

Parkway meeting attracts crowd

Comments must be submitted by Dec. 2

By James Roberts

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About 250 people attended a public meeting Tuesday evening at which three alternate routes for the proposed Heartland Parkway were unveiled.



James Roberts

About 250 people gathered around maps showing the alternative routes for the proposed Heartland Parkway. Linda Caudill, left, Courtney Caudill and Terry Thompson look over a Campbellsville portion of the maps.

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet officials presented the final conceptual alternatives for the Heartland Parkway before a packed house at Taylor County High School.

The 60-mile Heartland Parkway will connect the Louie B. Nunn Parkway at Columbia with the Martha Layne Collins Bluegrass Parkway at Springfield by widening the existing KY 55/U.S. 68/KY 555 route to four lanes. Locally, the project includes widening KY 210 from U.S. 68 to KY 3183 and widening KY 55 to five lanes from KY 1625 to U.S. 68.

While the proposals generally stick to the existing KY 55 route, alternatives do stray from the state road in a few spots around Elk Horn Road and Airport Road.

At the meeting, those who attended were given surveys to complete that would indicate their preference among the alternatives.

Transportation Cabinet official David Lindeman encouraged everyone to complete the surveys. Public input, he said, will be a large factor in the decision-making process.

The next step would be to refine the design, Lindeman said, and begin environmental studies.

Approval of the environmental assessment is expected by May 2011, after which a fourth round of public meetings will take place.

The Federal Highway Administration is expected to approve the final plan by August 2012.

No funding has been allocated for final design, purchase of rights of way, relocating utilities or construction, Lindeman said.

Those who were unable to attend the meeting still have a chance to provide their input. Information supplied at the meeting will be available at <http://transportation.ky.gov/D4/HeartlandPkway.html>. Comments may be e-mailed to comments@heartlandpkway.com.

All comments must be submitted by Dec. 2.

Staff Writer James Roberts can be reached at 465-8111 Ext. 226 or by e-mail at writer@cknj.com. Comment on this story at www.cknj.com.