

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public meetings give KDOT direction for expanding passenger rail

Service Development Plans to be written for two alternatives

The Kansas Department of Transportation is continuing a fact-finding process that could increase passenger rail availability in Kansas. With input from citizens at seven public meetings plus elected officials and community leaders in the proposed service area, KDOT selected two alternatives for further consideration. One is nighttime service between Newton and Fort Worth. The other option is a daytime service between Kansas City and Fort Worth.

A Service Development Plan (SDP) will be compiled for each of the two alternatives. The SDP is a detailed business plan that outlines the steps necessary to expand passenger rail service as well as how it would operate.

In May and June, KDOT held public meetings at potential station stop cities to brief attendees on the findings of a feasibility study and to request input on four service alternatives. Completed in March by Amtrak, the feasibility study provided preliminary cost and revenue estimates plus potential schedules for the four options of state-sponsored passenger rail service between Kansas City, Oklahoma City and Fort Worth.

Visitors to public meetings focused on expanding passenger rail service in Kansas and gave KDOT valuable input on the issue. KDOT released a summary of the meetings

as well as a list of public comments and the results of an opinion survey distributed at the meetings.

The next stage of the information gathering process has begun with the selection of Parsons Brinckerhoff, a transportation consulting firm, as the compiling author of an SDP for the two alternatives. It is expected that the SDP will be completed by the fall of 2011.

Once an alternative is selected, legislative and gubernatorial action will be required in Kansas, Oklahoma, and possibly Texas to fund expanded passenger rail service.

More information about the service alternatives, the complete Amtrak feasibility study, the public meetings summary, citizen comments and survey results are all available at www.ksdot.org/passrail.

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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.