KY 17 Multi-use Path

Facility
KY 17 (Madison Pike)

Location
KY 371 (Orphanage Road) south to KY 16

Municipalities
Fort Wright, Covington, Edgewood, Erlanger, Independence, and Kenton County

Existing Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Congestion</th>
<th>Safety</th>
<th>Land Use/Socio-Economic/Environmental</th>
<th>Multi-modal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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</table>
• **Congestion**
  - High traffic volumes occur along this corridor as it is a non-interstate route option resulting in high congestion and multi-modal safety concerns.
  - Data shows that KY 17’s major intersections at I-275/Dudley Road, KY 1501, KY 3035, KY 536 and KY 16 experience heavy traffic congestion during the AM and PM peaks.
  - The OKI Regional Traffic Demand Model shows the Level of Service (LOS) for the segment of KY 17 north of KY 1501 will degrade from “C” to levels “D” to “F” by year 2040, if improvements are not made.
  - Online survey responses from motorists spoke to the issue of heavy congestion, high demand for the roadway, and lack of alternate route options. One person shared that “from Hands Pike through [Fort Wright] takes over 20 minutes.”

• **Safety**
  - Between 2010 and 2012, there were 15 reported crashes two of which involved a bicyclist and pedestrian.

• **Land Use/Socio-Economic/Environmental**
  - Concentrations of elderly populations ranging in density from 20 percent to 40 percent reside in the city of Independence and are concentrated in a large area centered on KY 17 between KY 536 and KY 16.
  - The city of Independence has grown 73 percent from a population of 14,982 in 2000 to 24,757 in 2010. If the population growth continues to follow this dramatic trend, the city could see an additional 27,000 residents by 2040.
  - Independence, Taylor Mill and South Kenton County residents rely upon KY 17 as their primary route for north/south travel to reach more northern employment areas.
  - The northern section of KY 17 near the Dudley Road intersection is where the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission projects the potential for approximately 72 acres of increased commercial development.
  - The southern section of KY 17 is close to areas where the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission projects the potential for approximately 9,000 homes and 250 acres of commercial development.

• **Multi-Modal**
  - TANK operates express fixed route #33X all day, seven days a week. In addition, TANK’s Fort Wright Hub and garage are located on this KY 17 segment.
  - Wide paved shoulders and crosswalk pavement markings exist on both sides of KY 17 from I-275 to KY 536. Pioneer Park located on the west side of KY 17 between Rolling Hills Drive and Mary Laidley Road has a loop trail path network. Sidewalks exist on both sides of KY 17 with signalized crosswalks between KY 536 and KY 16.
  - With the exception of the wide paved shoulders, there are no dedicated bicycle facilities along the entire corridor. The OKI Bike Route Guide recommends use with caution from I-275 to the intersection with Old Madison Pike just north of KY 1501. South of this point, the guide views KY 17 as a preferred bike route.
  - KY 17 was listed as an important north/south corridor for bicycle use. One online response stated, “*this part of the roadway [KY 17 in Independence] has never seen a street sweeper...[this] causes cyclists to ride with the auto traffic to avoid getting flats and or crashing.*”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KY 17 Segments</th>
<th>Functional Class</th>
<th>Average Daily Traffic Count*</th>
<th>Critical Crash Rate Factor</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I-275 to KY 1501/KY 3035</td>
<td>Minor Urban Arterial</td>
<td>30,700 (2012)</td>
<td>Less than one</td>
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</table>
Recommendation

- Construct an approximate one and a quarter mile multi-use path on west side of KY 17 from the existing Fort Wright sidewalk network at KY 371 to connect existing facility with northern end of Pioneer Park’s loop trail.
- Construct an approximate five and a half mile multi-use path to connect southern end of Pioneer Park’s loop trail with the sidewalk network in Independence at KY 536. At KY 1486 (Fowler Creek), this multi-use path will transition away from KY 17 and the bridge over KY 1486 to cross at-grade. Signage installation and crosswalk pavement markings introduced to ensure bicyclists and pedestrian safety.
- Paint crosswalk pavement markings and install signage at the KY 17 intersections of KY 3035, Pelly Road, McCullum Pike, and Centennial Boulevard to increase motorists awareness of bicyclists and pedestrians crossing the roadway.
- Apply access management treatments such as shared parallel frontage roads and center medians as properties along KY 17 corridor are developed or redeveloped to minimize the number of access points and signalized intersections along this corridor.

Project Benefits

- Enhanced multi-modal options and improved safety for all modes.
- Improvement supports Active Transportation Planning to improve overall quality of life and health conditions for residents of Kenton County.
- Recommendation builds-off of existing paths and parking facilities at Pioneer Park.

Project Challenges

- More than six and a half miles of linear right of way along the western edge of KY 17 will be needed to create this multi-modal corridor.
- Due to portions of KY 17 constructed on major excavated sections of bedrock and other sections built on significant fill, topography will be challenging.
- Bicyclists will be challenged by a major change in elevation from about Pelly Road to Old Madison Pike.

Cost Estimate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Design</th>
<th>Utilities</th>
<th>Right of Way</th>
<th>Construction</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
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<td>$10,000,000</td>
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*Source for Average Daily Traffic is OKI unless otherwise noted.*