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First of Highway Geology Series Publications Now Available

Lexington, Ky. (May 6, 2011)--If you have driven Kentucky's parkways or interstate highways, you've probably noticed the variety of rock formations, terrain, and landforms visible in road cuts and alongside the roadways. Perhaps you've wondered about the differences between the formations and the processes which created them. The Kentucky Geological Survey at the University of Kentucky is developing a free online series of maps to help travelers find out about those formations.

The next time you plan a trip on the Martha Layne Collins Bluegrass Parkway, you may want to download and print from the KGS Web site a copy of the first in the series. *Geology along the Martha Layne Collins Bluegrass Parkway* provides a guide to the geology and terrain of that parkway in segments 12-15 miles long. The authors of the series are Dan Carey of KGS, retired KGS geologists Martin C. Noger and Garland R. Dever, Jr., and former State Geologist Donald C. Haney.

"This series of publications actually had its genesis two decades ago, when M.C. and Don collected a lot of their notes on the geology along Kentucky roadsides, especially from road cuts," says Carey. "Some of the road cuts that they identified have become re-vegetated and lost

to view from the paved roadway. Many others are rapidly becoming grown over. We don't want to lose that information.”

Carey says geographic information tools and photos were used to locate the road cuts along each highway. Each publication will use maps, text, graphics, and photos, to explain the geology along the highway. The 10-page Bluegrass Parkway publication has an introduction, a general description of the terrain along its entire 71-mile length, and one page for each of five sections of the parkway. The pages were created in a 13 x 17 inch format, but Carey says they can still be used if printed in standard 8.5 x 11 inch page size.

“These highway geology publications are intended for ordinary people who are curious about the rock formations and terrain they see when driving Kentucky's major roads,” Carey says.

To view and download a copy of *Geology along the Martha Layne Collins Bluegrass Parkway*, go to http://kgs.uky.edu/kgsweb/olops/pub/kgs/sp11_12.pdf.

The next installment in this series will include the section of Interstate 64 between Lexington and Ashland. Carey hopes to make versions for large segments of all of Kentucky's major interstates and parkways available for download.

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