

Beshear breaks ground for bypass extension/First phase should be completed in 2011

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Published: Wednesday, September 9, 2009 5:04 PM CDT

Messenger-Inquirer

"There's no place in Kentucky that has more going on right now than you all," Gov. Steve Beshear told a crowd gathered at Meadow Lands Elementary School today to watch him break ground for the first 2.3 miles of the long-awaited U.S. 60/U.S. 231 bypass extension.

He was talking about the \$120 million worth of construction planned for downtown Owensboro and a new \$385-million hospital planned between Daniels Lane and Pleasant Valley Road as well as the \$37.6-million road project.

When completed, the bypass extension will become part of a new, four-lane corridor from Owensboro to I-64 at Dale, Ind. The new four-lane roads in Kentucky and Indiana will connect I-64 and I-65 along U.S. 231 and the Natcher Parkway.

The Indiana part is scheduled for completion in 2011 — the same year the first phase of the bypass extension is to be completed.

No timetable has been set for the start of the second phase. But Yager Materials of Owensboro is set to begin working on the first phase, which will extend from Kentucky 144 to U.S. 60 East near Hawesway Truck Plaza.

When the project is completed, the highway will extend from the Hawesway Truck Plaza to Kentucky 54.