



Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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## **Phase II Work Begins for US-24 Corridor Management Plan**

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is now kicking off Phase II of the US-24 Corridor Management Plan in Topeka/Shawnee County. KDOT plans to actively involve business owners, local stakeholders, and residents during Phase II of the corridor management plan to gather information about transportation needs and future development planned along the corridor. Phase II of the plan covers an east to west area on US-24 from K-4 to Menoken Road and a north to south area of 25th Street to Lyman Road.

KDOT, in partnership with the City of Topeka, the Topeka Metropolitan Planning Organization and Shawnee County, is conducting Phase II of the US-24 Corridor Management Plan. The partner agencies have selected TranSystems, a Kansas City-based engineering firm, to assist with the \$230,000 Phase II plan development process.

The Phase II planning process will utilize and build on information that came out of Phase I which was completed in July of 2009. Recommendations included in Phase I will be revisited and Phase II proposed improvements will be vetted through a comprehensive public involvement process. The planning process will provide a coordinated strategy to help create a solid transportation environment that is safe, efficient and supportive of economic activity.

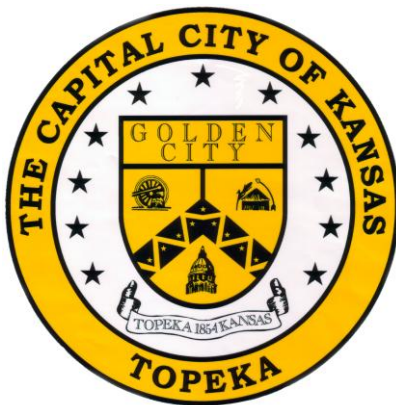
The US-24 Corridor Management Plan is necessary because as Topeka grows, there is great potential for dramatic economic development in the US 24 corridor area. What the City of

Topeka and Shawnee County must decide is how to direct the growth and foster a road network that protects the through vehicle capacity of one of the state's major east-west highways, while providing accessibility for the citizens and businesses of the region. Growth along Kansas Ave, Topeka Boulevard as well as Tyler and Rochester Roads can stress the existing intersections and potentially require major upgrades, or at worst full interchanges, that will be expensive and could be damaging to the neighborhoods and quality residential development. What happens in the western portion of the corridor may also shape the transportation needs of western North Topeka.

As mentioned, stakeholder and citizen input will be a key component to this phase of the planning process, so it adequately encompasses many perspectives. Opportunities for participation will include public open houses, public official briefings and key stakeholder interviews. The first public meeting for the Plan's Phase II will be scheduled sometime early this spring.

For further information on this plan, please visit the project website at <http://US24corridorplan.ksdot.org>; or contact Kimberly Qualls, KDOT Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager at (785) 640-9340 or Michael Moriarty, KDOT Project Manager at (785) 296-8864.

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