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Road plan includes major Boone projects

BY MARK HANSEL • MHANSEL@NKY.COM • JUNE 20, 2010

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BOONE COUNTY - The state's 2010-2012 Biennial Highway Construction Plan includes some major construction projects for Boone County.

A change in the funding designation for two projects county officials have identified as a high priority also helps ensure they should move from the drawing board to the construction phase quickly.

Plans include the widening of a major thoroughfare that intersects the county, the addition of a new road that will alleviate congestion on another major route and a new type of interchange design that has rarely been utilized.

The widening of Ky. 237 from Burlington Pike (Ky. 18) to Woodcreek Drive will mark the

completion of major upgrades to the most heavily traveled portion of the north-south route.

The highway, known as North Bend Road, Camp Ernst Road, Pleasant Valley Road and Gunpowder Road at various points along its course, intersects the county from Ky. 8 in Hebron to Mount Zion Road in Union.

"This will be the next major project to begin in the county, hopefully in about a year," Boone County Judge-executive Gary Moore said.

The funding designation for the project is now STP, which utilizes Federal Statewide Transportation Program Funds and identifies specific resources that will be used for its completion.

"We were successful in getting the project moved to that category, which is a major step," Moore said. "The importance of that is that these are federal funds that flow through the state and there are real dollars that support the project."

Projects in the plan that utilize state construction money are identified as SP and may not have specific funds identified yet.

The project is expected to cost about \$26 million.

Another project with a federal funding source identified is the reconstruction of the Richwood Road interchange at Interstate 71/75.

That project, with a \$25 million price tag has an IM designation and utilizes federal interstate maintenance funds, which also puts it on the fast track for completion.

The reconstruction includes plans for a diverging diamond interchange, which, when completed, will be one of only a handful of roads in the country utilizing the concept.

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