from 2004-2009 showed that the intersection had 74 accidents

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Transportation Briefs

Fern Creek Developing Transportation Plan

The Fern Creek area is going to be a model for the rest of Louisville and the region. With technical assistance from the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency's Smart Growth Implementation Program, city officials are developing a plan to retrofit the suburban community into a mixed-use center where walking, bicycling and public transportation are real options for residents.

The Sustainable Community Design Workshop was held October 19-21 to explore the mixed-use center concept for the Fern Creek area. Participants heard formal presentations, participated in group discussions and open design studios. To follow the progress of the plan, go to www.louisvilleky.gov/PlanningDesign/Neighborhood+Plans/SGIA.htm.

INDOT Seymour District Has New Leadership

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) recently announced position changes for two of its southeast Indiana employees.

Commissioner Michael Cline has named Jim Stark to the position of deputy commissioner for planning and project management. Kathy Eaton-McKalip has been named to replace Stark and to lead INDOT's Seymour District office.

Eaton-McKalip will be responsible for all construction, maintenance and operation of state highways within 19 southeastern Indiana counties, including Clark and Floyd counties in the KIPDA region.

KIPDA hosted 2010 Indiana MPO Conference

Transportation officials from the state of Indiana and Kentucky as well as officials from federal agencies, national organizations and consulting firms, gathered at Kye's in Jeffersonville September 14-16 for the annual Indiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Conference, hosted by KIPDA.

Topics discussed included livability and sustainability, census, complete streets, air quality and ridesharing.

The conference, which rotates among all the MPOs, is typically held in the fall. Next year's conference will be in Indianapolis.

New Albany receives federal aid for safety projects

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with property damage and 32 injury accidents.

The Charlestown Road and Beechwood Avenue improvements include widening the Charlestown Road south leg to provide a dedicated left-turn lane and to replace the traffic signal to accommodate the new lane configuration and allow for a wider pavement. The project cost is \$450,000 and the city received \$405,000 through HSIP.

"Our intent is to make it a safer intersection and to relieve some of the congestion at the same time. But primarily [to enhance] safety," said Rosenbarger. He also said this improvement involves buying some right

of way. This intersection has had 31 accidents with property damage and 8 injury accidents.

"These streets are some of New Albany's most heavily traveled major arterials. Each of the intersections suffers from too many and too severe accidents. Both also suffer from congestion, especially at peak hours," said New Albany Mayor Doug England. "We're especially appreciative of the federal aid providing 90% of the project costs."

Rosenbarger said the next step is for the project to be advertised for engineering work and then they will "look to design a right of way next year to build the following year." He estimates construction in 2012.

Jeffersonville offering water taxi to help with arena traffic

The City of Jeffersonville is offering water taxi rides from the Riverside Landing area (under the Kennedy Bridge) to the Louisville side of the Ohio River for those attending the University of Louisville home games at the KFC Yum! Center.

Dana Young, Director of Business Development for the City of Jeffersonville, said the idea came as a result of a meeting with Jeffersonville Mayor Tom Galligan and area hospitality businesses which would be potentially impacted by fans attending the University of Louisville basketball home games. "Acknowledging that traffic and parking could be a problem and recognizing that Jeffersonville's geographic location could be part of a solution, we explored different options of mass transportation," she said.

Young said that they also took into account the success in Covington, Kentucky and Newport, Kentucky with their water taxi service moving people from the Northern Kentucky side of the Ohio River to events in Cincinnati and decided to start looking at options.

The Spirit of Jefferson is the vessel used to transport patrons. The existing dock is near the KFC Yum! Center and has the versatility for landing on the Jeffersonville side.

Tickets are \$10 for a round trip. Pre-paid ticket reservations can be made by calling the Belle of Louisville office at 502-574-2992. Season passes are also available for the water taxi. Tickets will be available the day of the game at the Riverside Landing.

Boarding is on a first-come, first-served basis. There are 150 indoor seats and the boat will hold 260 standing room only. The water taxi will make two trips before each game (90 minutes before game start and 45 minutes before game start) and two trips after each game (25 minutes after game buzzer and 45 minutes after game buzzer).

"It is our hope that this will help reduce the amount of cars having to find parking close to the KFC Yum! Center. Under the Kennedy Bridge off of Riverside Drive, we have approximately 260 free parking spaces," Young said. Young also mentioned that Jeffersonville has a trolley available on a certain route (see article on page 3) which will allow for free on-street parking.

For more information on the water taxi, call Dana Young at 812-285-6492 or visit <http://belleoflouisville.org> and click on Jeffersonville Water Shuttle in the left-hand navigation pane.

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Bullitt County study provides transportation planning alternatives

The KIPDA-initiated Bullitt County Transportation Study to identify potential transportation projects has been completed. KIPDA, Bullitt County officials and the consultant ENTRAN worked to identify the community's concerns and evaluate transportation alternatives to improve the county's mobility.

KIPDA staff began meeting with Bullitt County Judge Executive Melanie Roberts in December 2008 to get some of her ideas for the study. The study helped develop a long-range transportation plan for the county and to address some of the issues the county faces, including rapid growth, roadway deficiencies, long commutes, travel barriers and truck traffic.

A steering committee was formed which included Roberts and other county officials, State Representative Linda Belcher and representatives from KIPDA, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, TARC, Options Unlimited, Shepherds Square, and others. The committee helped

develop project goals and issues and developed improvement alternatives.

In addition, the public was provided with two public meeting opportunities to address their concerns and needs. There was also the website www.gobullitt.com. After taking in feedback from the public and elected officials in the area, both short-term and long-term project recommendations were proposed.

The short-term improvements were developed based on stakeholder input, crash data and site reconnaissance. The projects are mostly to improve traffic safety. Long-term projects were also created through the study. These projects could be improvements to existing roadways or construction of new roadways.

A complete list of project ideas and the study can be found on KIPDA's website at www.kipda.org/Transportation/MPO/Documents_and_Studies.aspx and look for "Bullitt County Transportation Study."

KIPDA has new transportation plans

The KIPDA Transportation Policy Committee and federal officials both recently signed off on the updated Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the 2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The updated documents are the short-range and long-range transportation planning documents for Bullitt, Jefferson and Oldham counties in Kentucky and Clark and Floyd counties in Indiana.

The MTP provides a comprehensive vision for the transportation infrastructure over the upcoming 20 years for KIPDA's five counties. Transportation projects seeking federal funding must be included in the MTP. The TIP is a short-range funding document for the five-county KIPDA area. Projects advance from the MTP to the TIP when they are ready for funding.

The TIP is a four-year planning and funding document and the MTP is a 20-year planning document.

Both the MTP and the TIP went into a lapse in December of 2009, which essentially prevented projects from being added to or deleted from the documents. The previous MTP was set to expire December 8, 2010, and this approval of both documents allows the expenditure of federal transportation funding to continue in the region without interruption.

Public Involvement Calendar

KIPDA staff is currently developing the outreach calendar for 2011. For an up-to-date calendar, go to www.kipda.org/Transportation/Public_Outreach.aspx or call KIPDA Community Outreach Specialist Josh Suiter at 502-266-6084. You can also contact him about speaking to your organization or neighborhood association.

Free trolley rides in Louisville, two purchased in Jeffersonville

The Transit Authority of River City (TARC) is offering free rides on its downtown Main/Market Trolley and the Fourth Street Trolley, both which circulate through the Louisville Central Business District.

The agencies which are subsidizing the free rides are the Downtown Development Corporation, the Louisville Convention and Tourism Bureau, the Louisville Downtown Management District and the Kentucky State Fair Board.

The four agencies initially provided TARC the funds to run the trolleys for free in the summer and ridership doubled from the previous year during those months. TARC is continuing to work with sponsors for additional funding.

For more information, go to www.ridetarc.org.

The City of Jeffersonville has purchased two trolleys from Metro Capital in Austin, Texas.

Dana Young, Director of Community Development for the city, said the trolleys will be used for special events. "We are also using them during the 2010-2011 University of Louisville Men's basketball season for all the home games. They have a route that connects the local restaurants and hotels within a three mile radius."

Young said included in this route is the drop off at Riverside Landing for the Spirit of Jefferson water taxi shuttle and the bus stop for the Free Enterprise Motor Coach under the Kennedy Bridge. The trolley rides are free.

For more information on Jeffersonville's trolleys, call Dana Young at 812-285-6492.



TARC offers free rides on their Main/Market and Fourth Street trolleys. Photo courtesy of TARC.

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KIPDA Transportation Meeting Calendar

Transportation Technical Coordinating Committee

January 12, 2011, 1:00 p.m.
Shively City Hall, 3920 Dixie Highway

February 9, 2011, 1:00 p.m.
KIPDA Burke Room

Regional Transportation Council

January 27, 2011, 1:00 p.m.
KIPDA Conference Room

A map of KIPDA's location can be found at www.kipda.org/About_KIPDA.aspx.

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

Transportation Policy Committee

January 27, 2011, 1:00 p.m.
KIPDA Burke Room

February 24, 2011, 1:00 p.m.
KIPDA Burke Room

March 24, 2011, 1:00 p.m.
KIPDA Burke Room

If you would like to be added or removed from the Horizons mailing list, or receive Horizons electronically, please e-mail us at kipda.trans@ky.gov or call us at 502-266-6084.

**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/news.aspx.**

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The KIPDA Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Transportation Division of KIPDA and is prepared with financial assistance from the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the Transit Authority of River City, and the local governments in the KIPDA region, in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Transportation. This financial assistance notwithstanding, the contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official views and policies of the funding agencies.