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KYTC holds public meeting on proposed KY 11 reconstruction in Lee County

Approximately 80 people attended a public meeting held by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet on Feb. 5 to reveal two alternative alignments for the proposed reconstruction of approximately two miles of KY 11 in Lee County.

The project would connect the existing KY 11 route to Beattyville, and would complete the connection between the Lee County seat and I-75 at London.

Two alternatives are under consideration. One would largely use the existing KY 11 alignment, beginning at the end of the recently reconstructed segment near KY 587 and ending at the existing bridge crossing the South Fork of the Kentucky River. The second proposed route would follow a

new cross-country alignment running west of the existing route, also tying in to the existing South Fork bridge. Both alignments would use both the existing South Fork and North Fork bridges. Minor improvements would be made on the existing right of way between the South Fork bridge and the beginning of the three-lane segment near the Three Forks Historical Center and the Lee County Senior Citizens Center.

The project is included in the recommended highway plan currently under consideration by the Kentucky General Assembly. If funding is available, right of way acquisition is tentatively scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2030. Construction would follow in fiscal year 2032.

KYTC hopes to select

a preferred alternative later this year. Factors that will determine the final decision are engineering concerns, environmental impacts, right of way and utility relocation costs, and public comments from affected individuals and community members. Written comments will be accepted by mail or e-mail until Feb. 27. Written statements should be addressed to Darren Back, P.E., Kentucky Department of Highways, P.O. Box 621, Jackson, KY 41339. E-mail should be addressed to darren.back@ky.gov.

Meeting materials, including the map displays, handout brochure, and downloadable comment form are available on the KYTC District 10 website at <https://transportation.ky.gov/DistrictTen>.

Coleman Wins Grandparent Essay

The Milky Way Papaw
by LCE Student Finnley Coleman



Pictured L-R: Lee Co. RTA President, Darlene Jewell, Finnley Coleman, and Papaw Glenn Kincaid. President Jewell presents Finnley Coleman with a CERTIFICATE of ACHIEVEMENT as the LCES GRANDPARENT ESSAY SCHOOL & COUNTY WINNER for 2025 and was also awarded \$50.00 in CASH!

My papaw, Glenn Kincaid, is the best papaw that you can get. He teaches me important and fun lessons. When he isn't teaching me, he volunteers to put out fires and cleans the church after floods. He asks me about my day, he watches me play sports, and he plays catch with me. I love my papaw so much and I think he deserves the best grandparent of the year award.

My papaw showed me how to fish, and me and my papaw would fish all day long. He once took me to a fishing tournament, and it was packed there. He taught me how to drive a four-wheeler. He took me down to the corn field and let me drive it. It was so much fun that I told my parents about how I could drive a four-wheeler. That is two of the many things my papaw showed me how to do. My papaw loves me more than I can show so he deserves this award. My papaw is always helping people. When my church floods he goes to help people clean it. One time I went to his house and he was not there. It turns out he was at a three-hour long fire meeting. He volunteers to have church meetings at his house. He donates to the church to help people who are in need. I think my papaw Glenn deserves this award for the best grandparent because he is the best one.

My papaw watches me play sports, he helps me with sports, and cares about my day. My papaw comes to my sports if he could make time for them. He compliments me for how good I did in a game. One time he played catch with me when we were camping. He is almost seventy years old. Every day when I get in his car he says the exact four words, "How was your day?" All this dedication to me makes me feel special so that is why my Papaw Glenn deserves this grandparent award.

My Papaw Glenn is the best grandparent in the Milky Way. Others may believe that he is not the best grandparent, but he is in my heart and that is all that matters. I love him, I help him and I talk to him. But even though he is old he helps more than I help him. He loves me too much for me not to write about him. He deserves this grandparent award so much!

Multiple Project Updates at City Council Meeting

The Beattyville City Council met in regular session on Monday, February 9, 2026. Mayor Scott Jackson called the meeting to order. Sally Gilbert, City Clerk, did roll call. All were present except Savannah Mays. The Opening Invocation was given by Sam Cockerham. All in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Jackson welcomed all visitors.

Paul Nesbitt from Nesbitt Engineering gave an update on the projects that they are working on with the city. "The WasteWater Treatment Plant Improvement Project - we should be able to get a release of funds in the next three months or so. Then we can move forward with getting the repairs done. The Ky 587 Utility Relocation - the only thing they have left is a couple of meters to set and they will be done with the Waterline Relocation. We have an Invoice for \$41,500. The D.O.T. is paying that to you. You have to approve it and we will send it to D.O.T. They will send the money to the city and then you will pay us." A motion was made and carried to pay the Invoice.

Paul had a Requisition giving the mayor permission to sign for the Water Treatment Plant so that we can get the money to start the work. A motion was made and carried to approve the Requisition.

There was an Invoice for \$39,200 for the Water Treatment Plant that also needed approval. A motion was made and carried to approve paying the Invoice. "The Water Tank Rehab - we have three tanks that we are rehabbing. We are working on the paperwork to get that approved. The Crystal Creek Trailhead - we need to figure out what the city wants there. The Beattyville Outlook - we have some money for that and they (KRADD) are getting some matching money also. That is for the

deck and some sidewalks." Michael Smith from KRADD gave his update. He said that Paul had touched on most of his things. "Jennifer wanted me to let you know that AMLER opened up today. There are a couple of projects that are in the works - Crystal Creek is one that we tried for an AMLER Grant once before and didn't get it. Jennifer seems to think that it is probably a safe bet to do that again. The other one that she mentioned was the Mercantile Hub. We also submitted the Environmental to the D.O.G. for the WasteWater Treatment Plant Rehab," said Michael.

A pay increase was discussed for the mayor and the council members. "If you would like to increase your pay by 2.7% and we have to do this now for it to take effect in January," said Sally. After some discussion, a couple of the council members decided that serving as council members should be considered as public service. The council decided to forego a raise at this time.

A motion was made and carried to approve June-teenth (June 19th) as a Holiday. A motion was made and carried to pay the Chamber of Commerce 2026 Membership Dues. A motion was made and carried to do a \$50 (½ page) District Ad Donation. A motion was made and carried to annex property belonging to Doug Brandenburg and his wife (corner of Hawkins Road and South Fork Road). A motion was made and carried to approve prior meeting minutes (January 12, 2026).

Teresa Mays gave the Main Street & Economic Development Report. She said, "We have four things on our calendar events that we would like to get approved. The first being the Monthly Cruise-Ins at Town Square. These will start on Saturday, April 4, 2026 and will run through the first Saturday in September. The second thing is the Beattyville Appalachian Memories Festival (formerly and inspired by the Bourbon & Moonshine Festival. This will be held Friday & Saturday, May 15-

16 and would require street closures on Friday and Saturday. The festival would begin at 12 noon on Friday and end around 6 on Saturday. The third thing is Live at Lunch - Thursdays in May for approximately two hours at the Town Square. Then we would also like to try Flashback Fridays for the month of June. We will play oldies music and have a retro theme." A motion was made and carried to approve the calendar events that were presented.

Teresa said that they would bring any other events to the council that arise through the year. She continued, "Heather Watson was selected to paint a mural for us. She has provided us with a draft of the mural that she is going to paint. It shows the three forks of the Kentucky River coming together. We want the design to say "Welcome to Beattyville: Birthplace of the Kentucky River." There are a few other things that we want to add, maybe a quote from one of Tyler Childers songs since the donation to fund this mural was made by his foundation. So this is not the final design."

Beattyville City Police Chief Cody Sparks gave the monthly report. "For the month of January, the police department answered 83 calls for service, issued 18 citations, made 9 arrests and worked 2 collisions. The weather had everybody inside for a few weeks."

Ferrell Wise gave the Public Works Report. He said, "Since the last meeting, we have had 89 work orders called in: 81 are water and garbage, 8 were sewage. We have completed 62: 59 water and garbage, 3 of the sewage. We have 27 still open. We got some done today and they are not included in the finished group."

Sally provided the Financial Report. "Everything is looking better. For the month, the garbage is better for the month but still behind for the year. Water is in really good shape." A motion was made and carried to approve the Financial Report.

LC Bobcats win against Estill in overtime at home Thursday night

Lee County pulled out a thrilling overtime victory on its home court Thursday night, edging Estill County 68-65 in a hard-fought matchup on February 5, 2026. The game stayed tight throughout regulation, with neither team able to create much separation as momentum swung back and forth. Strong defensive play and timely scoring kept the contest knotted late, sending the crowd into a frenzy when the final buzzer forced overtime.

In the extra period, Lee County rose to the occasion, making key plays on both ends of the floor. The Bobcats capitalized on crucial possessions, knocking down shots and locking in defensively to hold off Estill's late push.

With the home crowd behind them, Lee County outscored Estill in overtime to secure the 68-65 win, improving their record and giving fans an exciting finish to a memorable night of basketball at home. They went on to play against June Buchanan Friday night, winning again 73 to 51.

More sports coverage can be found on our website at www.beattyvilleenterprise.com Photos by Iacono Imagery

