

OLDHAM AHEAD

Organization seeks capital improvement plan for county

By Nathaniel Kissel
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Oldham Ahead wants the county to look to the future.

The group has released a white paper explaining its hope that the county can create a capital improvement plan to detail its goals for the future. A white paper puts out an idea for discussion and perhaps implementation, said Doug Wampler, executive director of the organization.

Oldham Ahead — which promotes wise land use within the county that results in the preservation of green spaces, as well as additional recreation opportunities and enhanced quality of life for all residents of the county — said a capital improvement plan is needed in Oldham County.

According to the paper, a capital improvement plan is a five- to six-year project that is used “to identify needed capital projects and to coordinate the financing and timing of public improvements.” Such a project is called for in the county’s comprehensive plan.

The plan can be a tool to help prioritize major expenditures and identify costs, and it can be changed as needed. It can serve to inform residents, streamline the budgeting process, promote coordination among agencies and help secure financing and loans.

“The purpose of the CIP is to collectively forecast and plan for the funding of the county’s long-term capital improvement needs to maximize the delivery of service to our citizens,” according to the document.

The capital improvement plan doesn’t take away responsibilities from fiscal court and the judge-executive, according to the document, but instead asks that

they plan their needs out as far as possible and share results.

Wampler said Oldham Ahead was prompted to develop the white paper because the county is among the fastest growing in the state. This results in financial pressure to meet the rising expectations of residents on quality of life issues, he said.

Capital improvement plans were an important part of the 2002 comprehensive plan in the budgeting process, Wampler said. Additionally, there were eight planning areas in the county that would develop their own area plans for long-range goals.

Wampler said the goal is to get the discussion back on the table, and get people talking about a plan.

“It only makes sense for everyone to understand the long-term plans of the county,” he said.

Wampler said most of the feedback on the white paper has been positive, though some might be afraid that it’s too complicated to implement.

The concept is simple, he said, and after the initial work, it’s easy to maintain.

Oldham County Judge-Executive Mary Ellen Kinser said she has signed a request to the Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency for funding to write a CIP for transportation in Oldham County, and Oldham County Fiscal Court has approved the application.

The transportation CIP will be a model for the KIPDA region she said, and will lay the groundwork for additional plans needed by the county for a five-year infrastructure plan.

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