



HORIZONS

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

Horizon 2030 - Express yourself!

Hundreds of people let KIPDA know their opinions and ideas about transportation in the region during the first comment period for the long range transportation plan update in June. Two additional public comment periods will be held before the plan is finalized in July 2005.

The Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) approved the start of the update process earlier this year, and during the first comment session, people had the opportunity to review and evaluate projects in the current plan, along with a set of proposed regional priorities.

KIPDA initiated and participated in more than 25 meetings to gather public input, including four sector meetings in Jefferson County hosted by Louisville Metro Planning and Design Services. KIPDA also took part in Judge Mary Ellen Kinser's Judge's Night In in Oldham County, Mayor Waiz's Night in Your Neighborhood in Jeffersonville, and Mayor Jerry Abramson's Community Conversations. In addition, KIPDA staff presented plan information to neighborhood and business groups in the region.

KIPDA and the partner agencies received numerous comments which the TPC are using when they review and approve the different phases of the plan. This month the Transportation Policy Committee will evaluate the draft Regional Priorities document.

It's not too late to let us know what you think! Even though the first official comment period is

over, your opinions are welcome anytime.

Check out the Horizon 2030 Documents on the web site at www.kipda.org/transport/drafts.asp or call us for a copy of the documents. Then e-mail, fax or write us with your thoughts.

If your organization would like to host a presentation, contact Nedra Morrell at 502-266-6084 or nedra.morrell@ky.gov to make the arrangements.

Bicycle/pedestrian priority corridors

Local citizens would like to be able to ride their bikes to work or walk their children to school by increasing mobility options for bicyclists and pedestrians. The KIPDA Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee (BPS) has identified a regional bicycle and pedestrian system for the long-range transportation plan, Horizon 2030. Interest in reducing congestion as well as lessening air pollution and improving residents' health has spurred on this recommendation. The proposed priority corridors were presented to the Transportation Technical

Coordinating Committee (TTCC) this month.

The suggested corridors are spread throughout the five-county metropolitan area and include the Ohio River Greenway in Southern Indiana, the Ohio River Levy Trail, River Road, Dixie Highway, Hurstbourne Lane, Preston Highway, and Shelbyville Road in Jefferson County, the Oldham County Greenway along KY 146, and KY 44 from Shepherdsville to Mt. Washington in Bullitt County. According to Stacey Clark-Gann, a KIPDA Transportation Planner, "The

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A sampling of public comments can be found on page 3.

Transportation Policy Committee Member Profile

Mary Ellen Kinser

Judge Executive of Oldham County

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As a lifelong resident and community leader in Oldham County, Mary Ellen Kinser was a natural choice for Judge Executive. As the first woman and first Republican to hold that position, she

has been actively involved in Oldham County issues for the past two decades. "My goal is to preserve the rural character of this area while aggressively pursuing new economic opportunities," she said recently. Serving on the KIPDA Transportation Policy Committee since she took office in January 2003, Kinser recognizes that transportation planning is vital to jobs and the economy in the region.

In her role as Judge Executive, Kinser presides over fiscal court meetings in Oldham County. She started her political career with a successful run for magistrate in 1998 and served the people of the county in that role for four years. "I hadn't seriously considered running for office, but several friends and business associates approached me about putting my vision for this area into action as Judge Executive," she recalls. "I'm so glad I have had that opportunity to serve our residents. This is a truly beautiful area that needs to be maintained but also must accommodate the nearly 40% growth in population during the past decade."

Not an easy challenge, but one that Judge Kinser is certainly well prepared to take on. Her years of experience as a consultant advising corporations on facilities planning, logistics and relocations have provided her with valuable experience working independently and as a team leader.

"The position of Judge Executive is so important to the county, and it is one that I am honored to hold," she said. "The fact that I've been instrumental in adding numerous infrastructure improvements to the state and federal funding plans means that we're already well on our way to beginning the long-overdue task of solving transportation issues."

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Bicycle/pedestrian priority corridors

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goal is to create a regional bicycle and pedestrian system by focusing efforts along these corridors." The proposed corridors will not displace bicycle and pedestrian facilities being planned and built as part of other roadway projects.

With these additional efforts to include bicycle and pedestrian facilities, improvements can be expected. Later this month, the

proposed list of corridors will be presented to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) for review and discussion. The system will be finalized with the adoption of Horizon 2030.

For more information, contact Stacey Clark-Gann at stacey.clark-gann@ky.gov or at 502-266-6084.

What does the Transportation Policy Committee do?

The members of the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) compose the decision making group at the KIPDA Metropolitan Planning Organization. They determine regional transportation plan priorities and have the responsibility of approving the the plans and Transportation Improvement Programs. They work with the Transportation Technical Coordinating Committee (TTCC) and consider comments from the public before reaching any decisions.

Who are they?

Voting Members

Bullitt County, Judge/Executive
City of Charlestown, Mayor
City of Jeffersontown, Mayor
City of Jeffersonville, Mayor
City of New Albany, Mayor
City of Shively, Mayor
City of St. Matthews, Mayor
Clark County, President of the Board of Commissioners
Floyd County, President of the Board of Commissioners
Indiana Department of Transportation, Commissioner
Indiana Department of Transportation, Multimodal Chief
Jefferson County League of Cities, Representative
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Secretary
Louisville Metro Government, Mayor
Oldham County, Judge/Executive
Regional Airport Authority, Chairperson of the Board
Town of Clarksville, President of Town Council
Transit Authority of River City, Chairperson of the Board

Advisory Members

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Representative
Federal Aviation Administration, Memphis Office Director
Federal Highway Administration, Indiana Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration, Kentucky Division Administrator
Federal Transit Administration, Region 4 Director
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet - District 5, Chief District Engineer
Louisville Metro Planning and Design Services, Director
Transportation Technical Coordinating Committee, Chairperson
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Louisville Area Office Director

Interested in finding out more? You're invited to attend any of the committee meetings held on the fourth Thursday of each month. For meeting dates, times and locations, as well as contact information for the TPC members (available in the *Citizen's Guide to Metropolitan Planning*), please visit our web site www.kipda.org.

Study underway to improve Kentucky 44

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is in the process of analyzing collision data and preparing preliminary estimates on improvement ideas for Kentucky 44 from Kentucky 61 in Shepherdsville to US 31E (Bardstown Road) in Mt. Washington in Bullitt County.

"We want to evaluate KY 44 and come up with ways to improve safety and traffic flow on that stretch of highway," said John Callihan, project engineer for Highway District 5 of KYTC.

An environmental study was done by Wilbur Smith Associates earlier this year, which included an Environmental Justice Review by KIPDA staff. "We are now using input from a technical team as well as the hundreds of public



John Callihan, right, Planning Engineer for KYTC District 5, answers questions at the public meeting.

comments we gathered from meetings to develop and evaluate ways to improve the highway," said Callihan.

A second public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 9, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Pleasant Grove Elementary School.

For more information, log on to the web site at <http://transportation.ky.gov/d5> or call John Callihan at 502-367-6411.

The study will examine a range of improvement options that will:

- ▶ Address safety and accident problems due to crashes, with an emphasis on rear-end collisions.
- ▶ Increase the capacity to accommodate present and future traffic volumes and decrease the overall delays.
- ▶ Address the growing needs of the community.
- ▶ Improve access to Shepherdsville and Mt. Washington to support economic activity in the region.

Horizon 2030 Public Comments

What did people have to say during the first comment period June 1 - June 30? Here are some excerpts from the many opinions we received.

"We cannot pave our way out of congestion. We need other options that do not rely on single occupant vehicles, especially in the suburbs...."

"Having all of our communities in the KIPDA area being walkable, bikeable and serviced at least three times an hour by mass transit (bus, trolley, rail) would greatly improve our economy and is a much cheaper option than our current 99% highways only mode."

"It does seem that KIPDA is considering mostly trends with historical precedent and expected contingencies rather than steering transportation growth in new directions. I do see the last item on the priorities list 'other modes to be defined' and this is hopeful."

"If Greenwood Road is to be expanded, I would like to see it stay under three lanes and have provisions made for pedestrians and bicycles."

"Stop all plans to widen I-71 at this time. Reduce I-71 rush hour traffic by installing Park & Ride lots at all I-71 entrances as far north as Trimble and Henry counties. Also put lots at I-265 and KY 22 before the intersection gets completely developed...."

"There are two crosswalks across Shelbyville Road near my neighborhood at Bramton Road and Bowling Blvd. This is nice if you are without children and can jog quickly across the street, but if you are pushing a stroller, or if you are elderly, say a prayer before you step onto Shelbyville Road...."

"The need is obvious! How many more people have to die? How many more serious injuries from wrecks? Everyone came to this meeting by car. It's time to stand up to environmental extremists who are against all growth. The representation at these meetings [I-71 Improvement Project] is always disproportionate to the public desires...."

"I was very disappointed with the cancellation of AMTRAK to Louisville. I hope that the decision for the light rail system can be resurrected soon...."

"The Horizon 2025 long range plan used the basic assumption that fuel prices would remain constant across the planning horizon. The reality now appears that beyond short term price dips we must assume that fuel prices will continue to rise. The impact of this situation has rendered the KIPDA 2025 plan obsolete...."



KIPDA and AARP promote driver training for seniors

Helping older drivers improve skills and avoid accidents and traffic violations is the goal of the driver trainer sessions offered by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). The eight-hour courses are designed to address the normal changes in hearing, vision and reaction time associated with aging, as well as provide practical techniques to compensate for these changes.

As a sponsor of the seminars in the seven Kentucky counties, KIPDA arranges training locations, provides refreshments, and pays the \$10 registration fee for participants who are at least 59 years old.

The next session will be held in Taylorsville at the Spencer County Multi-Purpose Community Action Agency on Saturday, September 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information or to register for the session, contact Betty Irving at 502-477-8296.

KIPDA Transportation Division Meeting Calendar

Transportation Technical Coordinating Committee

September 8, 10:00 A.M.
KIPDA Conference Room

Regional Transportation Council

September 23, 1:00 P.M.
KIPDA Board Room

Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee

September 27, 2:00 P.M.
KIPDA Conference Room

Highway Safety Committee

September - TBD
KIPDA Board Room

Transportation Policy Committee

August 26, 1:00 P.M.
KIPDA Conference Room

September 23, 1:00 P.M.
KIPDA Conference 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 and times are subject to change. Please call KIPDA at 502-266-6084 to confirm, or visit the calendar on our web site at <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.

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