



## Gov. Andy Beshear Announces Federal Designations of 2 Kentucky Byways

Old Frankfort Pike made National Scenic Byway; Great River Road in Jackson Purchase given 'All-American Road' status

Gov. Andy Beshear today announced that two of Kentucky's most scenic and historic roadways have been selected by the Federal Highway Administration for inclusion in the America's Byways collection. Fifteen and a half miles of the Old Frankfort Pike in Woodford and Fayette counties, was designated a National Scenic Byway. Woodford County Judge-Executive James Kay nominated it on behalf of Lexington-Frankfort Scenic Corridor Inc., a nonprofit group.

Kentucky's Great River Road, which runs along the Mississippi River through four counties of the Jackson Purchase, and which previously was named a National Scenic Byway, was additionally designated an All-American Road. It is a critical link in the Great River Road National Scenic Byway, which runs along the Mississippi River for 3,000 miles, through 10 states. Carlisle County Fiscal Court submitted the nomination for the Kentucky Mississippi River Parkway Commission.

"To be designated a National Scenic Byway or an All-American Road, a route must offer something unique in terms of its nature, history, culture, archaeology, or its recreational and scenic qualities," Gov. Beshear said.

"We appreciate that the Federal Highway Administration recognizes the exceptional nature of these two roadways. These designations offer even

more reasons for residents and visitors alike to visit and explore Kentucky."

"Early in the fight against COVID-19, some Kentuckians reclaimed the joys of a simple, leisurely drive to take in the sights Kentucky has to offer," said Transportation Secretary Jim Gray. "These designations are a great example of how our transportation network not only connects Kentuckians but can improve the quality of life."

Old Frankfort Pike was singled out as a rare example of traditional, diversified agriculture thriving alongside the international equine industry in a landscape of rich soil and limestone springs. The 15.5 miles of designated byway features a nearly unbroken canopy of hardwood trees and passes through six National Register Historic Places. It begins at Duckers Station Road in Woodford County and runs east to Wolf Run Creek in Fayette County. A photo can be [found here](#).

Kentucky's Great River Road, part of the 10-state Great River Road National Scenic Byway, follows the Mississippi River through Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman and Fulton counties. It begins at the Illinois-Kentucky state line on U.S. 51 and runs to the Kentucky-Tennessee state line at the north end of Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge.

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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.

# Connected Construction Is Rapidly Approaching: Are You Ready?

The construction industry has shown an unparalleled level of resiliency over the past year. In navigating one of the most difficult periods in recent history, companies have been forced to adapt to an entirely new way of working—adopting new technologies, new processes and new mindsets.

Leaders across the industry have acknowledged and responded to the galvanizing impacts of the pandemic, with two-thirds of executives agreeing that COVID-19 has accelerated industry transformation and half reporting they've increased investments to prepare for the new future.

Out of necessity, the industry has hit the fast-forward button on this technology adoption—abandoning paper, automating workflows and optimizing data. Now more than ever before, leaders have the opportunity to embrace and capitalize on this current transformation and make construction more predictable, safe and sustainable by adopting a methodology that sounds simple, yet is incredibly powerful: connected construction.

## The Future of Construction

Connecting construction projects, teams and businesses is a worthy endeavor. Breaking down information and communication silos, as well as connecting teams and data helps to reduce rework, delays and risk—while gaining valuable insight and visibility into the entire building process. But contractors still have a long way to go to bring this concept into a reality that permeates the industry.

New workflows and technologies have generated unprecedented volumes of data and, according to FMI, 95% of data captured in construction and engineering industry currently goes unused. Disconnected people and information will continue to hinder firms and projects across the sector.

It's time to address these gaps and seize the future of connected construction to help mitigate the disruption caused by the pandemic, build resiliency and ensure the industry is prepared to act on the vast opportunities that connected construction will bring.

## Data Holds the Key

One fundamental opportunity is the introduction of better integrated workflows across the entire project lifecycle. Whether it's setting teams up for success using risk management tools during preconstruction or delivering a data-rich handover to owners, companies can enhance critical workflows with digital tools that connect information—and people—across the different phases of a project.

Simultaneously, connected construction can also enable the industry to make greater use of advanced analytics. Data holds the insights to drive better outcomes across projects and throughout companies, and new analytical tools are helping firms to extract and collate information more easily. In turn, leaders have a more holistic and historical view of data and, more importantly, what that data means and what should be done, if anything, as a result.

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## Supportive Services Offered:

- Estimating Training
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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.