

NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation news release

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Meetings scheduled to gather input on transportation spending

Six regional meetings to gather public input on how state transportation dollars should be invested have been scheduled by the Kansas Department of Transportation.

The first local consultation meeting is Oct. 8 in Independence and the final meeting will be 20 days later in Hutchinson. Information gathered at the meetings will be one of the factors that will help guide decisions about where to spend about \$1.7 billion in major highway expansion and modernization projects. The spending was authorized in the new transportation program T-WORKS that was passed by the Kansas Legislature in May.

The October meetings follow four regional workshops (and a fifth online meeting) in August and September that were designed to inform communities about the project selection process. During those meetings, the more than 550 participants were encouraged to think about regional priorities and to work with neighboring communities to comment on packages of projects that will have broad benefits. Information about regional spending ranges and candidate projects can be viewed at www.ksdot.org/t-works.

“We provided information about candidate projects at the workshops; not that we wouldn’t consider a new project, but these are the ones that consistently have come up in regional meetings for the past four years,” said Julie Lorenz, director of KDOT’s Division of Public Affairs.

In addition to public input, other considerations that will go into final project selection are engineering factors, economic impact and work that has already been done on a project. These projects won’t be selected until 2011 and actual construction could be several years later.

“When we get together again in October, we want to hear community leaders’ thoughts on what combination of projects would be most beneficial to the region,” said Ms. Lorenz.

Information about the local consultation meetings is included below. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. **All meetings will be from 9 a.m. to noon.**

October 8 – Independence, Independence Memorial Hall, 410 N. Pennsylvania

October 22 – Kansas City, Kan., National Guard Armory, 100 S. 20th St.

October 25 – Abilene, Abilene Fairgrounds, 619 N. Rogers

October 26 – Hays, Ramada Hays Hotel and Convention Center, 3603 Vine St.

October 27 – Liberal, Seward County Event Center, 810 Stadium Ave.

October 28 – Hutchinson, Grand Prairie Hotel and Convention Center, 1400 N. Lorraine

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This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request. For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information, 700 SW Harrison St., 2nd Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.