

I. Project Introduction

The Community and Transportation System Plan (CTSP) for Southern Versailles is an innovative program and grant administered through the Versailles-Midway-Woodford County Planning Commission. Funding for the project was provided through the Transportation, Community and System Preservation (TCSP) program of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). In receiving this grant, Woodford County and the City of Versailles have become nationally recognized for their efforts in seeking to balance transportation and community system needs. Versailles was the only city in Kentucky to receive a TCSP Grant for the Year 2000.

The Versailles-Midway-Woodford County Planning Commission applied for this grant to assist in funding a study of Southern Versailles. Southern Versailles is home to many established residential neighborhoods that include a range of income levels. There are also tracts of farmland and natural areas that are zoned for future development. In the near future, proposed highway facilities, bikeways, and adjacent land uses will provide new opportunities for further managed development and growth in this area. It is critical that corridor management and community planning strategies be implemented in order to maintain the safety and efficiency of the local highway corridors, to permit increased accessibility for bicycles and pedestrians, and to provide the potential for preserved greenspace in this section of Versailles.

This project seeks to address visual character issues that the community deems important, while also designing and redesigning roadways to alleviate congestion and provide better pedestrian travel routes in Southern Versailles. Additionally, the desire is to better connect streets so that motorists, as well as pedestrians, will be given improved route alternatives. Implementing these projects will help to create the desired character, while at the same time improve travel efficiency.

A. Project Goals

The goals for this study must meet the following set of criteria, which was established by the Federal Government:

Improve the Efficiency of the Transportation System

With the recent growth and development in Versailles, the existing transportation network is experiencing increasing strains. Through this study's recommendations, the existing transportation system should be coordinated with future development planned for the southern portion of Versailles. Using corridor management techniques and integrating land uses and transportation systems, a more efficient movement of people and goods can be accomplished.

Reduce the Impacts of Transportation on the Environment

Much of the land that is slated for development in Southern Versailles currently consists of farmland and natural areas. The implementation of selected projects should allow for the development of a more efficient facility network, reducing the potential number vehicle-miles traveled, and increasing opportunities for non-motorized transportation. Additional desired benefits include viewshed preservation through natural landscape treatments and preserved open space by encouraging compact development through transportation network design.

Reduce the Need for Costly Future Public Infrastructure

Through an integrated land use and transportation system plan, Woodford County can plan for a proactive, rather than reactive, solution to its transportation needs. Using corridor management methods, such as interconnectivity of local streets and access management along corridors, the service and capacity of existing and planned collector roads in this area can be preserved, reducing the need for further public infrastructure.

Ensure Efficient Access to Jobs, Services and Centers of Trade

Located near the center of Woodford County, Versailles provides employment opportunities as well as a commuter path for travel to and from Lexington, Frankfort and other surrounding communities, and the Bluegrass Parkway, which terminates just to the east of Versailles' Urban Growth Boundary. Careful management of the southern portion of Versailles will provide improved local access to this region, as well as relief to the central arteries in downtown Versailles.

Encourage Private Sector Development Patterns

The creation of a functional and successful traditional transportation network will encourage developers to plan and design future development to fit into such patterns. Residents of the City have voiced desires to have alternatives to auto travel, and a better-connected transportation system. Upon the creation of such a system, developers will want to take advantage of the existing connective patterns to further pedestrian and auto traffic circulation into and adjacent to new developments.

B. Project Formulation

To accomplish the aforementioned goals, a series of potential projects were identified and defined. By implementing some, or all, of these projects, the City of Versailles and Woodford County can meet these goals and create new and exciting opportunities for residents and businesses alike. The selected projects were created through a process that included the following tasks:

Research of Planning Concepts

Research of planning techniques and ideas that were applicable to the study areas was performed in order to better understand what would support the

growth of a livable community in Southern Versailles. Many of the concepts were previously explored and outlined in past plans and studies conducted by, and for, the City of Versailles. Such previous plans include *Preserving Town and Country in the Woodford County Bluegrass*, and the *1997 Comprehensive Plan Update*. These resources stressed connectivity, mixed land uses, and pedestrian transportation. Using these community development guidelines, specific goals and objectives were outlined for the study, resulting ultimately in a community-designed transportation and community improvement plan for the region.

Public Outreach and Involvement

Public involvement and coordination is critical for a planning process such as this, particularly in a strong community such as Versailles. This involvement is necessary to identify community desires and to build community consensus. It is community consensus that greatly assists in getting projects funded, and ordinances passed. As such, a plan for community involvement in this study was established early and structured for on-going participation of the general public. Public involvement included the coordination of a diverse steering committee made up of local officials, interest groups, and citizens; brainstorming and hands on workshops with the general public; solicitation of thoughts and opinions through informative mailings; the creation of a project website that details the study and its status, as well as allows for public feedback; and community participation in the development of the final plan results.

Development of Integrated Transportation and Land Use Alternatives

Integrated land uses and transportation systems are essential to the preservation of vehicular and pedestrian corridors in the quickly developing study area. As such, the projects to be identified as part of this study centered around access management, interconnectivity of local streets and roads, and the visual quality that surrounds the transportation network. Systems analysis also included the consideration of improved linkages for bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout Southern Versailles.

Woodford County has already made strides to include non-motorized facilities in future transportation plans, including the parallel bicycle/pedestrian corridor planned along the KY 33-US 62 Connector Road. The interconnection of this facility with other planned non-motorized facilities such as the inter-park path in western Versailles and new corridors in Southern Versailles was a key issue.

Multi-Criteria Analysis and Evaluation

Analysis criteria based upon the study objectives and the goals established for the TCSP Grant program were used to judge, rank, and select preliminary projects. Projects were selected by how well they met each of the following:

- Involvement and Acceptance by Community Partners
- Integration and Access of Transportation Facilities



- Reduction in Environmental Impacts of Transportation and Land Development
- Minimization of Infrastructure Investment Costs

Development of Implementation Mechanisms

Woodford County has already begun to address the fundamental quality of life issues that promote a more livable community for its residents. **The Community and Transportation System Plan for Southern Versailles** will support and help implement the intent of the community through the creation of a detailed improvement plan for several focus areas in Southern Versailles.

C. Project “Cut Sheets”

The selected projects are categorized by specific study areas. These include:

- The Lexington Road Corridor **Eastern Gateway**
- The Clifton Road/Tyrone Pike Intersection **Western Gateway**
- **The US 62/KY 33 Connector Corridor**
- **The Hometown Road Corridor**

In the following sections of this document each of these study areas is described in detail. A synopsis of applicable meetings and analysis is given to show the process in which goals and projects were defined and selected. The overall concept for each study area is explained, followed by “cut-sheets” that detail projects that will help to achieve the defined goals and desires for each specific area. Each cut sheet explains a single project, giving physical parameters, reasons for the project, conceptual illustrations of the completed project, and a cost estimate. These “cut-sheets” are to be used to request monies for project implementation.

By implementing the projects developed through this study, Woodford County can better prepare to meet the challenges of maintaining a livable community for Southern Versailles.