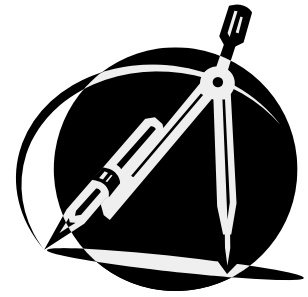


The Compass



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From the Desk of Bill Viox

You can call me the eternal optimist, but I see the economy headed up. It is not just because there are ten Fortune 500 companies and an international airport based here in the Greater Cincinnati region. Nor is it just because the University of Cincinnati pumps \$3 billion into our economy each year. And it is not because of the promising Informatics program at Northern Kentucky University or the new beautiful Bank of Kentucky Center. Add to those facts that approximately 11,000 people each day reach the legal voting age; Great schools, great region = Great place to live and work!

Actually, I am an engineer and not an economist. I have dealt with infrastructure all of my career. The state of local

infrastructure is the way I measure the state of the local economy. Jim and I can remember many potential clients inquiring about land in our area. The questions are always the same: "Where is the public water? Where is the public sewer? How are the schools? Are they going to fix the roads?" In many cases, the answer was, "Well, uh, we hope the infrastructure improves soon..."

So, why do I think the economy is on an upswing? Just look around; the cities, the counties, KY Transportation Cabinet, sewer authorities, water authorities, etc. have all stepped up to the plate. Our public agencies are creating a foundation for successful growth. They are making it

easier for elected and appointed officials to sell our region to companies, both large and small, who are looking for a home. This region is a place where employees want to live and work. Already this winter, our office has had a larger than expected number of requests for residential plot plans. Surely this is an early indication that the housing market is starting to come back.

All of the orange barrels which showed up in 2009 and will continue to appear in 2010 just make me smile. Everything will be just fine, wait and see. After all, the Bengals made the playoffs this year and the Wildcats are winning; that has to be an good omen for something!

Bids Received on Dixie Highway Streetscape Project

Dixie Highway will soon get a much-needed facelift. The Dixie Highway Pedestrian Facilities and Scenic Beautification Project is a federally funded Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century grant (TEA-21). TEA-21 grants focus on improving intermodal transportation. The grant for this project was awarded to both the Cities of Erlanger and Elsmere. The project limits for this phase of the Dixie Highway improvements are Graves Avenue to Vine Street in Erlanger and Elsmere.

As part of the improvements, the sidewalks on both sides of the highway will be

reconstructed to conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act. The sidewalks will also have in-ground planters with perennials, decorative hardscape, and decorative street lights to add to the aesthetic appeal of the corridor. Safety will be improved with the addition of a signalized crosswalk at Bartlett Avenue, which leads directly to Tichenor Middle School and Lloyd High School.

Bids for the project were opened on January 19th and construction is expected to start in late March.

Funding for Phase two has been applied for through the City of Erlanger. Phase two will include the area between Graves Avenue north to the railroad overpass in Erlanger.



Conceptual photograph of Dixie Highway streetscape improvements in area south of Graves Ave. intersection

Mall Road Reconstruction Heats Up

The City of Florence has pushed the long-awaited reconstruction of Mall Road into full gear. After meeting with local citizens and business owners at several community workshops over the course of many years, the City gave the go-ahead for the initial design phase to begin. The City's Engineer, Viox & Viox, is in

Phase 2 of the project will include the area from Plaza Boulevard to U.S. 42. This portion of the project is currently scheduled to bid in November 2010 and construction will begin in late winter/early spring of 2011. Phase 2 construction should wrap up by the summer of 2011.

the 35 mph road. To correct this problem, the lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet, which is more consistent to the speed limit. Several other traffic-flow improvements will be made including the addition of a new traffic signal at the intersection of Mall Road and Plaza Boulevard. Traffic signals will be placed on a new computerized synchronization system.

A welcome feature of many shoppers will be the addition of 10 foot sidewalks on both sides of Mall Road. The paths will be wide enough to accommodate both pedestrian and bike traffic. The paths will also feature benches and trash receptacles.

Travelers along the Mall Road corridor will also notice more "green elements". Mall Road will include landscaped median strips, street trees, and bioswales — landscape elements designed to remove silt and pollution from surface runoff water. Other improvements include new way-finding signage and improved street lighting.

This project is being funded by the Commonwealth of Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Department of Highways and the City of Florence. The funds are made possible by the 2009 Kentucky General Assembly House Bill 330.



Portion of the Mall Road Concept Plan (from Plaza Boulevard to Cayton Road). Plan shows improved landscaping, new sidewalks, and improved signalization.

charge of the design.

The reconstruction project will be completed in two phases. Phase I will include the area from KY 18 (Burlington Pike) to Plaza Boulevard. Phase I will be ready to bid in April 2010 with construction to begin shortly thereafter. The plan is for all major construction to be completed by late October 2010, before holiday shopping commences.

The overall concept of the project includes traffic flow improvements, new signage, sidewalks, and beautification elements. In addition, current bus stop locations will be landscaped and bus pull-off lanes will be added. As a separate project, a TANK bus transfer station will be placed at Heights Boulevard.

One concern that was heard from both the City and concerned citizens was the tendency for speeding cars on

Employee Happenings

Winter Birthdays

Ryan Hartig - Dec. 6
Vince Kahmann - Dec. 7
Jim Viox - Dec. 18
Aaron Duesing - Jan. 23
Jonathan Brown - Jan. 24
Mary Etingher - Feb. 4

Happy Birthday to all of you!

Announcements

- Congratulations to **Brent Webster, PLS** who

passed his Kentucky Professional Land Surveyor Exam in November 2009.

- Congratulations to **Michael Miller** on his marriage to Brandy Sturgeon on November 14, 2009 in Taylor Mill, Kentucky.



Left: Michael and Brandy Miller
Top: Brent Webster, PLS

Viox & Viox Donates Time to Help Local School

Viox & Viox has been located in Erlanger, Kentucky since 1945 and has always tried to be a good neighbor. Recently, the staff had several opportunities to help out the faculty and students of A.J. Lindeman Elementary School, located on Erlanger Road in Erlanger.

Principal Michael Shires asked Viox & Viox's Landscape Architecture Department to design a landscape plan for the building. **Carter Dickerson, RLA and Brock MacKay** worked closely with Principal Shires and came up

with a new planting plan. Viox & Viox was pleased to donate their time for the design which was greatly appreciated by Principal Shires. In a letter thanking Viox & Viox, Mr. Shires stated, "These two gentlemen [Carter and Brock] have been extremely professional and just a pleasure to work with. The product they provided for us was outstanding and we are very pleased and honored to have their plans for us to execute."

In addition, Mr. Shires expressed his appreciation to a member of our staff, **Andie**

White, EIT, who has been participating in the school's One to One mentoring program by working with students who need extra help in reading. Mr. Shires also mentioned that Viox & Viox was the only business to send a donation for the school's book fair.

Mr. Shires ended his letter by stating, "Overall I cannot say enough about the quality of people that work for you at Viox and Viox. Everyone that I have encountered has gone above and beyond to help a "neighbor"."

"Overall I cannot say enough about the quality of people that work for you at Viox and Viox."

-Mr. Michael Shires
 A.J. Lindeman Elementary
 Principal
 (in a letter addressed to James and William Viox)

Staff Takes Time Out to Enjoy the Holidays

The Year of 2009 brought with it some tough economic times, but Viox & Viox's staff came together, once again, to bring a little joy into the lives of some local children. The employees provided gifts for a local family with five children, ages six to six months.

The Erlanger-Elsmere Family Resource Center provided Viox & Viox with a list of "wish list" items for the family. The gifts were bought by the staff, wrapped, and delivered to

the Resource Center the week before Christmas. Over 30 gifts were purchased for the children, including new bicycles for the two oldest siblings.

A few days later, on December 22nd, it was the employees' turn to enjoy a little Holiday cheer. Viox & Viox had their annual Christmas luncheon at the office which featured a catered meal from Montgomery Inn and a raffle for gift cards from various stores and restaurants, including Kroger, Panera Bread, Old

Navy, Kohl's, and Target. The afternoon concluded with a little socializing and an always entertaining "White Elephant" gift exchange.

Viox & Viox wishes all of our friends and families a Happy New Year; may we all look forward to a brighter 2010!

Top Right: Jim Viox delivers gifts to the staff at the Erlanger-Elsmere Family Resource Center. **Bottom Right:** Aaron Duesing opens his "white elephant" gift at the Viox & Viox Christmas Party.





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We're on the Web!
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Important Dates and Upcoming Events:

- **Feb. 14** - Valentine's Day
- **Feb. 15** - President's Day
- **Mar. 14** - Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Forward!)
- **Apr. 4** - Easter
- **May 9** - Mother's Day
- **May 31** - Memorial Day (office is closed)
- **June 20** - Father's Day
- **July 2** - Viox & Viox Floating Holiday (office is closed)
- **July 5** - Independence Day observed (office is closed)

Viox & Viox began providing engineering and surveying services to Northern Kentucky in 1945. The firm, originally founded by James H. Viox, Jr., P.E., L.S. and George Rassenfoss, P.E., is now owned by Mr. Viox's two sons, James H. Viox, III, P.E., P.L.S. and William R. Viox, P.E., P.L.S.

Viox & Viox has grown and expanded their services over the years and currently employs approximately 25 employees. Viox & Viox currently offers services in municipal engineering, commercial, industrial and residential planning, public utilities, surveying, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), and landscape architecture.

Mission

To provide exceptional consulting services while creating an enjoyable atmosphere for our team members.

Values

- Deliver outstanding customer service for both existing clients and prospective clients
- Communicate effectively
- Act with honesty and integrity
- Trust and respect each other
- Seek continuous improvement
- Passion for results
- Value feedback from both customers and employees
- Work as a team, interact as a family
- Have fun

Strategies

- We will maintain strong relationships with existing clients
- We will provide service to all clients beyond their expectations
- We will increasingly focus on new markets and clients
- We will respect our employees
- We will regard our sub-consultants and vendors as strategic partners
- We will seek to find collaborative relationships with clients, vendors, sub-consultants
- We will continue to pursue all opportunities for growth that are consistent with our vision, mission and values
- We will seek to increase profit margins without decreasing client satisfaction or employee morale

Creating innovative pathways through progressive design...one client at a time.