



TRANSPORTATION

- **I-169 Upgrades:** Secure funding for the upgrades of the Breathitt Pennyriple Parkway. We are asking for funding for upgrades of two areas of the Pennyriple Parkway be a priority for the state transportation department. The upgrades would bring the parkway up to interstate standards. With the Pennyriple Parkway opened to Interstate 24, it will be a natural traffic pattern for those going south to stay on a parkway to Interstate 24. It will also enhance the traffic patterns along the new Interstate 69 designated route as well.
 - KY 1682 Interchange was a toll location with low speed ramps. There is currently 3M in NH funding in the current highway plan (in the out years). We believe another 3M is needed for this upgrade as it should be constructed with an existing right of way.
 - US 62 (Nortonville Exit) – insufficient southbound merge taper. Options are to widen the bridge or fill in the bridge and make taper longer.
- **Transportation Funding:** Supports legislation to ensure adequate and consistent long-term funding for transportation infrastructure, including the potential for a gas tax increase, for all modes of transportation at both the state and federal levels to aid in attracting new businesses and retaining existing businesses in the Commonwealth, to connect Kentucky businesses to national and international markets, and to allow our citizens to have safe, reliable access to education and employment.

The Issue:

Kentucky's transportation network of roads, airports, rivers, and railroads connect Kentucky businesses to the national and international marketplace by providing multiple safe, cost-effective ways to move goods and deliver services.

- The Kentucky Chamber's recent infrastructure report noted that 8% of all Kentucky roads are in poor condition (including 16% of major urban roads) and motorists incur an average of \$331 in costs from driving roads on roads in need of repair. In addition with \$2 billion in needed repairs, Kentucky ranks 19th nationally in the number of deficient bridges.
- More than \$500 billion in freight flows through Kentucky annually and transportation brings in tourists and visitors, who contribute almost \$14.5 billion to our economy.
- A national decline in the average wholesale gas prices resulted in a \$200 million recurring annual loss for Kentucky.
- Kentucky will lose \$110 million in toll credits that served as matching funds for federal dollars by 2020. These tolls were collected to assist in paying for the construction of Kentucky's parkways.
- In addition, more than \$150 million each year is diverted from the road fund to other agencies.
- There are currently more than 1,100 significant transportation projects that need to be completed, according to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. These projects—both statewide and regional—compete for \$2.6 billion in current funds, which is several billion dollars less than what is needed.

TAX REFORM

- **Elimination of the Personal State Income Tax.** We support modernizing Kentucky's tax code to help grow Kentucky's economy and give the Commonwealth a competitive edge in recruiting a strong and vibrant workforce. Kentucky falls short of its neighbors when compared to Indiana, Tennessee, Missouri and West Virginia in the state business tax climate index according to the Tax Foundation. We support a tax reform that would give Kentucky a competitive advantage to recruit industry, create jobs and encourage more people to call Kentucky home.
- **Give Kentuckians the right to vote on local projects via the local option sales tax.** We endorse the idea of changing the state Constitution allowing the local option sales tax which gives voters the opportunity to decide whether they want to pay for new projects by giving them the right to vote - up or down - on projects and their costs.
- **Restaurant Tax.** Give all cities in Kentucky the right to impose a restaurant tax not just 4th and 5th class cities. Revenue from the tax could go towards quality of life projects in our local communities.
- **Be competitive on business-related tax.** We encourage elected officials to analyze potential revenue measures, including the local option sales tax, to determine its potential impact on necessary public investments while avoiding policies that could serve as disincentives to private-sector employment and investment. It is imperative that we create and maintain a tax climate that is strongly competitive to other local, regional, and state markets.
- **Support policies and infrastructure that will promote growth.** It is critical that we continue to push for population growth as population increases drive economic development and business growth. According to recent reports, consumer spending is responsible for 70% of the nation's economy. More consumers will equal more business opportunities.



K-12 EDUCATION

- **Consistent Accountability System:** Kentucky's accountability system has grown more complicated through the years. We support an accountability system that is simplistic and helps schools that are not performing as well as they should be, especially when it comes to closing the gaps that persist between the academic achievement levels of different groups of students. We support an accountability system that:
 - Set meaningful, ambitious goals for student performance
 - Give us clear information about how different groups of students in a school are performing and making progress
 - Identify schools that need targeted or comprehensive support to improve how they serve groups of students.
- **Fund Full Day Preschool:** Kentucky must invest in early childhood education and make greater investments in enhanced child-care programs for Kentucky's developing youth. Efforts to fully fund all-day kindergarten equitably statewide are encouraged.

FUNDING FOR WORKFORCE PROGRAMS

- **Create Pathways:** More funding opportunities are needed to provide an efficient pipeline from various sectors of the community to the workforce. This would include opportunities for students, soldiers separating from the military and low-income residents looking to transition into the workforce. Kentucky would need to add more than 165,000 people to the workforce to reach the national average participation rate of 62.7% (as

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Energy:** Investment in energy infrastructure is critical for the state's long-term approach for a balanced energy portfolio. The Chamber supports efforts to promote manufacturing of energy efficient and alternative energy products. With the passage by Kentucky to lift the state's nuclear moratorium, we support funding to advance new nuclear energy technologies, including the manufacturing of small modular reactors, as well as efforts to re-industrialize the Paducah DOE site utilizing these and other opportunities.
- **Tourism:** Supports adoption of policies and programs that allow the tourism industry, which has a major impact on Kentucky's economy, to flourish; encourages investment in critical tourism marketing and infrastructure; and development of initiatives that encourage growth in a community's existing tourism assets and the attraction and creation of new opportunities. Local communities throughout the state could benefit from initiatives to grow targeted tourism sectors, such as the state's signature distilling industry, and to attract new distilleries.
- **Broadband:** Supports efforts to ensure the State continues to remove barriers to expand widespread wireless and broadband investments in the Commonwealth and opposes policies at the state and federal levels that would impede or hamper investment in digital infrastructure.

ENCOURAGE LEGALIZATION OF ETHANOL(E15) IN KENTUCKY

Ethanol (E15) has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for light duty vehicle model year 2001 and newer flex-fuel vehicles. While this fuel can play an important role in reducing our dependency on foreign oil, it also has a direct positive impact to our community, as 40% of the corn crop in Christian County is processed into Ethanol. This fuel is currently sold in 16 states, including 4 bordering states to Kentucky. We support the legalization of E15 in the state of Kentucky.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



2800 Fort Campbell Blvd., Hopkinsville, KY 42240

(270) 885-9096

www.christiancountychamber.com

