

# KYTC Newsletter

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## SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

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## Gov. Andy Beshear Announces Search for Design-Build Team for Project to Improve Section of U.S. 421 in Harlan County

Project to include removal of mountainside switchback

Gov. Andy Beshear, who has made transportation safety and modernization a top priority of his administration and a key to economic development, today announced a search for an engineering team to improve a section of U.S. 421 in Harlan County.

The project, which will cover 1.5 miles, beginning at the Kentucky-Virginia state line, is to include removal of a “switchback” curve on Stone Mountain at Cranks.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) issued a final Request for Proposals (RFP) from prospective contractors last Friday. The cabinet expects to award the project in late April with a goal of breaking ground in October. The 2022-2028 Kentucky Highway Plan provides \$25 million through 2026 for construction of the project.

“We have put a high priority on transportation projects that increase safety and open up entire regions to economic development and good jobs,” Gov. Beshear said. “Completion of this 1.5-mile-long section will bring us very near to completing the larger and long-awaited U.S. 421 expansion project from Grays Knob to the Virginia line.” KYTC Secretary Jim Gray said the cabinet is pursuing the project through a method known as Progressive Design Build, in which project designers and builders will work hand in hand.

“It will allow the project team to devise specific solutions as work progresses, and in the end will expedite the timeline,” Secretary Gray said.

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## 4 Steps to Take When a Worker Is Injured on Your Construction Site

The construction industry continues to be one of the fastest-growing labor trades. According to the [Center for Construction Research and Training](#), since 2019, 11.4 million U.S. workers have been employed in construction, a 25% increase from 2011. Amid this growth, the industry has remained one of the most dangerous, and workers are often at higher risk of injuries and deaths due to occupational incidents. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are 150,000 injuries on construction work sites annually.

Under Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) law, employers have a responsibility to provide a safe work environment. That includes providing a workplace that is free of serious recognized hazards. Despite best efforts in implementing risk-mitigation and safety protocols, employers must be prepared with an incident procedure should an incident occur on a jobsite. Taking immediate, clear actions can impact the severity and outcome of injuries from a workplace incident. With this in mind, employers should take the lead in implementing safety procedures for injuries on construction sites and should inform all safety site managers and workers of the steps that should be taken.

Below are steps employers should consider following a workplace incident on a construction site:

### **STEP 1: Keep the injured worker calm and seek immediate medical attention.**

First and foremost, it's important to keep the injured worker and all bystanders calm and take steps to control the area. When an incident initially occurs, an injured person may experience feelings of high stress, panic or a wave of emotions such as distress, anger or frustration. It is important that the injured individual and those around them try to remain calm in order to take stock of the surroundings, monitor those injured and help everyone make the best decisions they can in that situation.

If the injury hazard is still present in the area where the incident occurred, remove workers from the area and block it off to prevent other staff or bystanders from entering. Unless they are at immediate risk for further injury, do not move the injured individual until medical personnel arrive on the scene.

Incidents on construction sites may vary in severity, and serious injuries should always be evaluated and treated by a medical professional. While a worker may initially say that they are fine, they may be experiencing a state of shock from the incident, and their injuries may be more severe than they first appear.

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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.



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**(855) 678-9323**  
**[www.kydbecom](http://www.kydbecom)**