

Heartland Parkway group now going for 2+1 superroad rather than full 4 lanes

Heartland Parkway Foundation Board supports Proposal for a 2+1 - two lanes with passing lanes, which will increase odds of funding and bring Parkway closer to reality, rather than holding out for four full lanes for the proposed Bluegrass to Cumberland Parkway super road. The Heartland Parkway proposed parkway will pass through Columbia, Campbellsville, Lebanon, and Springfield. Proposal. The Board gave its unanimous support on a motion by Sue Stivers, Columbia, seconded by CJE John Settles of Springfield.

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By Linda Waggener

The Heartland Parkway Foundation Board of Directors held a progress update recently in Campbellsville University's Virginia Ponsler Flanagan Technology Training Center. The proposed connector road from the Martha Layne Collins Bluegrass Parkway north of Springfield, KY, to the Louie B. Nunn Cumberland Parkway at Columbia, KY, is to serve as a major north-south connector opening up the heartland of Kentucky and help facilitate in the economic diversification and quality of life in the region.

Gary W. Sharpe, project representative for Palmer Engineering which has done planning with the project for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, presented a two-plus-one (2+1) alternative that could speed progress by saving dramatically on construction costs. This would mean the addition of a third lane to move traffic more smoothly and safely as opposed to holding out for four full lanes.

Sharp said, "The 2+1 option is being used across the country as an option to enhance existing roads. This can be done within current rights of way, thus significantly lowering costs." By moving to this type expansion, he said the project could possibly see portions of the project done over the next couple of years.

After thorough discussion of the maps and facts presented by Sharp, Heartland Parkway foundation chair John Chowning opened the floor for a motion stating the position of the Board's support for the 2+1 plan, encouraging Legislators to work for funding of a design build all the way from Columbia to Springfield. Board member Sue Stivers, Columbia-Adair County Chamber of Commerce and tourism executive director, made the motion, seconded by John A. Settles, Washington County Judge-Executive. The Board unanimously voted to support the 2+1 option. Chowning stated, "This greatly expedites the likelihood of a major upgrade of this important highway corridor in the relative near future. With federal and state aid funds limited this is the best option available. We fully support it."

For more information contact Heartland Parkway board chairman John Chowning at 270-789-5520 or jechowning@campbellsville.edu. Visit the website at: www.heartlandparkway.com.

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Area Legislators meet with Heartland Parkway Foundation Board



2014-01-07 - 409 N Hoskins Avenue, Campbellsville, KY - Photo by Linda Waggener. **The Heartland Parkway Foundation Board of Directors** met just before the New Year in Campbellsville University's Virginia Ponsler Flanagan Technology Training Center. Legislators in attendance were, *from left:* Sen. Jimmy Higdon, Rep. Kim King, Sen. Sara Beth Gregory, Rep. John "Bam" Carney and Rep. Terry Mills. - **LINDA WAGGENER**
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