

NEWS RELEASE

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Work Begins on US-40/6th Street and K-10 Interchange Area Transportation Plan in Douglas County

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) plans to involve residents, business owners, and local stakeholders in a new Area Transportation Plan for the US-40/West 6th Street and K-10 interchange in Lawrence (Douglas County) which kicks off work this month. The US-40/West 6th Street and K-10 Interchange Area Transportation Plan study will gather information about the nature and magnitude of future development and develop a list of transportation improvements and access management guidelines to accommodate this growth.

The plan area includes a 1.5-mile segment of US-40/West 6th Street beginning at George Williams Way proceeding west to East 800 Road. The plan study area also includes the K-10 ramps and an area approximately one-half mile on either side of US-40/West 6th Street. KDOT has partnered with the City of Lawrence, Douglas County, and the Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization to develop this area transportation plan.

The plan will be conducted by a local engineering firm, BG Consultants, Lawrence, KS, and will cost approximately \$100,000. The plan partners anticipate a seven- to nine-month plan development process. The final report is anticipated to be completed by late summer 2011.

The area surrounding the US-40/West 6th Street and K-10 interchange has significant development potential. With any large-scale development a variety of transportation challenges will eventually come about, thus planning for this future development is a must. The end product of this planning process will present a meaningful, coordinated plan to preserve safe and efficient movement of people and goods through the plan area.

Currently, KDOT has started designing improvements at the US-40/West 6th Street and K-10 interchange. These improvements will initially include dual left turn lanes and traffic signals at the ramp terminals to improve traffic flow at this location, especially during the heavy afternoon peak hours. Longer term improvements may include widening the bridge to accommodate additional dual left turn lanes and possibly pedestrian accommodations. Construction funding has not been identified at this time.

Stakeholder and citizen input will be a critical component of this plan so it adequately encompasses many perspectives. Opportunities for participation will include public open houses, public official briefings and key stakeholder interviews. For further information on this plan, please contact Kimberly Qualls, KDOT Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager at (785) 640-9340 or toll-free in Kansas at 1-877-550-5368, or via e-mail kqualls@ksdot.org.

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