



# HORIZONS

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

## Median cable barriers reduce fatalities

According to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), median cable barriers have prevented at least 20 potential cross-over crashes on Jefferson County interstates since their installation this summer. In each of these incidents, the cable barriers kept vehicles from crossing the median into opposing traffic.

KYTC awarded a \$3.3 million contract earlier this year for the installation of the median cable barriers along 14 miles of interstate roadway. The construction work began in June and was completed in September of 2006. As part of the contract, whenever the cable barriers are impacted the contractor must make repairs to the system within 96 hours.

"The system on Interstate 64 was installed between the Cochran Hill Tunnels and one-half mile east of Breckenridge Lane," said Andrea Clifford, Public Information Officer for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Highway District 5 office. "Construction was completed in late July, and since that time the barriers have been impacted four times by vehicles."

The cable barriers on Interstate 71 stretch from downtown Louisville to the Jefferson/Oldham County line. Vehicles struck the system twice while this area was under construction. Since the work was completed in September, the section has been hit 14 times including an incident involving a semi tractor trailer.

"The use of these devices coupled with primary seatbelt and graduated driver's license laws are furthering our mission to provide a safe transportation system for motorists," said Clifford.

Construction began in January 2007 on a 13 mile median cable barrier project in Jefferson County. Cable barriers will be installed on I-265 between I-65 and Taylorsville Road. The project is scheduled to be completed in April 2007.

For further information on median cable barriers, please contact Andrea Clifford at 502-367-6411.



Median cable barrier on I-64

## Oldham County Intersection Study to improve safety and congestion

The Oldham County Intersection Improvement Study, completed in December 2006, was developed by Oldham County officials and consultant DLZ Kentucky, Inc. to increase traffic capacity and manage congestion. The study focused on improvements to four intersections and made the following recommendations:

### **KY 146 and Cedar Point Road**

The roundabout alternative is recommended for this intersection to improve traffic operations, reduce crashes and provide a location for aesthetic enhancements between LaGrange and Buckner.

### **KY 22 and Clore/Wooldridge**

In order to improve safety and traffic flow, a roundabout located at Clore Lane would allow drivers to turn right, utilize the roundabout as a U-turn and proceed in a westerly direction.

### **KY 329 Bypass and Arbor Ridge/ Westwind Way**

The installation of a traffic signal is the recommended alternative.

### **KY 22 and KY 329 Bypass**

The roundabout alternative is the first choice to enhance traffic flow; however, close coordination with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is ongoing since the KY 22 widening project is in the design phase. A traffic signal may be the better solution since it would only require the addition of a right turn lane.

To increase safety and efficiency at these locations, the study team considered two alternatives: upgraded signalized intersection and a modern roundabout. "Our main goals were to assess current and future traffic operations and safety at these intersections and evaluate potential

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## Transportation Policy Committee Member Profile

**Judge Executive Melanie Roberts  
Bullitt County**

300 South Buckman Street, P.O. Box 768  
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502-543-2262



As the newly elected judge-executive for Bullitt County, Melanie Roberts is ready to serve the community. "I'm honored and humbled to have been chosen by the people of Bullitt County," she said recently. "I love this county and this country."

Roberts is the first woman elected to the post, and is also only the second Republican judge-executive in county history. Formerly a science teacher at Cedar Grove Elementary School, Roberts says her interest in politics stems from her childhood when her mother worked at the polls every Election Day. "Her love for the government process rubbed off on me," she said.

After graduation from the University of Louisville, she worked on campaigns to get candidates elected on the state and national levels, including U.S. Representative Ron Lewis and U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell.

"I was teaching second grade in 1990 when the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) began, and it really hit me like a ton of bricks how government affects our lives on a daily basis," she said.

She decided to run for office when she saw that Bullitt County residents were electing Republicans to other offices. "I really believe I can make a positive change," she said. A former county GOP chairwoman, Roberts campaigned on the promise of being accessible to residents and making Bullitt County safer.

Judge Roberts is well aware of the transportation issues facing Bullitt County residents, and several projects are on the top of her list to accomplish during her administration. "We need to move forward with the widening of Highway 44 going east, the widening of Beachgrove Road and fixing the dangerous curves on Highway 44 west," she said.

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## Oldham County intersection study to improve safety and congestion

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improvements," said Louise Allen, an Oldham County planning official.

Roundabouts are designed to keep traffic flowing, but slow it down to improve safety. According to Allen, roundabouts are a viable option at intersections where adding a traffic signal isn't the most effective alternative.

The study was funded by KIPDA using federal, state and local resources in an effort to advance projects from the planning stage into development.

For further information, or to obtain a copy of the final report, contact Emily Liu at Oldham County Planning and Zoning at 502-222-1476.

## Mayor Abramson's 2007 Community Conversations

Mayor Jerry Abramson wants you to be a part of building a more efficient government and a stronger community by attending the Mayor's Community Conversations. These events are an opportunity to go one-on-one with the Mayor about issues of immediate concern or thoughts for the future of Louisville Metro.

The Mayor's Community Conversations begin at 6:30 p.m. Mark your calendar and come out on the following dates:

February 19

March 19

April 16

May 21

Sun Valley Community Center, 6505 Bethany Lane

Fern Creek High School Gym, 9115 Fern Creek Road

Central High School Gym, 1130 W. Chestnut Street

Westport Middle School Gym, 8100 Westport Road

If you can't attend a Community Conversation, join in the conversation anytime by calling MetroCall at 311 or 502-574-5000, or by sending comments, concerns or complaints to [metrocall@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:metrocall@louisvilleky.gov).

## KYTC studies I-64 interchange in Jefferson and Shelby counties

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is investigating the feasibility of building a new I-64 interchange between the Gene Snyder Freeway and Simpsonville. The project would also include a north-south connector road between Taylorsville Road and Shelbyville Road.

"The alternatives study is still in the information gathering stage, and no specific alternatives have been identified yet," said Andrea Clifford, Public Information Officer for KYTC Highway District 5. "We held a public information meeting in August and are using the comments gathered to help us determine the preliminary alignments." The information will be presented at a second public meeting that will be announced soon.

The purpose of the study is to examine ways to improve access to this major interstate and the area road network to address both current and future needs.

The project goals include:

- Improve the local road network connectivity and its connectivity to the interstate.
- Reduce congestion and improve the capacity and safety of the roadways.
- Improve emergency response times and access.
- Provide an improved connection for people seeking access to the employment, educational, health care, and retail opportunities in Jefferson and Shelby counties.
- Identify a preferred alternative corridor that local officials can preserve before development and land use changes occur in the study area.

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

# Safe winter bicycling

Whether you're commuting to work or school, or just riding for exercise this winter, the League of American Bicyclists recommends the following bicycle clothing basics.

## Always wear a properly fitting helmet

- Make sure that the helmet fits on top of head, not tipped back.
- Always wear a helmet while riding a bike, no matter how short the trip.
- After a crash or impact on your helmet, replace it immediately.

## Jerseys

- Technical fabric of jerseys pulls moisture off of skin to keep you dry.
- On cold days, cotton will absorb water and hold it next to your skin, chilling you.

## Shoes

- Stiff soles of cycling shoes allow better power transmission to pedals.



A winter bicyclist.

- Shoes are usually designed to accept cleats for clipless pedals.

## Glasses

- Protect your eyes from rain, snow, dirt and debris while riding.
- Keep perspiration out of your glasses with a thin headband around your forehead.

## Gloves

- Provide padding to help increase comfort and relieve numbness.

- Keep your hands warm and protected them in the event of a fall with cycling specific gloves.

## Tights

- Keep your legs warm and out of the wind with full-length tights.
- Muscles function better when they are warm and protected from the elements.
- Full-length leg warmers which can be removed during the ride are also a good idea.

For more information, visit the League of American Bicyclists at [www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.org).

## Child Passenger Safety Month

According to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, motor vehicle crashes are the number one killer of children ages 2-14. Despite the proven effectiveness of child passenger safety seats, many families do not use them. Additionally, nearly 90% of those who do use child passenger safety seats do not have them installed properly.

February is the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's designated Drive Smart Child Passenger Safety Month. KIPDA and KYTC are teaming up for a child passenger safety event. Car safety seats checks will be conducted on Thursday, February 8 from 10:00 - 1:00 at the AAA Kentucky Automobile Club at 321 Whittington Parkway.

Please contact Nedra Morrell at 502-266-6084 or [nedra.morrell@ky.gov](mailto:nedra.morrell@ky.gov) for more information, including a helpful checklist of proper child passenger safety seat tips.



Participant in a Child Passenger Safety event.

## 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](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, Nedra Morrell, KIPDA's Community Outreach Planner, answers the following question:

*What's the most effective way to participate in the transportation planning process?*

There are several ways to become better informed about and involved in transportation planning, such as:

- Contact your TPC representative and/or elected official to learn their stance on an issue or to express your opinion.
- Visit the KIPDA website at [www.kipda.org](http://www.kipda.org) to find out about upcoming meetings, review draft documents, send in comments or add your name to the mailing list. The site was recently redesigned and is packed with information about the transportation planning process.
- Contact KIPDA and other local agencies to ask questions or request materials about projects, programs, studies and plans.
- Request a KIPDA planner to attend civic or business meetings to share information.
- Get involved with neighborhood groups to learn about issues that are important to your community.

Contact Nedra Morrell at 502-266-6084 or [Nedra.morrell@ky.gov](mailto:Nedra.morrell@ky.gov) for more information.

# KIPDA Transportation Division Meeting Calendar

## Transportation Technical Coordinating Committee

**February 14, 10:00 a.m.**

Location to be announced

**March 14, 10:00 a.m.**

Location to be announced

**April 11, 10:00 a.m.**

Location to be announced

A map of KIPDA's location can be found at [http://kipda.org/About\\_KIPDA.aspx](http://kipda.org/About_KIPDA.aspx).

## Transportation Policy Committee

**February 22, 1:00 p.m.**

KIPDA Conference Room

**March 22, 1:00 p.m.**

Location to be announced

**April 26, 1:00 p.m.**

Location to be announced.

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

## Regional Transportation Council

**March 22, 1:00 p.m.**

KIPDA Burke Room

**May 24, 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 <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.

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.

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