



News Release

Contact: Sara George, Information Officer • Highway District 12
109 Loraine Street • Pikeville, Kentucky 41501
606-433-7791 (office) • 606-207-3950 (mobile) • sara.george@ky.gov

December 18: US 460 opens to traffic from US 23 to Marrowbone!

FRIDAY, October 24, 2014 – PIKEVILLE – Half of new US 460 will open to traffic in the late afternoon on Thursday, December 18, following a 1 p.m. ceremony at Shelby Valley High School

and ribbon-cutting near the US 23 interchange.



Mary Westfall-Holbrook, Chief District Engineer, Highway District 12, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, announced today that the planned ceremony to mark the highway opening will be a living history event that all the citizens of the region are invited to attend.

“We are planning a huge celebration,” she said. “The reconstruction of US 460 is an infrastructure project that promises to be the most important new element of the search for economic stability and job creation in our region. Although the rest of the road is still under construction, we

believe the first eight miles of the 16.7-mile highway will have a huge impact on safe travel and convenience for the citizens of Pike County and those who do business here. We are excited to open this stretch of new highway, and encourage people to come to the celebration, bring their children and grandchildren, and join us in this historic event.”

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Looking north and west along new US 460 toward the interchange with US 23 at Sookey's Creek.

Photo by John Michael Johnson, Highway District 12, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Johnson served as the Project Manager for pre-construction – planning, design, right of way, utility relocation, and the selection of excess excavation sites that can be developed for manufacturing, service, and retail business, housing, and tourism-related opportunities.

Shelby Valley High School Principal Greg Napier intends for all his students to attend this living history event. In addition, the school's jazz band and Junior ROTC will participate in the celebration.

Transportation Secretary Michael Hancock will join government officials who have been involved in the project since its inception as part of the Appalachian Regional Commission's corridor system in 1965. Built with 80% federal funding, through the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Federal Highway Administration, and 20% state funding through the Kentucky General Assembly, US 460 is the final ARC highway to be built in Kentucky.

The remaining 8.7 miles is expected to be completed by the year 2020. In the meantime, motorists can drive the first half, getting on and off either at US 23 south of Pikeville, at Greasy Creek, Wolfpit, or KY 195 – Marrowbone – which connects to old US 460 at Regina.

“In addition to our government leaders who have worked on this project, we want to invite all the individuals and families whose property was acquired along this first stretch of the new highway,” said Westfall-Holbrook. “We may not have current mailing addresses for these people, so we ask folks who know someone whose property was bought during the right of way phase to contact Joe Tackett at Highway District 12, 606-433-7791 or joe.tackett@ky.gov to share current mailing addresses with us. We do not want to leave out anyone. We want to include everyone who was affected by the building of this road, and we need the public's help to do that.”



Looking north at the Marrowbone interchange showing ramp leading to KY 195, which intersects with old US 460 at Regina. The 8-mile section of the 16.7-mile highway that opens in the late afternoon of December 18 is expected to cut about 10 minutes off the drive from Elkhorn City to Pikeville.

Photo by John Michael Johnson.
