

NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New approach to selecting highway projects to be discussed

A proposed process for selecting highway projects will be explained at a series of meetings hosted by the Kansas Department of Transportation during October.

The pilot process, crafted by the Governor's task force on transportation – T-LINK, evaluates projects using three factors: engineering, local input and economic impact analysis. Project selection over the past two decades has been based primarily on engineering factors such as roadway condition and traffic data.

For the past month, KDOT's area engineers have talked with local officials and completed surveys for nearly 90 projects. Information from the surveys, which are posted on the Kansas Transportation Online Community, www.ktoc.net, will be used to run economic impact models and will be explained at the October meetings.

"I can't stress enough that we are piloting this process and this is simply an opportunity for us to practice and evaluate how this selection process might work," said Julie Lorenz, manager of the pilot project.

"Until a new transportation program is passed, KDOT won't have enough funding to begin work on any of the projects being evaluated."

All meetings will begin at 1 p.m. and will start with an explanation of the highway project selection process. At 3 p.m., there will be a discussion of non-highway modes and questions will be answered about individual projects.

The following is the meetings schedule:

Oct. 7	Abilene	Sterl Hall (North Central State Fairgrounds)
Oct. 8	Topeka	Ramada Inn
Oct. 13	Hutchinson	Grand Prairie Hotel
Oct. 14	Chanute	KDOT District Office
Oct. 19	Mission	Sylvester Powell Jr. Community Center
Oct. 22	Dodge City	Dodge House Hotel & Convention Center
Oct. 23	Wichita	Wichita State University Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex
Oct. 26	Hays	Fort Hays State University Memorial

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700 SW Harrison St., 2nd Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.