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Contact: Everett Wilson  
Project Manager  
(270)-522-0720

## **Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Awards 48.4 Million Highway Contract in Trigg County**

*Project to reconstruct US 68/KY 80 between the Bridges at the Land Between the Lakes*

PADUCAH, KY ( November 27, 2007) – The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has awarded a \$48.4 million dollar contract to the Rogers Group, Inc. in Hopkinsville, KY to reconstruct 8.0 miles of US 68 at the Land Between the Lakes. This project award is unique as contractors competed for the opportunity to design and construct the project. The Rogers Team consisting of Haydon Brothers Contracting located in Springfield, KY will construct the roadway foundation and drainage; Scott and Murphy, Inc. located in Bowling Green, KY will construct the bridges; Qk4 located in Louisville, KY will provide the roadway and bridge design; and the Rogers Group, Inc. will provide the stone and construct the pavement.

This contract is the first in an overall improvement of US 68 from Aurora to the Cadiz Bypass in Marshall and Trigg Counties. The finished roadway will be two lanes in each direction and will include a full Diamond Interchange at US 68 and KY 453 (the Trace). In the last six months the Rogers Team has been working to complete the final design in accordance with an Environmental Document approved by the Federal Highway Administration in October of 2006. This design has included extensive coordination with the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service to assure minimal adverse impact to the land and streams within the Land Between the Lakes. In addition to the Forest Service, coordination and permit applications with the United States Corps of Engineers and the Tennessee Valley Authority have been a major activity. As a result, construction has begun on the west bound bridge over the Trace. Scott and Murphy, Inc. has begun driving piling as a part of the foundation for the new bridge. Clearing for the roadway improvement has begun also. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has purchased the rights from the Forest Service to remove the timber from the roadway permanent easement to make way for the new highway. "This first phase of construction should not impact traffic flow on US 68," said Greg Lynch, Construction Manager for the Rogers Group. " In fact, except for minor occasions during non-peak periods, two lanes of traffic will be maintained during the entire construction period," he added.

Everett Wilson, Project Manager for the Transportation Cabinet, said "the Rogers Group, Inc. in cooperation with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the Forest Service has prepared a public awareness procedure to advise the local and regional motorist, the Land Between the Lakes visitors, and potential future visitors of construction and traffic

maintenance impacts.” The plan is to give the local media advanced notice of all traffic lane shifts. In addition to the media, local officials, emergency agencies, 911 center, welcome centers, and tourism centers will be contacted. The Forest Service and the Transportation Cabinet will have links to a web site maintained by the Rogers Group, Inc., [www.US68LBL.com](http://www.US68LBL.com). The public is encouraged to visit this site for updates on the construction status.

Greg Lynch said “scheduling of construction during the winter months is difficult since earth moving is highly dependent on the weather. If the weather cooperates, there should be major construction activity at US 68 and KY 453 beginning in late January.” “ The remaining portions of the construction will begin in the spring.”

If anyone has questions or comments concerning the construction, Everett Wilson, KYTC Project Manager, can be reached at 270-522-0720.

