

## Keith Lovan, the New Chair of KT

As the new Chair of the KY Rails to Trails Council I would like to introduce myself. I have been a member of KY Rails to Trails since 1998 and a board member since 1999. It was through my job as an engineer for the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government that I learned about the Rails to Trails movement. Prior to that I didn't know what a rail trail was. Incidentally, I'm still working on my first project that began 6 years ago and am happy to report that preliminary construction has begun this summer on the Brighton East Rail Trail. I have been to several rail trails within the state including the Muhlenberg Trail, Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail, and the Louisville Riverwalk. I hope to travel to the other rail trails throughout the next year.



I am looking forward to serving in this position and bringing new ideas to the group. I think we are on the cusp of doing great things, and I'm sure that we will make great strides in the development of rail trails across the state in the upcoming year. There is a new administration in the state and things are looking brighter. Several department/cabinet heads and legislators are interested in meeting to discuss the future of Rails to Trails and I will provide more details as things develop. I believe that our message is finally getting through.

First on my agenda as the new chair is to increase our visibility and membership. I feel with a stronger, more active grass roots organization we will get the attention of the decision makers. A one-thousand member organization has more clout than an organization with 250

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## What are Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds?

Every year federal funds called Transportation Enhancements (TE) are allocated to the states to be used for rails to trails, bike/pedestrian projects, scenic and historic beautification, and historic preservation. These federal dollars must be accompanied with a 20% match from the local area. In Kentucky the proposals have been submitted for this year and screened by the KY Department of Transportation. The proposals have now gone to the Governor's office where decisions will be made this fall as to which projects are funded. There are many more proposals than there is money. In the past, the majority of Kentucky's TE funds have gone to non-trail related projects. This is unlike other states where bicycle/pedestrian trails have received a bigger percentage of the dollars.

## Call for Letters in Support of Funding for Shared Use Trails

You can help secure TE funds for shared use trails. Please write a brief letter to the Governor in support of one or all of the bike/ped related projects in the list on the next page. The list includes only the bicycle/ped related projects, not proposals submitted under other categories. In your own words tell your personal story of the value of shared use trails. Key words to consider using include **quality of life, connectivity, linkage, schools, or multiple benefits.**

Send to the governor **by the end of September:**  
Governor Ernie Fletcher  
700 Capital Avenue, Suite 100,  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Below is a sample letter . Use your own phrasing. "Cookie cutter" letters tend to have less impact.

*Dear Governor Fletcher:*

*I write this letter of support of the (Name of Project) , that has been submitted for Transportation Enhancement funding. This proposed trail and greenway pro-*

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ject is in \_\_\_\_\_ County.

This trail will connect adjacent neighborhoods to area shopping and provide residents with a way to get around without cars. It will also be an amenity to the neighborhood not currently available. With greenspace and open space being gobbled up at a rapid pace, protecting this area will benefit all of the residents.

As you know, the Transportation Enhancement program provides funds for transportation facilities throughout Kentucky. In the past Kentucky has spent a very small fraction of its TE funds on bike/pedestrian projects compared to the national average and surrounding states. Walking is the number one exercise recommended for preventing obesity. These funds can provide a place

where people can walk and bike safely.

When it comes to health, you pay now or pay later. If we choose to pay now we will avoid paying later in both dollars and lives. We will also make Kentucky a more desirable place for people to visit and stay. Kentucky is far behind rest of the United States in providing these bike/ped facilities and it is time that we catch up – no longer just for the sake of providing economic opportunity, recreation, and alternative transportation, but for the health and fitness of our citizens.

The benefits of this project in this neighborhood will provide a huge return upon the investment. I urge your support for its funding.

Your name and address

\* \* \* \* \*

### Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects submitted for Transportation Enhancement funding.

COUNTY	FEDERAL TE FUNDS	AGENCY Submitting Proposal	DESCRIPTION
<b>RAIL TRAIL PROJECTS</b>			
Oldham	\$384,277.31	Oldham Fiscal Court	2 mi. Rail Trail LaGrange-Buckner
<b>BIKE PED PROJECTS</b>			
Wayne	\$400,000.00	City of Monticello	6 mi. Ped/Bike Trail connect town, park, schools
Daviess	\$529,600.00	City of Owensboro	2.5 mi. trail completion, connect W Trail
Jefferson	\$1,296,240.00	Loui/Jeff Metro	Phase 3-Ohio River Tr. SW county to downtown 6 mi.
Jefferson	\$742,400.00	Loui/Jeff Metro	Phase 2-Ohio River Trail 2.2 mi. shared use
Christian	\$132,000.00	City of Oak Grove	Phase 2 -Ped/Bike Trail 4000', along KY 115
Fayette	\$64,000.00	Lex. Fayette Urban	Gleneagles 1600' of trail, connect Brighton E Trail
Fayette	\$569,415.00	Lex. Fayette Urban	3.3 mi. Main Chance Trail, connect Coldstream-Ky Horse Pk
Warren	\$369,000.00	Warren Fiscal Court	Safe Routes bike lanes, shared path, sidewalk
Fayette	\$400,000.00	Lex. Fayette Urb. Gov	2500' of WolfRun Trail
Christian	\$30,000.00	Gracey	0.6 Walking/bicycle Trail, Main & Railroad St
Campbell	\$309,665.00	Campbell Co Fiscal Ct	Shared Use Trail, Melbourne to Silver Grove
Lyon	\$52,500.00	City of Eddyville	Bike & Walking , connect City to Park
Lyon	\$100,000.00	City of Kuttawa	Phase 2 - .8 mi. gravel and Asphalt Trail
Kenton	\$575,147.44	City of Ft. Wright	Ped/Bike Trail, connect pk to Sanitation Dist. Pub Service Pk
Fayette	\$145,000.00	Lex.Fayette Urb Gov	3 segments to complete multimodal network - 3800'
Franklin	\$84,750.00	Franklin Co Fiscal Ct	Steadmantown multiuse walkway 4,200'
Whitley	\$324,400.00	City of Corbin	70' railway bridge to Ped/Bike Bridge over creek
Meade	\$106,880.00	City of Brandenburg	Buttermilk Falls Trail Enhancement
Kenton	\$381,800.00	City of Ft. Mitchell	Ped/Bike overpass
Jessamine	\$141,776.00	City of Wilmore	1.1 Wilmore Cent Park Perimeter shared us trail
Hart	\$304,600.00	Hart Co. Fiscal Court	2.25 mi pedestrian trail
Pulaski	\$131,289.99	City of Science Hill	2.1 mi. of sidewalk along KY 635
Leslie	\$240,000.00	City of Hyden	Downtown Hyden PedWay Project
Jefferson	\$32,000.00	City of Brownsboro Farm	Pathway through the Park, landscape, lights

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members. In order to increase our membership I believe that we need to provide more benefits.

I would like to offer our members a discount at various retail establishments throughout the state. This, of course, would require us to issue membership cards. I have spoken with several bike shops, running shops, and fitness clubs that would be willing to give a discount to active members. I would also like to solicit support from businesses by including advertisements in the newsletter. Additionally, we could offer bumper stickers, discounts to our conferences and maybe a coupon for certain purchases.

I would also like to welcome our new board members. Ben Bishop is from Villa Hills and represents Northern Kentucky and Cheryl Wyatt, from Lexington, represents Central Kentucky. Todd Geddes is a board member at large from Louisville. Jeanette Coufal from Lexington is our new Vice Chair of Finance, and Joe Bramer, from Lexington, joined us in January as our new Treasurer. I would also like to thank Bob Strosnider, our past Chair, for his many years of service as Chair of Kentucky Rails to Trails Council. His energy and expertise will be missed. However I know that as he continues his work for the Lexington Big Sandy Rail Trail in Carter County he will always be available to help Kentucky Rails to Trails. We all wish him well in his new endeavors.

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## ON THE TRAIL OF GREEN GOVERNORS

by Pam Droog Jones, Rails to Trails Magazine, Fall, 2004

“CALL THEM GREEN. They are governors who advocate, build and/or use trails, including rail-trails. Some take a user’s approach to trails, such as Bob Taft (R-Ohio), who bicycles on a trail near the governor’s residence every day, or Tim Pawlenty (R-Minn.), who runs and skates on trails near his home in Egan, Minn. Others, such as Jennifer Granholm (D-Mich.), Jeb Bush (R-Fla.) and Ted Kulongoski (D-Ore.), use trails less often but have been just as successful in enabling trails to thrive. Granholm has launched three initiatives that encompass the statewide trail system, Bush’s Florida Forever land acquisition program assures future trail development in his state and Kulongoski’s love of the outdoors has boosted statewide interest in recreational trails and waterways.

All of these governors are making a real difference in the trail-related activities and services their states offer today and will be able to offer in years to come.”

## Possible Rail Abandonment in Eastern Kentucky

In June, the Kentucky Rails To Trails Council received a notice from the Division of Multimodal Programs in the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet that there was the possibility of a prime opportunity for a rail trail project in Eastern KY. They had notification that the R.J. Corman Company was planning to file for an abandonment of 36 miles of continuous track in Magoffin, Breathitt and Johnson Counties. This abandonment would be from Milepost 0.05 in Dawkins in Johnson County to Milepost 36.13 in Evanston in Breathitt County. The railroad right of way (ROW) passes south of Salyersville in Magoffin County and at the northern end it is slightly east and south of Paintsville in Johnson County, approximately 10 miles from Jenny Wiley State Park. A meeting was held in August at the Magoffin Courthouse with the Judge Executives of the three counties. In attendance were Judge Executive Robert Daniel (Johnson), Judge Executive Bill May (Magoffin), Judge Executive Lewis Warrix (Breathitt), Keith Lovan from Kentucky Rails To Trails Council, Paula Nye, the state bike/pedestrian coordinator and Lisa Brownwell from the KY Transportation Center and a member of Kentucky Rails To Trails Council.

It would not be the typical flat rail trail. Lisa described one of the features of the RR right of way as a steady incline up to a tunnel with a grade of no more than two percent over a couple of a miles. The Virginia Creeper trail in Virginia was described as steeper; in places it has a seven percent grade. Small county place names that are on the line are Tiptop, Caver Station, Carver, Sublett, Royalton, Marhsallville, Ivyton, Riceville, Swamp Branch, Dobson, Leander, Denver, Collista, and Hagerhill. It parallels sections of Kentucky Roads 542, 1635, 867 and 825. Most of the surroundings are farms and woodlands according to the maps.

At the meeting the County Execs were reported to be positive. R. J. Corman has not yet abandoned the ROW, however this action is expected. The ROW still has tracks. At the meeting Kentucky Rails To Trails Council was asked to assist in railbanking the right of way on behalf of the counties. Also discussed was developing a three county recreational authority so the three counties could manage the trail together.

### Kentucky Rail Trail Council Members

Please renew your membership for the 2004 calendar year if you have not already. Many of you have been generous in the past which has been of much benefit. We need ongoing income from dues & donations to keep putting the message out that railtrails are a good investment for our communities. We do a lot with very little, due to dedicated volunteers. We could do so much more.



## KY Rails to Trails' Entry

Kentucky Rails to Trails Council participated in Lexington's Red, White & Blue Festival on July third and had a great success. Our presence was seen and heard by all who attended the parade. Who could miss the bells and whistles of Jodie Well's "Truckomotive". Signs for KY Rails to Trails, Bluegrass Rails to Trails (BRTF) and Daniel Boone Rails to Trails (DBRT, Morehead) were displayed. An unbiased observer commented that the "engine horn was loud but effective."

A special thanks to Jodie Wells, the owner/engineer of the "truckomotive" and her copilots James Smith and James Bersot. Thanks also to Kris and Eddie Farrey who did a super great job in putting our entry together. The crowd especially enjoyed seeing the old time Penny Farthing bicycle from Pedal the Planet Bicycles wheeling along the parade route.

Despite the heat and humidity we had 32 participants who gathered and enjoyed the wait for the parade to begin and then walked or rode behind the truckomotive. There was a roller blader, a runner, a hiker, a recumbent, two tandems, a variety of other bikes, a family with small kids in a stroller, a wheeled bicycle with a roof! and a wheelchair. Thanks to the following who participated with a variety of hiking, running, biking, and blading gear to complete our parade entry: Keith Lovan, Dixie Moore, Eddie & Kris Farrey, Matthew Schuler, Terry Foody, Christopher Rowe, Gwenda Bond, Andrew Plant, Mark & Wendy Trimble, Lauren Foster, Bill Daniels, Lisa Brownell, Tim, Lisa, Zach, Quincy & Teresa Powell, Dennis-Chrisi & Christopher Karounos, Pam Mueller, Jeff & Wanda McGuffey, Doug Green, Sammy & Lisa Carter, and Elizabeth Broaddus.

**Winchester** — Kenny Book reports the city of Winchester has hired a civil engineer to do the surveying of the first mile of RT in Winchester this fall for which they have a \$39,800 grant. This is the first step to acquiring easements. The city has \$39,800 for the match in their budget this year. Winchester has also gotten a \$50,000 grant from the Department of Local Government Recreational Trails for a bikeway/walkway to Lykens Park from Mutual Ave and Mt. Sterling Rd. The match for that project has also been budgeted. The

## A Kentucky Rails to Trails License Plate

The Kentucky Rails to Trails Council is moving toward having a Kentucky Rail to Trails specialty license plate. Kris and Eddie Farrey have created a first draft version of a plate (see below). The state requires 900 people to sign a statement indicating their willingness to buy the plate and to send in a \$25.00 check before they will make a plate to purchase. The check is held and is applied toward the price of the plate. Members in favor of the license plate believe there are enough supporters of RT to get the necessary 900 people to commit even with the possible overlapping of supporters for a "Share the Road" plate that is being promoted by a cycling enthusiast. Twenty one specialty plates are listed on the Motor Vehicle Licensing System website. There are plates for Child Victim, Historic Vehicle, Spay/Neuter, Volunteer Firefighter, KY Horse Council (the familiar colt), Ducks Unlimited, and Masonic among others. The nature license plates continues to be the most popular specialty plates offered in Kentucky. The viceroy butterfly nature license plate has surpassed all expectations and it is



possible that the sales of all three nature license plates will exceed \$1 million in the upcoming year.

Paula Nye, the bike/pedestrian coordinator, explained that HB 172 which did not pass during the last legislative session and will probably be reintroduced during the January 2005 session could impact how license plates are used. HB 172 provides that any NEW special license plate will only raise funds if the person purchasing the plate makes a voluntary contribution to the organization that is promoting the plate. Current specialty plates will continue to generate funds, but new ones will only generate funds if voluntary contributions are made to the county clerk at the time the plate is purchased. If this bill is passed then the value of the license plate would be primarily advertising.

As members and supporters of Railtrails in Kentucky please let the Council know if you want Kentucky Rails to Trails to have a specialty license plate. You can call Keith Lovan at 859-258-3478 or Dixie Moore at 859-266-5532.

northeast bypass will have wide shoulders for a bikeway. It will run from Maple Street to Irvine Road, Route 89, It should be ready this fall.

## Legislative Meeting

Representatives from Kentucky Rails To Trails met with the Interim Joint Committee on Economic Development and Tourism on 7/15/04 in Frankfort. Sandy Shafer was contacted as the government liaison from Kentucky Rails to Trails by the Legislative Research Council to discuss rail trails and to identify the obstacles for RT in KY. Sandy Shafer, Bill Gorton, Lisa Brownell and Keith Lovan represented Kentucky Rails to Trails. The Chairs of the Committee are Senator Katie Stine from Fort Thomas (Senate District 24) and Representative Eddie Ballard from Madisonville (District 10). CSX also had two people in attendance to discuss the Lexington - Big Sandy Project. Kentucky Rails To Trails asked for a full time coordinator for RT, a state agency specified to support RT, support for a pilot project and more balanced TE funding for RT.

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## Pavers to recognize RT Supporters

It is appropriate to recognize the volunteers, contributors and donors that make a railtrail possible. One idea is to use engraved pavers laid into a trail or trail head. Phyllis Hasbrouck researched where the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council might recommend local groups to buy pavers for promotions and recognitions. She spoke with Betsy Adler, the Executive Director of the Friends of McConnell Springs in Lexington and to the suppliers and contractors that they used to get their pavers. It was recommended that we not use concrete bricks, instead red or lighter colored pavers were favored. Pressed pavers come in different colors. A 20 x 20 ft section, 400 sq feet, would take about 2000 4"x8" pavers. Pavers are approximately 70 cents each and with hauling charges come to about \$1.50 per paver. Recommended is to figure \$15.00 cost per 4"x8" paver for work involved, engraving, cost of installation, etc. Approximate total cost for an installed 8"x8" paver would be \$30.00. A 4"x8" paver can have 2 lines of text, 14 characters long including spaces.

An article about the pavers at McConnell Springs is in their summer 2004 newsletter and on their website at [http://www.mcconnellsprings.org/images/Newsletter\\_2004\\_Summer.pdf](http://www.mcconnellsprings.org/images/Newsletter_2004_Summer.pdf). Pavers can also be seen at the Kentucky High School Athletics Bldg. on Winchester Road in Lexington and on sidewalks in Georgetown. More detailed information on suppliers and contractors in the Lexington area is in the June 2004 minutes of the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council on the website, [www.KYRailTrail.org](http://www.KYRailTrail.org).

**Tyrone Bridge and Rail Company** — Kentucky Rails To Trails paid the filing fee of \$300 to extend the deadline for the railbanking of the Tyrone Bridge and Rail Company

## Muhlenberg County RT Survey

Lisa Brownell polled the users on the still new Muhlenberg RT in western KY on a recent Saturday. Most of the people in her sample were walkers and most used the trail at least once a week or more. Their comments follow.



(picture of the Muhlenberg RT, 2004)

**What is your or your family's favorite part of the trail?** walking, lights for night, the lighted portion, all of it, just the walking, something you can all do it together, all of it, kids can ride bike, kids like railroad car, can walk without worry of cars and no hills, smooth walking, first mile, Greenville end.

**What would you like to see improved or changed about the trail?** nothing (6 times), restrooms (4 times), more benches, more lights, trail widened, sometimes bicycles take over, crossing needs caution lights, a fountain

**Comments:** You can actually walk or ride a bike and not worry about the traffic...I enjoy the trail... Money well spent... Would like to see more of the trail lighted....Bike riders need bells when they come up behind you. You cannot hear them from behind. ...I like it fine... It's a real good trail...I enjoy it...They (older couple) use the trail all year round. He walks almost every day in winter but not as much when it's hot.

**Morehead** —April Haight of the Daniel Boone RT group Morehead reports that the required survey is finally complete. They ran into trouble with a piece of property that the City of Morehead thought they owed, but didn't-- KY Department Of Highways does. The surveyor is putting the drawings together now. They still have their grants for some of the bridges. They need to negotiate access over a restricted drainageway which they are assured will happen.



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Kentucky Rails To Trails Council, Inc. is a 501 © (3) non-profit tax-exempt organization founded in 1995. The purpose of the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council tis to “foster and facilitate the conservation of greenways and rail rights of ways in Kentucky by the conversion of such holdings to trail use for the general public.”

Contributions and dues are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

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**Kentucky Rails to Trails Council, Inc.**  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION , DONATION &/or RENEWAL for 2004**

- \$ 15 Individual     
  \$ 25 Family     
  \$ 50 Patron     
  \$ 100 Benefactor  
 \$ 250 Engineer     
  \$ 500 Trail Blazer     
  \$1000 Golden Spike     
  \$5000 Corporate/Partner  
 Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_     
 [ ] Address Correction

*I am making an additional donation of \_\_\_\_\_ to: (check one)*

- Bluegrass Rails Trails Foundation (Fayette, Clark & Montgomery Co.)     
  Daniel Boone Rails-To-Trails (Rowan Co)  
 Greenways of Oldham Co. (Oldham Co.)     
  High Bridge Rail Trail (Jessamine Co)  
 Lake Cumberland Trail Foundation (Pulaski Co)     
  Muhlenberg County RT  
 Pennyryle Rails to Trails Foundation (Henderson Co).     
  Tyrone Bridge & Rail Trail  
 Local Project in \_\_\_\_\_

(If no amount indicated, the donation will go to a local group if marked minus \$15 for KT’s general expenses.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: H W C \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Kentucky Rails to Trails Council is always in need of volunteers, e.g. writing newsletter articles, being an officer or board member, , fundraising, giving presentations, contacting landowners, checking maps, web site design, letter stuffing.       I would like to volunteer with KT.*

**Please make check payable and mail to: Kentucky Rails to Trails Council, Inc.**  
**Post Office Box 597, Lexington, KY 40588-0597**