



HORIZONS

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

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds benefit local area

Many transportation projects in Jefferson, Bullitt and Oldham counties in Kentucky and Clark and Floyd counties in Indiana may receive funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which was signed by President Barack Obama on February 17.

Local officials began planning for the funding before the act was even signed. They gathered at KIPDA on February 4 and again on March 9 (for Indiana project sponsors) and March 10 (for Kentucky project sponsors) to begin identifying projects which might be eligible to receive the funding. During the February 4 meeting, officials determined the first round of projects that could receive money through the Recovery Act. The second round of projects was identified during the March meetings and will be considered for official approval by KIPDA's Transportation Policy Committee on April 23.

Projects that were selected should have been "shovel-ready" and had no pending right-of-way acquisition or environmental work. Projects funded through KIPDA must have all bids ready by March 2, 2010 and the projects shall be completed in 3 years or by March 2012.



Hyun Lee, Clark County Engineer (left) talks with Tom Clevidence, Clarksville Town Engineer, during the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act meeting on February 4 at KIPDA.

Prospect area study will look at needs

The City of Prospect, with funding provided by KIPDA, has begun a comprehensive transportation study for the city and its adjacent areas.

The study will include evaluation of existing road conditions, public involvement activities, analysis of future land use, demographic and transportation conditions and development of 10-year and 20-year recommendations. The improvement options could include addressing congestion, safety issues, mobility,

access management, roadway network connectivity, transit, bicycle and pedestrian needs, and walkways. The study area will include all land within the Prospect city limits as well as land adjacent to the city limits in Jefferson and Oldham counties.

"For several years, the city has been exploring connectivity and thus looking at possible alterations to current transportation patterns within the City of Prospect. There are roughly eight

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Tull retires as KIPDA's Transportation Director

Harold Tull, who served as KIPDA's Director of the Transportation Division, retired December 31, 2008.

Tull came to KIPDA in February 1985 as a transportation planner. He became Director of Transportation in June 1997. Prior to his work at KIPDA, he worked for the Alabama Highway Department's Bureau of Urban Planning where he was responsible for the mass transportation planning of Alabama's urbanized areas.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering with a major in Urban Systems from Purdue University.

Patricia Fraser of the Town of Clarksville, who worked with Tull while she was Chair of the Transportation Policy Committee in 2008 said, "It was great working with Harold when I was TPC Chair because he was always prepared, knowledgeable, well aware of the parameters we had to work within, and pragmatic about what could be done."

"If I had questions about how to accomplish something, Harold had good advice and helped with carrying out whatever needed to be done. He helped keep me informed about issues and how to address them. His advice was always practical and professional," she added.

Upon Tull's retirement announcement, KIPDA began the search for the new Director of Transportation and chose Larry Chaney.

Chaney, who retired from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Department of Highways in 1999, has been working in the transportation industry for over 35 years. He has been involved in planning, funding, design, right of way acquisition, utility relocation and construction of hundreds of highway and highway-related projects.

He served as the Planning Branch Manager and the Branch Manager of Preconstruction with the Transportation Cabinet. After leaving the Cabinet, he was the Director of Transportation in the Louisville office of HNTB Corp., where he was in charge of developing transportation planning and highway design projects throughout the region.

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Local officials are pleased with the funding and what it will do for the local area.

"These are projects that TARC has had to defer year after year to maintain service on the street and keep our fares affordable," said TARC Executive Director J. Barry Barker. "We are now able to upgrade our facilities and buses and continue to provide the top-notch service our customer's desire."

"These are exciting projects that will not only put people to work, they'll leave our city's environment greener and they'll create a lasting legacy," Louisville Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson said.

Residents wanting additional information about the Act can go to http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/arra_public_review/ or www.fhwa.dot.gov/economicrecovery

A complete list of the projects is available on KIPDA's website – www.kipda.org. Here are some highlights of projects that are receiving funding:

- **Bullitt County** - Implementation of improvements identified in the Walkable Community Workshop
- **Jeffersontown** - Improve streetscape, reconstruct sidewalks and enhance landscaping from College Drive to Ruckriegel Parkway
- **Louisville** - Implementation of identified improvements from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Feasibility Study
- **Middletown** - Main Street Development Plan to widen roads, add sidewalks, drainage and landscaping
- **New Albany** - Upgrading three traffic signals between State and Vincennes streets on Spring Street and Market Street
- **Jeffersonville** - Mill, grind and rehabilitate pavement on Eighth Street
- **Oldham County** - Install various sidewalks
- **St. Matthews** - Sidewalk improvements along U.S. 60 to fill in gaps and increase pedestrian connectivity
- **Transit Authority of River City** - Purchase of 10 hybrid buses
- **Ticket to Ride** - Purchase 6 Ticket to Ride rideshare vans

Prospect area study will look at needs

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major subdivisions within the city, the majority of which are not connected to others. The main artery through the city, four-lane U.S. Highway 42, is a significant barrier to 'north city' versus 'south city.' Harrods Creek is a major barrier to 'west city' versus 'east city,'" said Todd Eberle, Mayor of Prospect.

The study will include traffic counts, traffic signal timing, crash data, aerial photography and geographic information system data. In addition, there will be meetings with stakeholders such as schools, fire, police, emergency medical technicians,

city council members, TARC, and neighborhood associations to assist in identifying projects, and there will be a public meeting to seek input from residents and businesses. The public meeting will include handouts and exhibits. Details on the public meeting will be provided later.

Once all of these aspects are complete, a final report will be compiled and reviewed by the study team before being finalized. A copy of the report will be posted on the KIPDA website – www.kipda.org. The report is expected to be ready in December 2009.

TARC completes long range plan, report available online

By Carrie Butler, Director of Planning
Transit Authority of River City

With funding support from KIPDA's short range planning study program, the Transit Authority of River City (TARC) recently completed an update to TARC's Long Range Plan. The report, which was completed by HDR Consulting out of Alexandria, Virginia and TARC staff, looked at transit operations and investments over a 25-year horizon. The report indicates that TARC and the Greater Louisville community have an opportunity to continue to build a more robust and comprehensive transportation system. With proper financing and political support, the system can provide a broader range of transportation options that respond to changing demographics, the changing climate, and changing consumer preferences.

Key findings from the report:

- Louisville residents desire convenient, fast, frequent and affordable transit. Community leaders and residents highly value existing bus service, would improve services for seniors and ranked a light rail system and intercity passenger rail as the top improvements that they would use.
- TARC must have new or greatly expanded funding sources in order to develop advanced transit modes such as light rail or commuter rail or even to significantly expand existing bus service.

- New avenues for expansion of transit services may come from changing federal transportation policies and funding, prompted by the current economic crisis. (The report was completed in advance of recent discussion regarding economic stimulus funding for transit.)

"It pretty much paints the picture of where TARC is today and what needs to be done to respond to growing needs out there now and in the future," said TARC Executive Director J. Barry Barker. "There are some promising policy changes and low-cost improvements we can make today, but it's pretty clear that additional investment will be needed for a significant change in the service we provide."

This update is the first comprehensive review of the community's public transportation needs and options since 2006, when advanced transit options were removed from KIPDA's long-range plan because of concerns about whether they could be sufficiently funded given current funding outlays. The projects – including the Light Rail project in the South Central corridor – were removed by TARC from active consideration in spite of some 500 letters and emails of protest from community residents.

TARC will be working with the community as they respond to challenges and opportunities in the next 25 years. A copy of the full report is available at www.ridetarc.org or by calling TARC at 502-213-3490.

Regional freight conference will be held in May

By Bernadette Dupont, Transportation Planner, Federal Highway Administration – Kentucky

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the Kentucky Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will co-host the Third Biennial Freight Conference on May 5th and 6th at the Jeffersontown Community Center.

The conference's focus will be on waterways, but all freight modes will be addressed. The conference will feature multiple speakers, including Tony Furst and Kate Quinn of the FHWA Headquarters' Office of Freight Management and Operations. Their presentations will focus on new developments in the freight industry. The keynote speaker is Eric Hartman, Senior Director of Logistics for Papa John's and Papa John's Food Service.

The conference will also include tours of the McAlpine Locks and Dam and the Norfolk Southern Intermodal Yard. There will also be a variety of information booths set up. The conference is expected to attract about 100 attendees from industry, state and local governments, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and Area Development Districts.

Registration is free, but there is a \$15 refreshment fee which includes refreshments throughout the conference and lunch. If you are interested in attending the conference, go to www.fhwa.dot.gov/kydiv/conf.htm to register. Display space is also available at no charge. If you are interested in setting up a booth, please contact Bernadette Dupont, at 502-223-6729 or by e-mail at bernadette.dupont@fhwa.dot.gov.

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Louisville Metro Mayor's Community Conversations

Come speak to Louisville Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson, other leaders of Louisville Metro Government and a representative of KIPDA during the Mayor's Community Conversations. Whether it's a problem in your backyard or a communitywide concern, Community Conversations are an opportunity to have your voice heard and your needs met. The Mayor's Community Conversations begin at 6:30 p.m. Here is the schedule for 2009:

April 20	Stuart Middle School	4601 Valley Station Road
May 18	Newburg Middle School	4901 Exeter Avenue
June 15	Ramsey Middle School	6409 Gelhaus Lane
July 20	Carter Elementary School	3600 Bohne Avenue
August 17	Fairdale High School	1001 Fairdale Road
September 21	Atherton High School	3000 Dundee Road
October 19	Southern High School	8620 Preston Highway
November 16	Central High School	1130 West Chestnut Street

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KIPDA Transportation Meeting Calendar

Transportation Technical Coordinating Committee

May 13, 2009, 1:00 p.m.
KIPDA Burke Room

June 10, 2009, 1:00 p.m.
KIPDA Burke Room

Regional Transportation Council

May 28, 2009, 1:00 p.m.
KIPDA Conference Room

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

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

Transportation Policy Committee

May 28, 2009, 1:00 p.m.
KIPDA Burke Room

June 25, 2009, 1:00 p.m.
KIPDA Burke Room

July 23, 2009, 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 <http://kipda.org/news.aspx>.**

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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