



KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission

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Safety Concerns on Hal Greer Boulevard

KYOVA has recently been working towards making Hal Greer Boulevard a safer place for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Since last fall KYOVA has met with city and state officials to discuss ways to improve safety on Hal Greer Boulevard near Cabell Huntington Hospital.

The hospital is in a very unique location with a major downtown connector road running adjacent to it averaging nearly 13,000 vehicles per day, therefore, making it unsafe for pedestrians to cross at times. The hospital generates a considerable amount of foot traffic and with additional hospital facilities and eating establishments located on both sides of the road it is difficult to contain pedestrians and

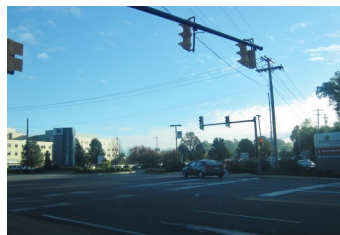
bicyclists within two crosswalks. As it currently stands, there is one traffic light at the south end of the hospital

providing at least one safe crossing. Another crosswalk is located on the north side of the intersection of Hal Greer Boulevard and Boulevard Avenue, however, vehicles rarely slow down or stop for pedestrians near this intersection. Another concern is that pedestrians are crossing between these two crosswalks which is the most direct route to cross the road from the main entrance to the hospital. As the hospital continues to grow, the need for safety improvements will become more and more important.



Crosswalk at intersection of Hal Greer Boulevard and Boulevard Avenue.

number of pedestrians and bicyclists crossing this road per day. A safety audit has been requested and will be conducted by the WVDOH Traffic Engineering Division this spring. This audit will hopefully bring to light some of the major problems in this area as well as recommendations for improvements. KYOVA is working hard to make this a safer corridor for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. Several options have already been discussed but the safety audit will consider many more factors and be able to fine-tune appropriate recommendations.



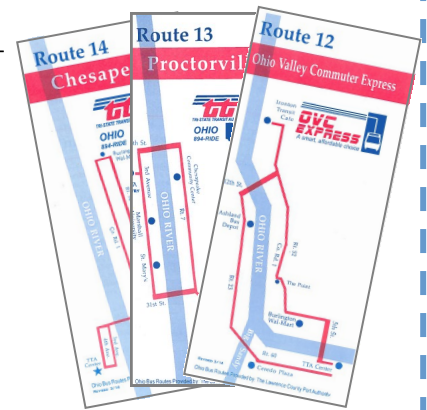
Traffic light and crosswalk at entrance to Cabell Huntington Hospital.

Last fall KYOVA conducted counts to evaluate the

Commuter Express Bus Service for the Tri-State Area

This Spring a new commuter express bus service began, linking Huntington, Ironton, and Ashland. The program is being funded through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program and will be coordinated between Lawrence County Transit, Tri-State Transit Authority, and Ashland Bus System. The new service (Route 11) will connect the TTA Transit Center to Walmart/SAMs in Ohio and then onto the Ironton Transit Center. It will then cross the Ashland Bridge and continue to the Ashland Transit Center. Then it will make its way back to Huntington with one stop at the Ceredo Plaza. There will also be an opposite route that starts in Huntington and continues to

Ashland then onto Ironton and back to Huntington at the same time as Route 12. This route will hopefully attract employees and students that commute between these cities and provide better transportation options for commuters. The buses are equipped with Wi-Fi and bicycle transport capabilities. There are also two new routes going to Chesapeake and Proctorville from the TTA Transit Center.



Kentucky Long-Range Statewide Transportation Plan

Currently, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is in the final stages of the process of updating its Long-Range Statewide Transportation Plan (LRSTP) with a horizon year of 2035. The new plan will be an overarching policy guide that establishes the goals, objectives, and the strategies to address the core challenges and opportunities facing Kentucky in the next 20 years. The 2014 LRSTP will include a comprehensive inventory, forecast, and analysis

of the trends and issues affecting transportation throughout Kentucky. This plan will set the stage for KYTC transportation policies and investment strategies for the coming years. The goal of the 2014 LRSTP team has been to create a plan that will be publicly engaged, employee and stakeholder owned, and user friendly. As part of that effort, the KYTC involved citizens from across the state in the

Your Turn Survey last winter, held three focus groups, and encouraged the participation of transportation professionals in the development of the plan. The DRAFT 2014 LRSTP will be released by this spring for a 45 day public review and comment period. The plan will be available in electronic format at <http://your-turn.transportation.ky.gov> and also in hard copies.



Call for TA Grant Applications

In the most recent federal transportation bill, MAP 21, there is a category of projects called Transportation Alternatives. This category includes non-motorized transportation and other projects to make transportation more community-friendly. KYOVA will be requesting applications for a new round of grants later this year. The funding is available for local governments in Cabell, Wayne, Boyd, Greenup and Lawrence counties. (For other counties, contact ODOT or WVDOT or KYTC about their programs.)

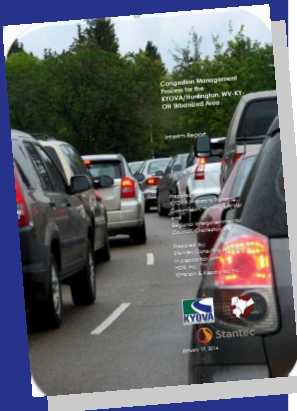
Multi-use paths and facilities, safe routes for non-drivers, preservation of historic transportation facilities, and scenic overlooks are examples of eligible projects. There is also a category that would fund projects to prevent water pollution related to highway runoff, or to protect wildlife from vehicles. A link to the application will be posted on the KYOVA website on the Transportation page. For more information contact KYOVA.

Increase in West Virginia Gas Tax

Recently, the West Virginia state gas tax has been raised to 35.7 cents per gallon. According to The Ironton Tribune this could send some consumers to Ohio seeking better prices at the pump. Ohio has a 28 cent per gallon gas tax, much lower than West Virginia. With convenient locations of gas

stations along the border in Ohio, West Virginians may be enticed to make the short trip to decrease the amount spent on gas. State gas taxes make up the majority of money spent on gasoline per year. In addition to the state gas tax, consumers also pay an 18.4 cent federal gas tax. The

federal gas tax has not been raised since 1993 and could, in the near future, be raised by 15 cents. It is unclear just how these changes will affect spending habits of Americans, but spending may shift towards public transit or it may force consumers to cross nearby state borders for lower gas prices.



Congestion Management Process Completion

A CMP, or Congestion Management Process, is now in place for the KYOVA Transportation Management Area (TMA). After being officially designated as a TMA in 2012, KYOVA was tasked with creating a CMP for the area. KYOVA enlisted the consultants of Stanitec to document the pro-

cess. The process was completed in January but due to the short deadline, there were many gaps to fill. The CMP provides a picture of the state of congestion in our area. The four major dimensions of congestion are intensity, duration, extent, and variability. By looking closely at these elements, congestion

management strategies can be identified and implemented. At the last stakeholder meeting in March, participants identified areas of congestion so that those areas can be assessed. The final report will document the development and results of the CMP.

Ohio Commended for Road Safety

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has awarded the 2013 Safety Leadership Award to the state of Ohio. The award was presented to ODOT Director Jerry Wray at the AASHTO annual meeting in Col-

orado. Ohio leaders have been commended for their commitment to studying road use and crash data and to partnership with local governments and organizations across Ohio. These partnerships – including

with MPOs like KYOVA – have led to cost-effective improvements that have contributed to record-low crashes.



KYOVA News

- KYOVA has completed its FY2015 Unified Planning Work Program
- A Draft Primary Freight Network was established by the USDOT with the opportunity for local governments and MPOs to express concerns. KYOVA recommended that the portion of I-64 from Ashland to Lexington be included in this network.
- We have a new employee—Grace Dixon! Grace joined our staff in January as our executive assistant and has helped us out tremendously. We are very thankful to have her on board!

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KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Huntington, West Virginia, Ashland, Kentucky and Ironton, Ohio urban area. Cabell and Wayne counties in West Virginia, Boyd and Greenup counties in Kentucky and Lawrence County, Ohio comprise the boundaries of the planning area for the Commission in southwestern West Virginia, eastern Kentucky and southeastern Ohio. KYOVA's purpose is to provide a delivery system for a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive plan for transportation developed locally in response to federal law. Regional leaders direct the policies, priorities and activities of the Commission in cooperation with the States of West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio. Professional staff are employed by KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission to manage the planning process, which meets requirements of federal, state and local regulations governing transportation planning and development.

Created by an interstate compact in 1968, KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission was the first Metropolitan Planning Organization in the State of West Virginia.