

BETTER Roads

A PRESSBOX PRODUCTIONS PUBLICATION

Gravel, The Misunderstood Aggregate...

**Feature Article
DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER**

Lexington's Latest Traffic Wonder or Blunder? There's Only 5 in The Whole Freakin World, Guess Why? See, Looked Like A Good Idea On Paper pg. 1-75

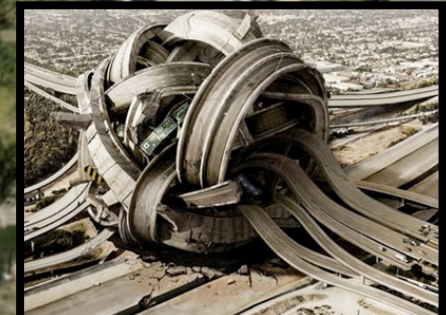
More Where This Came From



From The LFUCG Traffic Dept. That Took A Poker Straight Road & Did This.....



Proposed New Intersection At Reynolds & Nicholasville Roads See, Tax \$\$ at Work pg. 1040



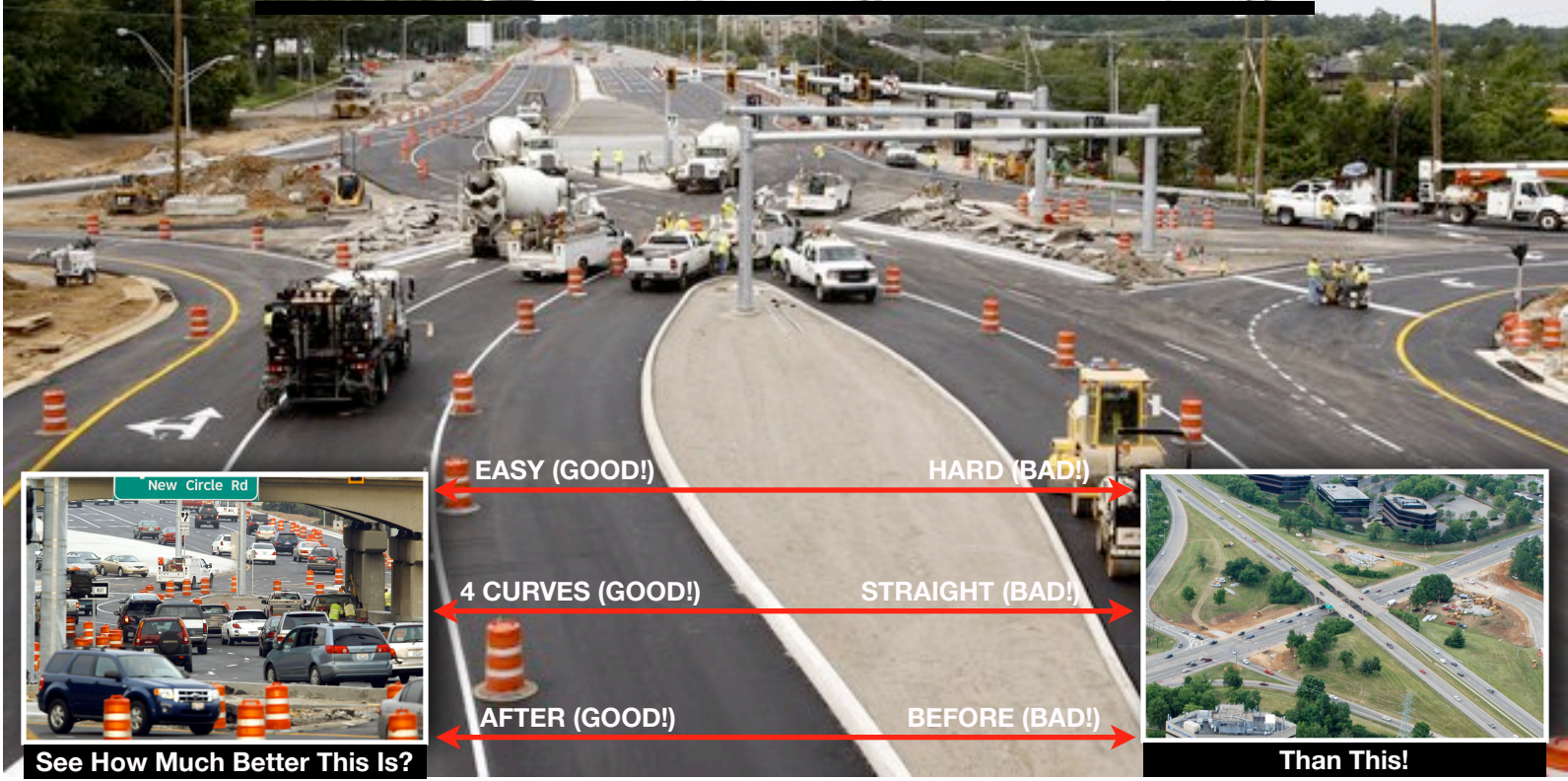
Coming Fall 2013, I-64/I-75 N/S Splits To Be Consolidated See, WTF??? pg. 666

Traffic Cone Trends



The New Fall Colors Are Here See, Chartreuse, It's The New Orange pg. RGB 127, 255, 0

BETTER Roads



EASY (GOOD!) HARD (BAD!)
 4 CURVES (GOOD!) STRAIGHT (BAD!)
 AFTER (GOOD!) BEFORE (BAD!)

See How Much Better This Is?

Than This!

LEXINGTON DOUBLE DIAMOND INTERCHANGE OF DEATH OPENS EARLY

By Spike Strip

LFUCG Officials & Traffic Planners (yeah we know, it's an oxymoron) announced today that the "unusual" new Double Diamond interchanges at Harrodsburg & New Circle Roads would be finished several weeks early & under budget. Said Lexington traffic engineer Rain Culvert, "First off we can't believe they actually let us build this piece of crap. It all started out as a joke at last year's office Christmas party when a couple of the engineers had a bit too much egg nog. The next day at work they sketched it up on the computer & were emailing to engineers in other cities & before you know it we're all down at an Urban County Council meeting & they've approved a budget of \$5,500,000 (US). At that point it took on a life of its own & we were all too embarrassed to speak up. As far as the under budget part, that's certainly never happened before so we're kind of embarrassed about that too."

See, **DO WE REALLY PAY THESE BOZOS** pg. W-2

Congratulations Lex. On Your New Set of Double D'S

THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES ARE PROUD TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO PROVIDE GOODS & SERVICES FOR THIS MILESTONE PROJECT:

- Greater Lexington Healthcare Alliance Members
- Good Samaritan Hospital
- UK Hospital
- Central Baptist Hospital
- St. Joseph Hospital
- Shirley Needham Auto Insurance
- Big Paul's Towing & Wrecker Company
- Speedy Delivery Auto Parts
- Renaker Rexall Drug Stores
- Central Kentucky Medical Supplies
- Simpson & Sons Funeral Home
- Dailey Auto Body
- Twist & Shout Physical Therapy
- Dewey Cheatum & Howe Personal Injury Lawyers





BETTER Roads



Used To Be A Plumber.

SIGN, SIGN, EVERYWHERE A SIGN

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN FOR OUR ANNUAL READER SUBMITTED WACKY ROAD SIGNS

By Arial Font

Sign Me Up. A BR reader in Manitoba, CA sends in this shot of the under construction Cross Canada Highway. Apparently the signage portion of the project was 6 months ahead of schedule & \$5,000,000 (CAN) under budget. However, frequent damage to the prematurely installed signs has resulted in cost overruns in excess of \$23,000,000 (CAN). See, even though they treat Curling as a real sport, Canadians are just about like Americans.



Just Hop On The Sus, Gus

A sharp eyed reader in Baltimore recently spotted this unintended palindrome. Thanks Anna Pip for submitting this one!

Do Not Pass Go, Do Not Collect \$200. Recently spotted in a Truth Or Consequences, New Mexico construction zone, this multi panel sign pretty much eliminates any & all driver options. Area residents report 100's of abandoned vehicles as drivers reach this point & are unsure what to do.



Double Fail. In this photo a 3M Ultra Bright Brand Peel & Stick® road graphic in New Jersey, proves doubly troubling. First there's the spelling issue but beyond that the efficacy of the verbiage is in question as the local citizenry is obviously not keeping the area CLAER.

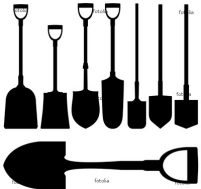


I Bet They Can't Even Spell GED. A Tampa, FL road crew, actually caught in the act by an alert BR reader, demonstrates why they're working for the county highway maintenance department & not NASA. Not once

but twice failing to properly use the spell checking attachment on their Binks 250 Airless Coating Application Device.



Get The "H" Outta Here. A for effort, F for execution. This sign in Dublin, Ireland reminds unwary tourists to look right for left side drivers but it comes up a critical consonant short, Vanna where are you?



BETTER Roads



Road Workers Are Born Not Made.

So Many Choices, So Little Leaning Time.

SIGN, SIGN, EVERYWHERE A SIGN

At Least They're Honest. A Mobile, AL pedestrian snapped this iPhone photo of a brutally honest road crew setting up an Asher 2504B Solar Powered Portable Sign-O-Matic with cones & thereby tying up rush hour commuter traffic for no reason at all.



WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

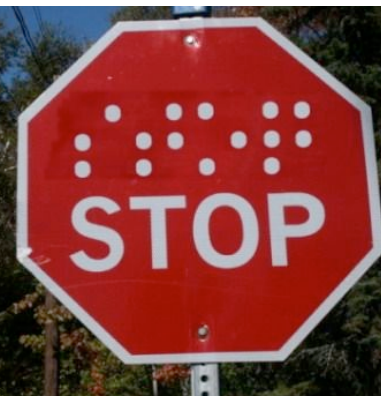
Spelling issues aside, in a one in a bazillion chance, a passing pedestrian snapped this pic of a guy bending over opening his umbrella, right by a sign warning passing motorists to be on guard for a guy bending over opening his umbrella. OK, now to the Jioning Traffic, could that be something like Traffic Calming?



Listen To Your Momma. That age old directive from your mother to always wear clean shorts, just in case you're in a traffic accident & have to go to the hospital, comes to life in this photo taken in a Raleigh, NC suburb. We at BR were never clear how severed limbs, spurting head wounds & gallons & gallons of barf were palatable to ER workers worldwide, but the slightest glimpse of skid-marked BVDs was gonna gross em out to the point they were unable to perform their hippocratically sworn duties.

Speaking of Things We Never Understood.

This sign ranks highly in the "Things That Make You Go Hmm Department" along with braille signs on a drive-in ATM or the drive through lane at McDonald's. Exactly who is supposed to be reading these things?



Where Do Signs Go When They're On Vacation?

Well now you know. This photo was taken by a deer hunting BR reader in rural Vermont. Even rigid sheets of glow-in-the-dark painted 16 gauge aluminum need some downtime, some "ME" time away from the fast paced world of information distribution.



Sorry, No Freakin Clue Here, We Got Nothing!

For the first time in the 20 year history of Reader Submitted Signs, this one has the entire editorial staff of Better Roads Magazine stumped. Nada, zip, zilch, zero, couldn't even hazard a guess.





You Say That Like This Is MY Fault.

BETTER Roads



Coney Says, "Good Job Designers".

BETTER Roads 2011 DOA AWARDS (Designs of Accomplishment)

B.R. ORCHIDS & ONIONS AWARDED TO THE BEST & WORST ROAD DESIGN PROJECTS OF 2011
By Seymour Plans



Cited by the Judges for having, "That trippy swirly feeling you got as a child on a merry-go-round," this new 10 lane roundabout in Beijing, China was awarded an **ORCHID** by the panel.

Another **ORCHID** winner was the addition of a sharp curve in the previously straight as an arrow 20 lane I-5 freeway in L.A. After the addition of the curve, commute times in the valley increased by an average of 47 minutes each way & the accident rate per mile went up an unprecedented 47.32%. "Unheard of impressive numbers," noted one of the jurors.



Dallas, Texas Traffic Planning Division took home their 27th **ORCHID** Award with this mind numbingly intricate interchange comprised of nothing but on & off ramps. "That's the beauty of the design," commented the panel, "This goes nowhere & connects nothing, it's just a linked series of ramps that feed from one to another in an endless spiral of scrumptious asphalt goodness."

Dubbed "The Road With a View or The Split Level Highway", this first of its kind coastal road, overlooking the Sea of Japan, gives motorists on the inner "Landlubber" Lane an equal panoramic view above autos traveling in the "Seaside" lane. In an unexplained phenomena, the accident rate on this portion of the highway is 17.3 times greater than any other Japanese highway. Weird Huh?



The only entry this year to receive a dreaded **ONION**, this primitive 4-way stop in Dubuque, IA was roundly criticized by the judges. "Lacking in all mandatory

elements; no Excessive Use of Technology, no Multiple & Constantly Merging Lanes, no 10" Berlin Wall Wheel Eating Curbs of Death, no Excessive Signage & no Random Non-Timed Signals. Said the Judges, "It flies in the face of all that is sacred in modern-day traffic engineering."



a d v e r t i s e m e n t
DON'T TRUST YOUR LEANING TO JUST ANY SHOVEL

JOHNSON BROTHERS SHOVELS

since 1887

"When You Care Enough To Lean On The Very Best"
(but not enough to actually do any work)



Road Closed When Flashing.

BETTER Roads



But How Do I Get To The Mall?

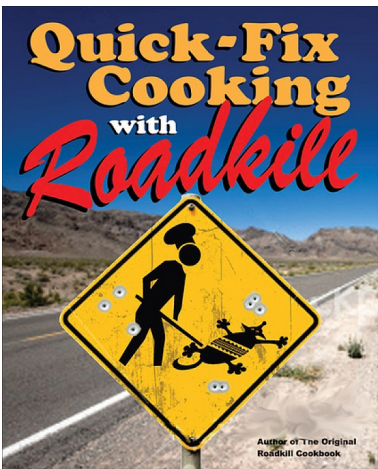
ROAD KILL SMORGASBORD, THAT'S GOOD EATS!

By I. M. Kooken

You haven't lived until you've dined on what didn't. As highway construction technicians, our readers have ready access to a wide variety of some fresh, & some not so fresh, roadway delicacies. Learn how to scrape 'em, bag 'em, & cook 'em in this new cookbook by world renowned gastronomical author Jimbo "I'd Eat That" Fryman.



Featuring Such Yellow Line Yummies as.....



- Pavement Possum
- Windshield Wabbit
- Hushed Puppies
- Highway Hash
- Center Line Bovine
- Freeway Fricassee
- Slow Lane Squirrel
- Shoulder Souffle
- Chunk O' Skunk
- Road Toad
- Rigor Mortis Tortoise
- Rack Of Raccoon
- Too Slow Doe

And many, many more gravel goodies. See, **EAT HERE & GET GAS** pg. A-1

a d v e r t i s e m e n t



FOR THOSE NIGHTS YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE GOURMET...

BETTY KROCKER'S Road Kill Helper

"You Supply The Mess, We Supply The Rest"

THE BEST LAID PLANS OF MICE & MEN

By Al E. Neuman, Carefree Road Inspector

Despite years of meticulous planning, budgeting, bidding, constant supervision & inspections, even the most well intended road or street project can have a few "hiccups". In this month's column I recount some recent oops.



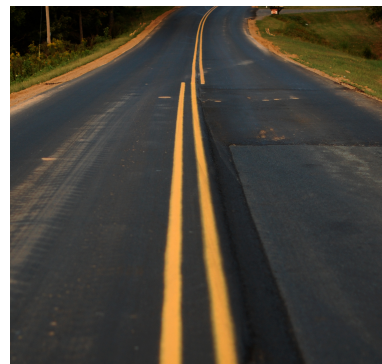
What, Me Hurry?

Seen below is proof positive that when developing new residential subdivisions,



it's imperative to put your infrastructure in first. In a classic "he said, he said" between the road crew & builder, these houses were set at a slightly higher elevation than the road crew expected.

When a small fissure appeared in a recently constructed Japanese Highway, workers were initially stumped for a fix. A Super-Mega cartridge of DAP Highway-In-A-Tube® caulk & problem solved.



My left or yours? Apparently the road striping crews in adjoining Alabama counties were in complete agreement on where the centerline of the roadway lay. From there the common ground appears to have been less of a certainty.

See, **OH %@#*^%** pg. 3, or is it 7, no wait 26, well maybe 43



I Can Do The Double D's w/ My Eyes Closed.

BETTER Roads



The Annual Running Of The Cones.

MUSIC TO HOLD UP TRAFFIC BY

By Lotta Notes

What are you listening to? This month's favorite iPod playlist comes to us from BR reader Mr. Eeir Buds in Boise, ID. Said Buds, "There's nothing like getting your groove on while traffic backs up for miles & miles for no apparent reason. It helps distract from all the honking horns, obscenities & hand gestures hurled your way by passing motorists. Just crank up the tunes & keep munching your doughnuts & sipping your coffee, it really ^%###*# them off."

See, **HIGHWAY TO HELL** pg. 33 1/3

MUSIC TO HOLD UP TRAFFIC BY

Here We Go Round In Circles, Billy Preston
Crosstown Traffic, Jimi Hendrix
Born To Be Wild, Steppenwolf
Every Day Is A Winding Road, Sheryl Crow
I Can't Drive 55, Sammy Hagar
Taking It To The Streets, Doobie Brothers
Ventura Highway, America
On The Road Again, Willie Nelson
Route 66, Asleep At The Wheel
The Long & Winding Road, The Beatles
Dead Skunk In The Middle of The Road,
Loudon Wainwright III
Roll On Down The Highway, B. T. O.
Uneasy Rider, Charlie Daniels Band
Fast Car, Tracy Chapman
Highway 61 Revisited, Bob Dylan
Mercedes Benz, Janis Joplin
Carefree Highway, Gordon Lightfoot
Truckin', The Grateful Dead
Driving Too Fast, Like, It's The Stones Man
Radar Love, Golden Earring

THEY HONESTLY STILL DON'T KNOW

By Ima Notalken

As highly trained roadway construction professionals we've all seen it time & time again & laughed knowingly amongst ourselves. The perplexed faces on hundreds of infuriated motorists after they've inched painfully through a 25 mile backup for 2 or 3 hours, only to get to the starting point & find nothing there. No construction, no wreck, absolutely nothing but wide open highway & traffic suddenly going 75 mph. They're really cute as they speed up from a crawl to near light speed, all the while rubber necking to see what caused their pain & suffering, with the most precious perplexed looks on their faces.



As hard as it may be to believe, & despite over 55 years since President Eisenhower created the interstate network, not a single member of the traveling public has figured out how we do it. It's the best kept secret since; What Sank The Edmund Fitzgerald, or What's at Area 51, or What Was In Al Capone's Vault or even Where Waldo Is.



With the popularity of FaceBook, Twitter, texting & all manner of new communication methods, we've all got to be vigilant to not reveal this closely held industry secret. Remember what happened back in '67 when road worker Tooba Fore of Gary, IN (may he rest in peace) let it slip to a neighbor how we continually get paid big bucks while 13 people watch one guy shovel gravel into or out of a hole. But on the other hand, this is an industry insider publication that no motorist is going to read, so I guess we can discuss that how we do it is to... (continued)
See, **WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW WON'T HURT 'EM** pg. mm105.4

a d v e r t i s e m e n t





How Do The Deer Read The Sign?

BETTER Roads



Grandma's Still On The Road.

COMMUNITY FORUM

I THINK THAT I SHALL NEVER ROAM, TO A PLACE MORE LOVELY THAN A CONE

By Goober DaVinci

The 9th annual Better Roads Magazine Traffic Cone Sculpture Contest was held last month in Branson, MO. A record number of entries resulted in some very creative works & stiff competition. As usual, the contest was open to all professional road workers & the Olympic rules applied; all work must be performed on company time & all materials must be "found", "donated" or "borrowed" (wink wink, nudge nudge). This year, additional style points were awarded if the sculpture had been used in an actual construction zone (see Judges Trophy winner).



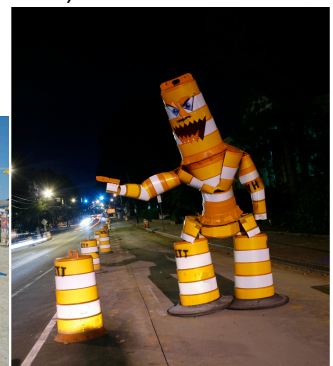
FIRST PLACE
Robo-Cone



SECOND PLACE
Coneodile

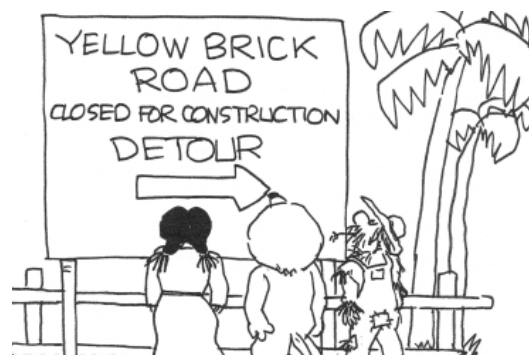
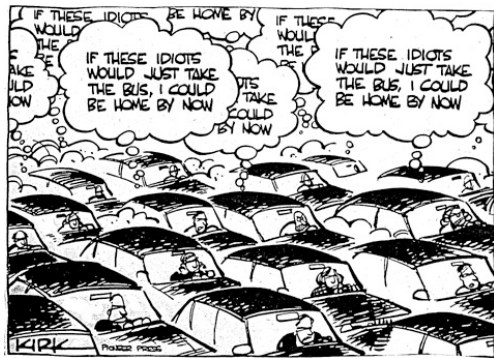


THIRD PLACE
Cone Dome



JUDGES TROPHY
Hitch Hiker Cone

THE OFFRAMP



Can I Hold It For A While?

