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Ribbon cut on Hebron road project

BY MARK HANSEL • MHANSEL@NKY.COM • JUNE 10, 2010

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Gov. Steve Beshear was in Boone County again Thursday, his third visit to the Northern Kentucky county in less than a month.

Beshear was in Hebron for a ceremony signaling the completion of a \$31 million road project along the North Bend Road retail corridor. He then headed to Gateway Community and Technical College in Florence to tour the new Advanced Manufacturing Building on its campus and tout more than 400 new manufacturing jobs that are coming to the county.

Beshear also attended the groundbreaking for the \$13 million Mall Road reconstruction project in Florence on May 14 and returned on May 20 to present a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant check to Florence

officials for a proposed senior center.

The road construction project involved extensive renovation of the section of North Bend Road (Ky. 237) between Litton/Medical Arts Drive and Kara Lane. The project also included the widening of the Interstate 275 interchange to five lanes, ramp improvements and an upgrade of the bridge over the interstate.

"Without these roads, communities will stagnate," Beshear said. "This is an investment in the future of our state."

The project has taken more than four years to complete and business owners along the corridor have suffered as motorists avoided the area because of the resulting traffic disruptions.

Boone County Judge-executive Gary Moore said the county wants to begin working with the newly formed Hebron Business Association to plan events that will draw people back to the area.

"We've got an event coming up called Roundabout Hebron and we're going to have some promotions and other activities," Moore said. "We want to remind people that the road is complete and we want to do what we can to support the businesses here."

Beshear credited Boone County officials with putting up \$1 million 10 years ago to jumpstart the project.

"These projects don't just happen," Beshear said. "But when local folks step up and make a commitment like the Boone County Fiscal Court did, it makes a difference."

Also attending the ceremony were John Mok, chief executive officer for the Kenton County Airport Board at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport; state Rep. Sal Santoro R-Florence; and Andrew Aiello, general manager of Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky.

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