



KYTC launches study to identify improvements for the I-75/I-275 interchange and surrounding area

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) has launched a scoping study to identify and evaluate alternatives to reduce congestion, improve travel safety and promote better connectivity at the I-75/I-275 interchange and near vicinity.

KYTC's goal is to identify planned improvements by early 2020 and expects construction to be completed in phases, as funding allows.

As part of its project development process, KYTC is conducting an online survey to gather information from drivers about how they use the interchange and where they tend to experience problems.

The information they provide will be used in conjunction with technical data to help prepare and evaluate improvement alternatives. The survey can be accessed on the project's newly launched website, www.75275Interchange.org.

The I-75/I-275 interchange is critical to the flow of traffic throughout Northern Kentucky and those who live and work nearby.

Currently, it's carrying more twice the level of traffic it was originally designed to handle. That, coupled with traffic merging to and from Donaldson, Turfway, and Dixie Highway and other nearby roads, has resulted in increasing amounts of congestion and travel delays.

As Northern Kentucky continues to experience rapid

growth, particularly within Boone County and in areas near the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky International Airport, these problems are expected to worsen unless improvements are made.

"It's our job to make sure that our transportation system meets the needs of the population and the businesses located here," said Bob Yeager, Chief District Engineer for KYTC, District 6. "We see the problems at the interchange, hear the public's concerns and are committed to making improvements. Through this study and the modifications that come from it, we will be better able to support our existing communities and the tremendous economic growth taking place — not to mention the hundreds of new jobs that growth is creating."

KYTC anticipates that the preferred improvement plan that comes from the study will be comprised of several short-term and long-term solutions.

Improvements will most likely be phased in, though specific timing will not be known until construction funding has been secured.

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About The KYTC

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on KYTC contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.
- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.



About The Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with KYTC as the statewide provider of the federally funded Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Supportive Services Program. We want to increase the number of certified DBEs participating in highway and bridge construction, as well as assist DBEs in growing and eventually becoming self-sufficient. Additionally, CEI provides supportive services by assisting prime contractors and consultants with identifying DBEs for subcontracting opportunities on priority projects.

When fire breaks out on a worksite

Nobody goes to work expecting a fire to break out, except for professional firefighters. Yet many jobsites have products and processes that present an elevated risk for fires. Even common objects such as vehicles and gasoline-powered compressors can present fire hazards. Fires are always a surprise, and if workers (and jobsites) aren't prepared, the results can be devastating in terms of both human lives and property damage.

That's what happened at a food processing plant in Hamlet, North Carolina, in 1991. A hydraulic line ruptured just a few feet from a natural gas-fired cooker, and the fluid burst into flame. There were 90 employees at the plant that day, and 25 of them perished in the fire, with 54 others suffering injuries.

It's been estimated that there are more than 70,000 workplace fires in the U.S., causing thousands of injuries and hundreds of deaths. Fires happen in manufacturing plants, on construction sites, and in offices. While it's important to ensure that measures are in place to prevent fires, it's just as important for workers to know what to do when they realize there's a fire nearby. All the safety and firefighting equipment money can buy is useless if workers don't know the right actions to take.

While there have been thousands of fires in America's schools, the last reported fatality in a school fire

occurred in 1958. What makes schools so different? Fire suppression equipment is one factor, but if you think back to your school days, you'll remember the primary reason. In most states, students and staff participate in fire drills at least monthly. When the fire alarm sounds, teachers and students know exactly what to do. They evacuate the school and congregate at a set location. They practice so often that when a real fire breaks out, there's rarely confusion or panic.

Fire drills on worksites and in workplaces are far less common, and often are just cursory exercises at which workers pay minimal attention. If fire drills were taken more seriously, and workers actually practiced basic fire suppression techniques, it's possible that the effects of fires could be minimized.

What are the basic rules workers should know? The most important is that lives are more important than property, so the first thing to do when a fire is detected is to get everyone to safety. Depending upon the situation, that might involve evacuating a structure or simply moving a safe distance away from the fire. The second thing is to sound the alarm, whether that involves an actual fire alarm or calling 911 to notify local responders.

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Supportive Services Offered:

- Estimating Training
- Building Capacity
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CEI is an educational organization providing the highest quality construction training in the industry. Over 100,000 owners, estimators, project managers, field supervisors, office support staff, foremen, laborers, and key management personnel have attended courses that are offered nationwide. The courses provide students with construction skills training and the critical information needed to be effective within their companies and organizations.