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Work on new Boone road starts this summer

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Boone County plans to start construction on its new South Airfield Road this summer.

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The new four-lane divided highway would be along the southern border of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport.

The road would connect Turfway Road to a realigned Oakbrook Road. A two-lane connector road would tie the new road to Houston Road across from Woodspoint Drive in Florence. The connector road would have turns lanes at Houston Road and the main South Airfield Road, according to County Administrator Jeff Earlywine.

He said the county hopes to bid this summer and actually start construction sometime in mid to late summer. The main project (Ky. 18 to Turfway Road) would be completed by late 2012.

Earlywine said officials believe the new road will reduce traffic and congestion on the Ky. 18 corridor as one drives eastbound into the Florence area.

Construction would cost \$16.6 million.

Earlywine said the county is within \$1 million of being fully funded for the main project. He said the county hopes to find an additional funding resource or that bids come in below cost. Also, he said the county could do some alternate provisions in the bid to make up the million dollars.

Included in \$16.6 million is \$2.8 million for the connector road. The county still needs the money for the connector road. Earlywine said the county is searching for funding to underwrite that portion.

The project's total cost is about \$19 million to \$20 million, Earlywine said. Most of the project's funding is coming from the federal government. The county has spent some local money on the project.

The county plans to give the road to the state to own and maintain.

The Boone County Fiscal Court on March 2 unanimously approved hiring Connico Inc. of Mount Juliet, Tenn., to oversee the project. The county received proposals from 11 firms.

Connico's past work included the relocation of Ky. 20, according to Assistant County Administrator Robin Curry. Burlington resident David Hunley, Connico's vice president, will be the project's resident construction manager. The firm has an office on Hebron Park Drive in Hebron.
