



A plow clears snow from New Circle Road near Newtown Pike in Lexington, Ky., on Friday, Feb. 4, 2022.

...2027? When Lexington roadwork on I-75, Newtown Pike & New Circle Road will end

BY AARON MUDD
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While they may be a headache for commuters, several ongoing state road projects in and around Fayette County could ultimately ease the area’s growing pains by improving traffic capacity, safety and even some pedestrian infrastructure.

That’s the chief take-away from state officials who recently spoke to the Herald-Leader about construction progress on portions of Interstate 75, New Circle and Leestown roads, along with Newtown Pike.

“Reducing the congestion on these highways is going to increase safety and help people get to where they need to go,” said Allen Blair, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet’s deputy director of

public affairs.

Here’s what to know about each project, including scope and when state officials expect them will be complete.

CONSTRUCTION ON I-75 EXPECTED TO CONTINUE UNTIL LATE 2026

Work on a two-phase project to widen Fayette County segments of I-75 from six to eight lanes will likely not conclude until fall 2026, Logan Murphy, a state engineer supervising the project told the Herald-Leader in a recent interview.

The first phase of the project targets a 2-mile stretch of the interstate extending from the Newtown Pike to Paris Pike interchanges. The second phase is for the segment that continues from the Paris Pike interchange down to the I-64/I-75

splitt.

Phase one work began in September 2022, according to a project description on the KYTC’s website. It was originally expected to be complete by November 2024.

State officials now say the northern section of the I-75 project will remain an active construction zone until the second phase is complete. For logistical and safety reasons, both portions will be opened at the same time, which means the reduced speed limit of 55 mph will remain in effect.

Other traffic controls include shifted or narrowed lanes and barrels or temporary barriers, but neither phase involves lane closures, state officials said. The existing three lanes will remain open in both directions.

While most of the work has been completed for

phase one, Murphy said there are some smaller jobs workers still need to complete.

“There’s still some ongoing construction that still keeps it a construction zone,” Murphy said, adding workers aren’t keeping that segment an active work zone for no good reason. “We’re still working through some new additions to that project.”

“We still ask people to slow down, be careful,” Blair said.

Along with the additional lanes, the scope of the I-75 project also includes ramp improvements and noise reducing walls along the corridor.

NEW CIRCLE/LEESTOWN ROAD PROJECT WILL EVENTUALLY BRING MAJOR TRAFFIC SHIFT

Targeted for completion in summer 2027, state

officials say this project is part of a larger push to boost traffic capacity on New Circle Road between Versailles Road and Newtown Pike, converting it to three lanes in both directions.

The scope of the project includes the following:

- Add one lane in each direction of New Circle Road from Leestown Road to the Norfolk Southern railroad, taking it from four to six lanes.
- Convert the Leestown Road/New Circle Road interchange to a double crossover diamond pattern.
- Widen Leestown Road from Greendale Road to Lisle Industrial Avenue.
- Widen bridges at Leestown Road and Norfolk Southern Railroad.
- Add sidewalks along both sides of Leestown Road at the interchange.
- Add a sound-reducing wall on the inner loop of the double crossover diamond from Leestown Road to Norfolk Southern railroad bridge.
- Add more than 3,700 feet of noise-reducing walls along the Meadowthorpe neighborhood.

Converting the Leestown/New Circle Road interchange into a double crossover diamond is a major change. As explained by the KYTC, a double crossover diamond, or DCD, is an interchange with two signalized intersections where traffic between the intersections crosses over to the left side of the roadway then back over to the right as it exits.

“It’s going to be a double diamond intersection like what we have at Harrodsburg Road, underneath New Circle there,” Murphy said.

According to KYTC, these types of interchanges offer several benefits, including fewer delays because the traffic signals they use operate with fewer phases. They’re also known to improve safety. DCD’s decrease potential crash points, prevent wrong way ramp entries and reduce speeds to minimize the

severity of crashes that do occur.

NEWTOWN PIKE PROJECT INCLUDES PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS, OTHER UPGRADES

According to KYTC, approximately 44,000 vehicles use Newtown Pike daily, and by 2030, that number is expected to rise to 70,500.

The Newtown Pike widening project will add an additional lane in each direction from New Circle Road to I-75.

“It’s going to go from a two-lane stretch to a three-lane stretch of road from New Circle to the interstate,” Murphy said.

He said workers have been out at night because there are limited hours for lane closures. The latest progress on the project includes drainage and sewer work.

“The plan is to still maintain two lanes in each direction through every phase of the project as they continue to work through it,” Murphy added.

Along with the widening, this project also includes several improvements for those passing through the area on foot.

That includes 1,200 feet of new trail connecting Newtown Court to Legacy Trail, which will route bike traffic off Newtown Pike at Newtown Court. New sidewalk and trail improvements will also provide accessible and safe connections, according to the project’s description.

Additionally, the work includes a new underpass to allow pedestrians and runners to avoid the busy Newtown Pike.

“It’s an underpass for the Legacy Trail to get underneath Newtown Pike,” Murphy said.

The Newtown Pike project is expected to be complete in spring 2027.

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Northern Kentucky utility gets approval to increase monthly electric rates 10%

BY PIPER HANSEN
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Monthly bills for Kentucky’s Duke Energy customers are about to get a little more pricey.

The Public Service Commission approved a requested rate increase that will produce additional revenues for Duke Energy Kentucky Inc., which largely serves 152,600 electricity customers in Cincinnati’s suburbs and Northern Kentucky counties of Boone, Campbell, Grant, Kenton and Pendleton.

Increased rates mean average residential customers could see an increase of \$12.50, making the average monthly bill go up about 10% to \$137.15. Those rates are anticipated to produce more than \$40.69 million in revenues for Duke.

Officials anticipate using the additional revenue for making improvements to its grid and to add more service as demand grows.

The PSC-approved rates are less than what Duke originally requested in an application submitted to the utility regulators in December 2024. In it, the utility company requested authorization for a 15% increase in rates that would result in about \$70 million in revenue.

In its application, Duke said its rate of return on its electric operations was “inadequate to enable the



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Company to continue providing safe, reasonable, and reliable service to its customers and is insufficient to afford Duke Energy Kentucky a reasonable opportunity to earn a fair return on its investment property that is used to provide such service while attracting necessary capital at reasonable rates.”

The rate increase approved Oct. 2 is significantly less than requested, but is an increase nonetheless and Duke isn’t the only utility in the commonwealth to request one.

Next week, Louisville Gas & Electric and Kentucky Utilities will host its third public hearing related to its rate increases.

Kentucky’s Public Service Commission will hear from Lexington residents Oct. 14 at Bluegrass Com-

munity & Technical College in the Keeneland Room at 5 p.m.

Comments can be submitted online by clicking here, emailed to psc.comment@ky.gov, or mailed to 211 Sower Blvd., Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

Feedback should include the customer’s name, address and case number: 2025-00114 for LG&E increases and 2025-00113 for KU increases.

Rate adjustments proposed by the commonwealth’s largest utility for the first time in five years could increase monthly LG&E bills by \$11 and KU bills by \$18, according to applications asking to increase rates.

Those rates are based on forecasts showing the company would need to charge its customers more

to pay for upgrades to infrastructure and to cover for the rising costs of services triggered by severe weather events among other economic factors.

If approved, rate adjustments won’t go into effect until after Jan. 1, 2026, and it may take several years for the utilities to make proposed infrastructure upgrades across the state.

KU is requesting through its rate adjustments an increase of approximately \$226 million per year in its electric revenue, while LG&E is requesting an increase of nearly \$105 million per year in its electric revenue and almost \$60 million per year in its gas revenue.

The average monthly electricity bill for residential customers in Fayette County where KU is the dominant provider is about \$137.25, according to FindEnergy, a consumer energy data website. Though bills per month fluctuate with seasons and other factors, a Fayette County household is likely paying about \$1,645 per year for electricity.

If the rate adjustments are approved, and monthly KU electric bills increase to about \$155.40 per month, Fayette County residents would spend almost \$1,865 per year on electricity.

Man accused of accidentally shooting brother in the face while dancing in KY

BY CHRISTOPHER LEACH
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A man in Kentucky is accused of accidentally shooting his brother in the face while under the influence of alcohol, according to court documents.

The shooting happened around 11 p.m. at Amerison Orchard Apartments in Scott County. Georgetown Assistant Police Chief Josh Nash said a man was shot and taken to a hospital with life-threatening injuries.

Police arrested Brian Newman, 22, and charged him with first-degree assault in connection with the shooting, Nash said. Newman is

being held at the Scott County Detention Center.

Nash said the shooting was an isolated incident and there is no risk to the public.

Newman’s arrest citation says he had his brother and a friend over at his apartment, and they were playing music and dancing. Newman allegedly brought out a gun and was inadvertently pointing it at people while dancing.

At some point, Newman shot his brother with the gun. Court documents say Newman’s brother had a severed spinal cord, but the extent of his injuries were not available Wednesday afternoon.

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NAME, AGE	CITY	DEATH	ARRANGEMENTS
Osser, Beverly Ann Gravis, 70	Wintergreen, FL	Oct 01	Tucker, Yocum, & Wilson Funeral Home

Bold listings indicate expanded obituaries