

WELCOME

Public Informational Workshop



Hosted by the
West Virginia Department of
Transportation, Division of Highways
& Federal Highway Administration



Tuesday, February 20, 2024

535 W Cumberland Road, Bluefield High School

Bluefield, WV

4:00-7:00 PM

King Coal Highway

LITTLESBURG (WV 20) TO MERCER COUNTY AIRPORT

(WV 123) PROJECT

State Project X328-52-0.00

Federal Project NHPP 2024(030)D

Mercer County, WV

Overview:

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways (WVDOH) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are pleased to host this informational workshop to provide updates and answer questions on the Littleburg (WV 20) to Mercer County Airport (WV 123) Project. Detailed mapping, projected schedule, and other materials are available to review in person as well as online at the link provided at the bottom of this page. This meeting complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requirements.

The project is an approximately 2.4-mile, four-lane divided highway, with partial control of access. The project is part of the King Coal Highway. It extends from Littleburg (WV 20) in the North to the Mercer County Airport (WV 123) in the south where it connects to John Nash Boulevard (US 52) portion of the King Coal Highway. This project will help fulfill the goals of the overall King Coal Highway by minimizing conflict between truck traffic and local traffic, residential areas, and towns. Additionally, it will support the goals of improving access to emergency services, supporting economic development, and providing safe and efficient access to the regional roadway network. A Record of Decision (ROD) for the entire King Coal Highway that begins in the north in the vicinity of Williamson, WV and ends in the south in the vicinity of Bluefield, WV. The ROD was approved by FHWA on June 6, 2000. WVDOH is now updating environmental studies, coordinating with resource agencies, and advancing the design for the Littleburg (WV 20) to Mercer County Airport (WV 123) section of the project.

Project History:

- 1991: The U.S. Congress determined that a National Highway System corridor was needed to connect the Great Lakes and the coast of the Carolinas. Known as the Interstate 73–Interstate 74 North–South Corridor, the roadway stretches from northern Michigan to South Carolina, passing through several states, including West Virginia (WV)
- 1995: The multilane corridor was listed as a high priority and the West Virginia Department of Transportation Division of Highways (WVDOH) was tasked with constructing a portion.
- 2000: Environmental & engineering studies for the entire king coal highway project was completed
- June 26, 2000: A Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was approved for the entire King Coal Highway Project
- August 24, 2000: A Record of Decision (ROD) was approved for the entire King Coal Highway Project
- January 3, 2001, March 29, 2018, and May 23, 2023: FHWA approved the operationally independent sections and project priorities for the King Coal Highway

Recent Developments and Future Schedule:

- 2023: Final Design, core boring activities, additional environmental field work, and agency coordination is ongoing for the Littleburg (WV 20) to Mercer County Airport (WV 123) section of the project.
- February 20, 2024: Informational Public Meeting
- March 21, 2024: Public Comment period Ends
- *April 2024: FHWA approves the Reevaluation
- *January 2024: Right of Way activities began
- *Summer / Fall 2024: Construction Anticipated
*Dates are subject to change

Additional information is available online at the WVDOH's Public Meeting website:

<https://transportation.wv.gov/highways/engineering/comment/Pages/King-Coal-Littleburg-to-Mercer-County-Airport.aspx> (linked through code at right).

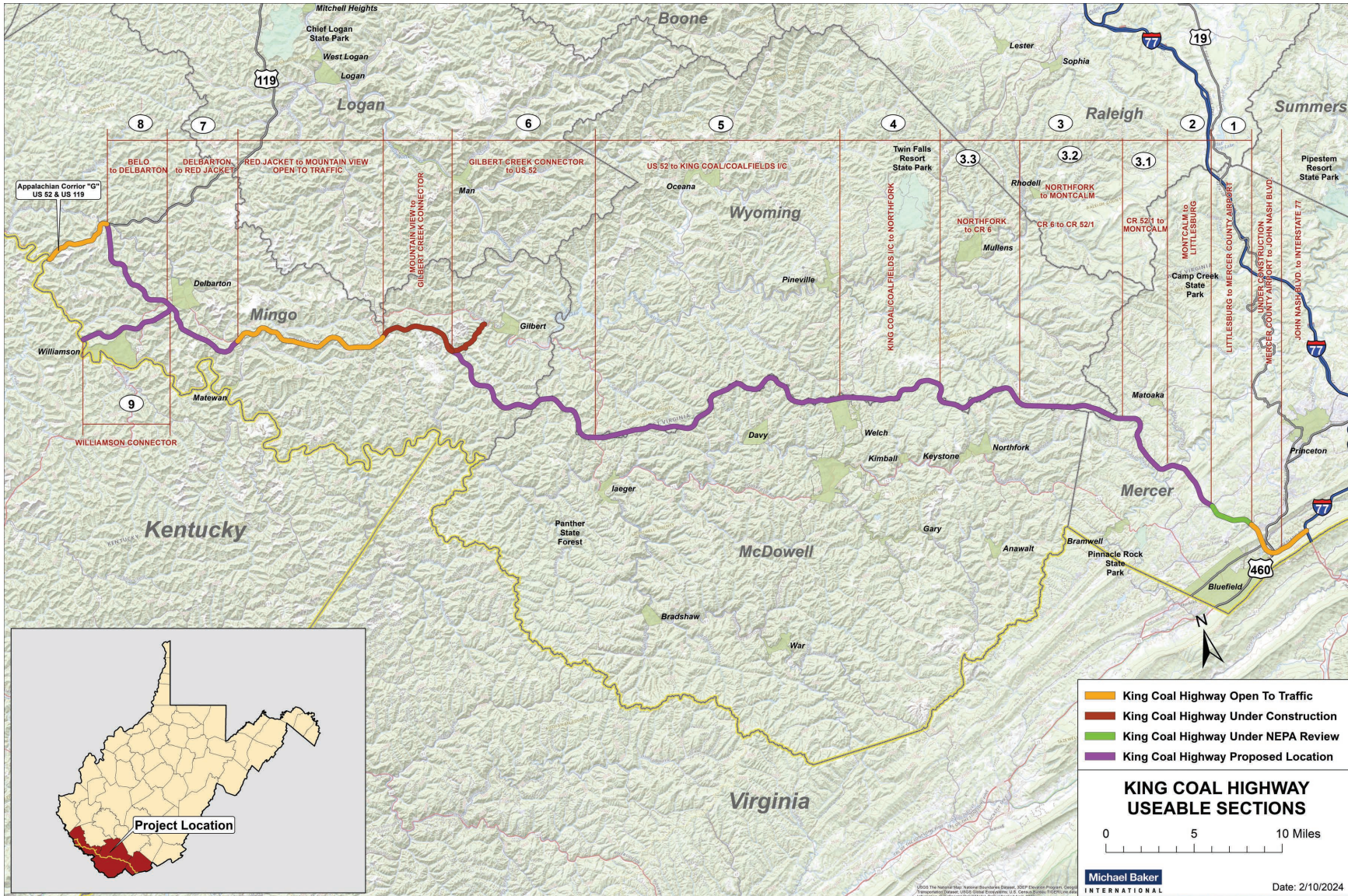
Comments are due Thursday, March 21, 2024 and may be submitted using the comment form provided at the meeting or printed from the website. Additionally, comments may be submitted digitally through the website. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, sex, age, national origin, or disability.

Thank you for attending tonight's meeting!



KING COAL HIGHWAY OVERVIEW & STATUS

Purpose and Need for the King Coal Highway: To minimize conflict between truck traffic and local traffic, residential areas, and towns, improve access to emergency services, support economic development, and to provide safe and efficient access to the regional roadway network.



Timeline:

- 1991: The U.S. Congress determined that a National Highway System corridor was needed to connect the Great Lakes and the coast of the Carolinas. Known as the Interstate 73–Interstate 74 North–South Corridor, the roadway stretches from northern Michigan to South Carolina, passing through several states, including West Virginia (WV)
- 1995: The multilane corridor was listed as a high priority and the West Virginia Department of Transportation Division of Highways (WVDOH) was tasked with constructing a portion.
- 2000: Environmental & engineering studies for the king coal highway was completed and a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a Record of Decision (ROD) was approved.
- 2023–Present: Final design, additional field work & agency coordination is ongoing for the Littleburg (WV20) to Mercer County Airport (WV123) Project.



Littleburg (WV20) to Mercer County Airport (WV123) Project – Tuesday, February 20, 2024– Public Informational Workshop



PRELIMINARY ALIGNMENT



**Littleton (WV20) to Mercer County Airport (WV123) Project – Tuesday, February 20, 2024
Public Informational Workshop**



TIMELINE & COMMENTING

- June 26, 2000:** King Coal Highway Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) approved. For the entire King Coal Highway Project beginning in the vicinity of Williamson, WV to the Vicinity of Bluefield, WV
- August 24, 2000:** King Coal Highway Record of Decision (ROD) approved. For the entire King Coal Highway Project
- Spring 2023:** Final Design, Core Borings, and additional Environmental Studies began for the Littleburg to Mercer County Airport Project
- 2001, 2018, and 2023:** FHWA approved the operationally independent sections and project priorities for the King Coal Highway
- February 20, 2024:** Public meeting held for Littleburg to Mercer County Airport
- March 21, 2024:** Public Comment period ends
- * April 2024:** NEPA reevaluation approved
- * January 2024:** Right-of-Way activities began
- * Summer / Fall 2024:** Construction Anticipated

* Dates are subject to change

PLEASE SHARE YOUR COMMENTS! **THE COMMENT PERIOD ENDS:** **THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024**

Mail comments to:

Mr. Travis Long,
Director Technical Support Division
West Virginia Division of Highways
1334 Smith Street
Charleston, West Virginia 25301



Comments may also be submitted using the form included with tonight's handout or online at the WVDOH website link below and through QR code:

<https://transportation.wv.gov/highways/engineering/comment/Pages/King-Coal-Littleburg-to-Mercer-County-Airport.aspx>



***Littleburg (WV20) to Mercer County Airport (WV123) Project – Tuesday, February 20, 2024
Public Informational Workshop***



DATE:

Mr. Travis Long, Director
Technical Support Division
West Virginia Division of Highways
1334 Smith Street
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

MEETING DATE: Thursday, February 20, 2024
LOCATION: 535 W Cumberland Road, Bluefield High School, Bluefield, WV
SUBJECT: PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP
PROJECT: King Coal Highway – Littleburg to Mercer County Airport
X328-52-0.00
NHPP 2024(030)D
Mercer County

COMMENTS DUE BY: Thursday, March 21, 2024

Please consider the following comments:

(Please print the following information)

NAME:

ADDRESS:

ORGANIZATION (IF ANY):

How did you hear about the Public Informational Workshop?

Project Information and Comment forms
can be found online at our WVDOH Website at <https://transportation.wv.gov/comments>.
Under Engineering Projects, Open, and then click King Coal -Littleburg to Mercer County Airport.
Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, sex, age, national origin, or disability.