



**LEXINGTON - FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
Department of Planning, Preservation & Development  
Division of Engineering

Jim Gray  
Mayor

Derek J. Paulsen, Ph.D.  
Commissioner

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Jim Gray, Mayor  
Urban County Council

From: Derek J. Paulsen, Ph.D., Commissioner  
Department of Planning, Preservation and Development

Date: June 21, 2013

Re: West Fourth Street  
Conversion to two-way operation

*ABF 6/24/13*

The Department of Planning, Preservation and Development requests that the Urban County Council give formal approval to the conversion of West Fourth Street between Jefferson Street and Newtown Pike from one-way traffic movement to two-way operation. We believe this is in the public's best interest for four reasons:

First, redevelopment of the prior Eastern State Hospital property on Newtown Pike into a new campus for Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) has resulted in numerous changes to the surrounding street system. One of the modifications the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is making is the addition of a campus entrance from West Fourth Street. This entrance will provide the most utility if it provides ingress and egress from both directions.

Second, just to the east of the BCTC property, Transylvania University is redeveloping several properties into athletic facilities, offices and other uses. Access to these facilities, as well as interactions between them and BCTC could most easily be facilitated via a two-way street.

Third, in conjunction with the Fourth Street improvements associated with BCTC, the state has made funds available to the Urban County Government to continue improvements along Fourth Street, east of the BCTC project area. A separate request is before you to approve a reimbursement agreement with Transylvania University, for certain hardscape improvements that will be jointly funded by Transylvania and LFUCG. The improvements addressed by the agreement will allow us to upgrade pedestrian and bicycle facilities, which again would be optimally utilized in a two-way capacity.

**H O R S E   C A P I T A L   O F   T H E   W O R L D**

Fourth, preliminary findings of the *Downtown Lexington Traffic Movement and Revitalization Study* indicate that this section of Fourth Street could be converted to two-way operation with minimal downside.

Exact timing of an actual conversion is uncertain, since it is dependent on culmination of construction by four entities. If the Council should resolve to pass this conversion, we would suggest that it be approved effective as of a certain date, with the understanding that it would be implemented somewhat later this year, when all pieces are in place.

DJP:RAB:MD

C: Derek J. Paulsen, Ph.D.; Richard Moloney; Brad Frazier, P.E.; Bob Bayert, P.E.

2013.P625.403.Fourth Street Conversion