

NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation release

April 10, 2008

08-090

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News Contact: Steve Swartz, (785) 296-3585 or Thomas Dow, (785) 296-2552

Study to develop integrated approach to transportation planning in 5-county region

Development of an integrated approach for transportation planning in a five-county region of northeast Kansas is the goal of a study to begin this spring.

Phase 1 of the two-phase study will include identifying the significant developments in the five-county area and determining how those developments are impacting the regional transportation system.

The five counties include Douglas, Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami and Wyandotte. Study partners include the counties and key cities in the area, Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA), Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), and Lawrence-Douglas County Metro Planning Commission.

“This study will help KDOT and our partners identify the significant developments in the study area, such as the proposed regional warehouse facility at Gardner, redevelopment of the De Soto Army ammunition plant and the Kansas Speedway and adjacent development,” said State Transportation Planner Thomas Dow of KDOT.

“Based on the explosive development, we will seek to understand the impacts to the regional transportation system and resulting needs across all transportation modes,” he said.

Phase 1 of the study also will include an examination of the state and local road systems, traffic projections and the capacity of the existing system to carry the projected traffic. Freight, which is expected to more than double in the next 20 years, will be a part of the study, as well.

Phase 2 of the study will identify corridors for future improvement, new corridors and identification of right-of-way needs. It also will provide a cost projection of possible improvements.

The study will be coordinated with other studies and design projects that have been completed or are under way in the five-county area.

Phase 1 is expected to take 12 to 18 months to complete.