



# HORIZONS

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

## Clean air program kicks into high gear

By Matt Stull, Public Information Supervisor, Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District

Next month, as thousands put the brakes on education for summer vacation, another major education project will be kicking into high gear. Kentuckiana Air Education, or KAIRE, is the outreach arm of the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District. Its mission is to inform local residents of the effects of air pollution and the simple things they can do to help keep the air cleaner.

There is good news and bad news in Louisville on the clean air front. Currently, the Air Pollution Control District is in the process of asking the EPA to classify our area as in attainment of the eight-hour ozone standard. But the area is still having difficulty meeting the EPA standard for particulate matter. A proposal under review by Federal officials would make that standard even tougher in the future.

Studies show there is a direct link between our community's air quality and our health, especially for children and adults with breathing problems. According to Dr. Adewale Troutman, Director of the Louisville Metro Health Department, "Poor air quality has been associated with cancer, respiratory diseases, exacerbation of cardiovascular disease and many other acute and chronic conditions. Our recently released Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Study shows that more than one in five adults reported illness or symptoms from outdoor air pollution. A community can and must



KAIRE Clean Air for Kentucky hot air balloon.

do better." Studies also show poor air quality triggers asthma attacks that can send children to the hospital.

Solving the problem will require the help of residents and businesses alike. Plans are underway to create a Clean Air Alliance of community stakeholders to spread KAIRE's message and turn clean air choices into daily habits. A recent study commissioned by KAIRE found that 30 percent of area residents were willing to change behaviors to help clean the air—but were not aware of the things they should do. An integrated media plan will work to increase KAIRE's profile and enlist the help of those willing people to help turn the tide.

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## Median cable barriers will improve interstate safety

In an effort to reduce median crossover crashes, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will begin work on the installation of median cable barriers at two Jefferson County locations.

"The Cabinet is committed to improving the state's highway network particularly in the area of safety," said Andrea Clifford, Public Information Officer for Highway District 5 in Louisville. "Because of that goal, we have accepted and opened bids to install experimental cable barrier systems on I-64 and I-71."

On I-64, the median cable barriers will be placed from about ½ mile east of the Cochran Hill Tunnels to just east of Breckenridge Lane (mile points 8.663 to 11.57). The I-71 project will extend

from the Ohio Street Bridge in downtown Louisville to the Gene Snyder Freeway (mile points 0.017 to 9.063).

In September 2004, Governor Fletcher established the Governor's Executive Committee on Highway Safety to develop strategies for reducing highway fatalities and serious injuries. "The use of median cable barriers provides us with another tool in carrying out the Governor's mission of lowering the number of lives lost due to highway crashes," said Clifford. "We are investing almost \$100 million more into our maintenance program this year to improve the condition of our existing roads and consequently improve safety for our motorists."

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## Transportation Policy Committee Member Profile

**Mayor J. Byron Chapman**

**President, Jefferson League of Cities**

12556 Shelbyville Road, P.O. Box 43048  
Louisville, KY 40253  
(502) 245-2762



As Mayor of the city of Middletown since 2002, J. Byron Chapman has faced many challenges and opportunities within his growing city.

"Maintaining the condition and safety of our roads, while handling increases in traffic, is one my main

goals as mayor of this city," he said recently.

In order to improve transportation on a regional level, Mayor Chapman is both a member of the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) and the President of the Jefferson County League of Cities. "My wife and I have lived here since the 1960s, and I am really trying to maintain the balance between residential and economic development," he said. "At the same time, it's crucial to keep the small town feel and sense of history."

As a member of TPC, the Mayor enjoys a strong working relationship with Highway District 5 of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. "We're starting work on the Shelbyville Road beautification project, as well as continuing with the improvements to Old Shelbyville Road," he said. Shelbyville Road plans include adding more green space and a bicycle lane, as well as improvements to curbs and gutters along the corridor.

Safety issues also play a key role in the Mayor's planning for the city. "Public awareness is vital to teach drivers how to share the road with bicyclists, and we have also made a commitment to keep the bike lanes clean for the cyclists."

"We're going to keep marching on with improvements for our neighborhoods and businesses," he said. "Whether it's additional parking on Main Street, or adding sidewalks in our residential areas, we're committed to making Middletown a great place to live and work."

Born in Logan County, Kentucky, Mayor Chapman moved to Middletown in 1967 to work as a mechanical engineer at Jeffboat. He served in Vietnam from 1967-1969 and returned to start his own engineering firm in Louisville. His wife Frieda owns Frieda's Fancy Florist on Main Street. Mayor Chapman also serves as a pilot with the Department of Homeland Security.

**Editor: Nedra Morrell**  
(502) 266-6084  
[nedra.morrell@ky.gov](mailto:nedra.morrell@ky.gov)

## Clean air program

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That plan also includes KAIRE's involvement in several community events, including the Falls of the Ohio Earth Day celebration, the Louisville Zoo's Health and Safety Fair, and Louisville Bats games. KAIRE's presence at these events will reach more of those willing to make behavior changes to improve air quality.

Here's what you can do to help improve air quality: accelerate your car at a moderate speed, refuel your vehicle when it's cooler outside and stop at the click when filling your tank, maintain your vehicle with regular tune-ups and oil changes and keep your tires properly inflated. These few changes will make a big difference in

the quality of Kentuckiana's air. Your involvement doesn't have to stop there; you can join the KAIRE Network. The group is growing all the time, and includes residents and businesses devoted to making Kentuckiana an easier place to breathe.

Also, as the weather gets warmer, keep an eye out for Air Quality Alerts. KAIRE issues the alerts when breathing may become difficult for those at risk with respiratory problems, children, and active adults.

Find out more at KAIRE's website, [www.helptheair.org](http://www.helptheair.org). We welcome feedback from local stakeholders on our efforts to make the area a better place to live.

## Median cable barriers

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While other states have installed a three cable system on interstates, the Federal Highway Administration has approved the Transportation Cabinet to utilize a four cable product, Brifen Wire Rope Safety Fence, manufactured by BrifenUSA. The locations on I-64 and I-71 were chosen based on accident history and on-site engineering review. The review indicated the medians on these two sections are only 40 feet in width as compared to the 60 foot wide

medians on other interstates such as I-265 and I-65.

A review of median crossover crashes on interstates in Jefferson County showed these areas had higher numbers of crossover crashes than other interstate areas. Once this cable barrier system has been evaluated in place, further installations will be considered for other locations across the state.

For further information, please contact Andrea Clifford at (502) 367-6411.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Regional Smart Growth Conference  
September 18 - 20, 2006  
Louisville, KY

The Louisville-Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges Project is hosting a Smart Growth Conference. The goal is to identify opportunities for positive change in local land-use planning that reflect the principles of Smart Growth and historic preservation.

Please mark your calendars for this important event and save the date. Additional conference details will be forthcoming in April 2006. We look forward to seeing you in September 2006!

For more information, go to [www.kyrbbridges.com](http://www.kyrbbridges.com) or call 800.513.6691.

**BRIDGING BOUNDARIES**  
BUILDING GREAT COMMUNITIES

# Take a ride - May 2006 is Bike-to-Work Month!

May 2006 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual National Bike to Work month designated by the League of American Bicyclists. The intent is to raise awareness of bicycling and encourage more people to take a ride on their bike rather than drive their car to work. The TARC Bikes-on-Board program offers cyclists the opportunity to combine their bike trip with transit and allows people in the KIPDA region to go further than ever before on a bike. All TARC buses are equipped with bike racks and can hold up to two bicycles.

"Mayor Abramson is committed to making Louisville residents healthier and more fit, and one way to do that is to encourage bicycling as a great way to get to the office, save money and exercise at the same time," said Mohammad Nouri, Assistant Director of Louisville Metro Planning and Design Services.

There are several resources available to help individuals who want to bike to work. They include:

- Route maps and bicycle boarding information are available at

## Bike Safely

- Always wear a helmet
- Obey all traffic controls
- Ride your bicycle near the right-hand edge of the road
- Never carry another person on your bicycle
- Always use hand signals when turning or stopping
- Keep your bicycle in good condition
- Use a light if riding after dark

[www.ridetarc.org](http://www.ridetarc.org) if you want to take advantage of the Bikes-on-Board program.

- Both the Indiana Department of Transportation and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet have information concerning bicycling on these pages: <http://www.in.gov/dot/modetrans/bicycle/index.html> and [http://transportation.ky.gov/planning/bike\\_walk/bikewalk.asp](http://transportation.ky.gov/planning/bike_walk/bikewalk.asp).
- There is also a site devoted to this celebration that offer helpful tips to

people choosing to take the ride: [www.bikeleague.org/programs/bikemonth](http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bikemonth).

- Electronic versions of bike routes in Louisville are available from <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/bikelouisville> and can be helpful when planning your route.

## Bike-to-Work Louisville 2006 Celebration

Friday, May 19 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Jefferson Square Park – 6<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson Streets, Downtown

Join the family-friendly celebration of cycling in Louisville on May 19! Sponsored by Louisville Metro Government, the event will feature free food, prizes, music and valet parking for bicycles.

For more information, visit the web site at [www.louisvilleky.gov](http://www.louisvilleky.gov).

## Are you ready for your teen to drive?

The American Automobile Association of Kentucky (AAA), Oldham County Judge Executive Mary Ellen Kinser and KIPDA have joined forces to kick off a training workshop for parents of teen drivers. The goal of the sessions is to educate parents about the most effective methods to use when teaching their teenagers to drive.

"Since parents are the primary mentors for new drivers, this workshop serves as a refresher course to help them better understand the challenges a novice driver faces," said Jeff Gardner, Manager of Automotive Safety and Training at AAA Kentucky. **The sessions will be held on April 20, May 25 and June 15 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Oldham County Community Center at 1151 N. Highway 393.**

"The crash statistics for young drivers are astounding," said Gardner. "On average, two people die each day in the nation in vehicles driven by 16-year-old drivers," he continued. "One in five 16-year-olds will have a car crash within the first year of driving."

The parent workshops will roll out in additional areas later this year. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Space is limited, so call (502) 779-3611 to register today.

## 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 that you've never quite gotten an answer for. 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](mailto: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 Carrie Butler, Operations Planning Manager at TARC, the following question: *How much fuel do TARC buses use?*

*Ms. Butler's response:*

TARC uses more than two million gallons of diesel fuel each year. On the average weekday, we use between 6,500 and 7,000 gallons. Over the past year, we averaged a cost of about \$2.29 per gallon. Even though our fuel costs have risen significantly, it is still a great deal to use transit. We carry more than 15 million passengers per year, which translates into a cost of about \$.30 per person. If you compare that to a person who drives 12,000 miles per year and pays \$2.35 per gallon, that's over \$1,400 per year. See how much money you can save at [www.ridetarc.org/gas-saving-calculator.asp](http://www.ridetarc.org/gas-saving-calculator.asp).



# KIPDA Transportation Division Meeting Calendar

## Transportation Technical Coordinating Committee

**May 10, 10:00 a.m.**  
KIPDA Conference Room

**June 14, 10:00 a.m.**  
Location to be announced

**July 12, 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

**May 25, 1:00 p.m.**  
KIPDA Conference Room

**June 22, 1:00 p.m.**  
KIPDA Conference Room

**July 27, 1:00 p.m.**  
KIPDA Conference Room

For TARC routes and schedules, please visit [www.ridetarc.com](http://www.ridetarc.com).

## Regional Transportation Council

**May 25, 1:00 p.m.**  
KIPDA Burke Room

**July 27, 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](mailto: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/transport/events.asp](http://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.

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.



Kentuckiana Regional Planning  
and Development Agency

11520 Commonwealth Drive  
Louisville, KY 40299

Phone 502-266-6084

Fax 502-266-5047

[www.kipda.org](http://www.kipda.org)

[kipda.trans@ky.gov](mailto:kipda.trans@ky.gov)