

KYTC Newsletter

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Volume 92



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Governor's 2024 Recommended Highway Plan Outlines 6-Year Proposal to Maintain Roads and Bridges, Advance Priority Projects

Frankfort, Ky. (Jan. 17, 2024) – Gov. Andy Beshear delivered a 2024 Recommended Highway Plan featuring more than 1,300 projects to build a better Kentucky by investing state and federal dollars in maintaining and building a safe transportation system that improves the quality of life for Kentuckians.

The Governor's highway plan is a practical action guide to prioritize road and bridge maintenance projects, as well as new construction in the biennium and following four years. The six-year plan has three focus areas:

- Taking care of existing roads and bridges.
- Executing construction projects to upgrade our transportation system, including the Governor's three priority projects – a Brent Spence companion bridge in Northern Kentucky, the I-69 Ohio River Crossing in Western Kentucky and the Mountain Parkway Expansion Project in Eastern Kentucky.
- Honoring past bridge and road commitments and advancing ongoing projects. "This plan blends data-informed recommendations and our values of taking care of our people by keeping roads and bridges safe for Kentucky families," said Gov. Beshear. "It also includes funding to move forward on long-awaited, transformative projects that support a strong economy, like four-laning the Mountain Parkway, constructing a Brent Spence companion bridge with no tolls and building a new I-69 bridge."

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OSHA Is Not Backing Down

Even if you did not directly experience last summer's heat, you probably read or heard about it. Historically high temperatures scorched the country from coast to coast, and there are no signs that this heat will abate anytime soon. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 436 people have died due to workplace heat exposure since 2011. In the same time period, there were an additional 2,700 cases of heat-related illnesses among workers. Now — quite literally more than ever — it is critical for employers to take steps to ensure their workers are protected from extreme heat.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) does not provide a standard specific to this issue. However, OSHA's General Duty Clause requires all employers to provide a safe workplace for employees, and OSHA believes protecting employees against heat hazards falls under that duty. It recently emphasized the importance of employers taking steps to reduce the risks that extreme heat poses to employees. OSHA has initiated a National Emphasis Program (NEP) on heat, which intensifies its efforts to address heat-related occupational hazards. The program particularly homes in on at-risk geographic areas and industries, including construction and agriculture.

Last year's extreme heat even prompted action from the White House. On July 27, 2023, President Joe Biden issued a statement noting that the U.S. Department of Labor will continue ramping up its crackdown on heat-related safety violations, including increasing inspections — both programmed and unprogrammed — in the high-risk industries mentioned above. Biden also specifically asked the DOL to issue its first-ever Hazard Alert for extreme heat. OSHA thereafter released this alert, which reminds employers of their "legal and moral responsibility" not to assign work in hot conditions without adequate protection for workers. The alert lists the following guidance to employers:

- Provide adequate water, rest breaks and shade or a cool rest area for employees.
- Give new or returning employees the chance to gradually acclimate to working in hot temperatures, train and plan for emergencies, and monitor for heat signs and symptoms.
- Train employees on heat illness prevention, signs of heat illness and how to act immediately if they or another employee appears to be suffering from a heat-related illness.

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About The KYTC

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on KYTC contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.
- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.



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