



Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Office of Public Affairs

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Kentucky Transportation Cabinet issues ‘Recommended Highway Plan’

Plan reflects that ‘careful choices must be made’ due to tighter revenues

FRANKFORT, Ky. – The 2008 Recommended Highway Plan, which contains all proposed Kentucky transportation projects through 2014, today was presented to members of the General Assembly and the public by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

The recommended plan anticipates that \$5.3 billion in state and federal funding will be available over the upcoming six-year period – \$1.03 billion less than the basis for the last plan, which was issued in 2006. The new plan anticipates “zero dollars” for new, state-funded projects until late in fiscal 2010.

Moderate growth in the Kentucky Road Fund has not kept pace with a 40 percent increase in the price of road-building materials since 2005, the report noted. In addition, the state portion of the plan contains projects that exceed forecasted revenues by nearly \$3 billion.

“As we assess the Transportation Cabinet’s ability to meet future highway needs, we must recognize that when projects cost more, careful choices must be made about the type and extent of road system improvements we pursue,” Transportation Secretary Joe Prather said.

Priorities for an array of projects, including pavement restoration and bridge repair, are set in the plan accordingly.

The plan also provides for continued investment in the Louisville-Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges project, in part through “innovative financing” of a type to be determined. The General Assembly is evaluating possible creation of public authorities that would have the task of determining the most appropriate means of securing funding beyond the state commitment for projects such as the Louisville Bridges.

Prather and other officials of the Transportation Cabinet have stated in testimony to legislative committees that the Louisville Bridges will require significant funding from nontraditional sources if the project is to move forward.

The amount of innovative financing needed for the bridges project is \$844.9 million over the latter four years of the recommended plan. Total funding in the recommended plan for the Louisville Bridges, including traditional federal funding, is \$1.44 billion.

The recommended plan contains a few new projects, including improvements needed to keep Kentucky's commitments to the World Equestrian Games, to be held in Lexington in 2010, and to accommodate a major enhancement of Fort Knox, soon to be the home of the Army's worldwide personnel management command.

The recommended plan can be viewed at http://transportation.ky.gov/progmgmt/08_RHP/.

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