

Kansas Long Range Transportation Plan



Phase 1: Setting the Vision

September 2006

Overview

With the Kansas Comprehensive Transportation Program coming to an end in 2009, now is the time to establish an effective, successful vision for our transportation future. To that end, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is updating the state's long range transportation plan with the intent of improving the Kansas transportation network and strengthening the economic future of the state. The plan will also meet the requirements of the Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) law, enacted in 2005.

Schedule

The long-range planning process will include both a comprehensive technical analysis of the current transportation system along with inclusive, broad-based public engagement opportunities. It is being conducted in three phases.

September 2006 – February 2007:

Transportation needs, including the current status of the transportation system, long term forecasts, needs and gaps

February 2007 – September 2007:

Transportation solutions and strategies

October – December 2007:

Kansas Long Range Transportation Plan rollout

Details of Phase 1

Phase 1 of the planning process will establish baseline information that will underpin the long-range solutions and strategies developed in Phase 2. During the detailed review in Phase 1, KDOT will:

- Identify current pavement, bridge and capacity conditions to help understand where future needs will occur, along with the needs of other modes of transportation such as air, rail, public transit, ports and waterways, and bicycle and pedestrian;
- Review Kansas demographic and economic trends and how they will affect transportation needs and opportunities;
- Analyze the freight and shipping industries to understand their likely growth and its impact on Kansas infrastructure;
- Review the state's funding capacity and research future funding options drawn from the experiences of other comparable states;
- Explore how KDOT is currently organized and operated in light of the state's needs and the best practices of transportation agencies across the nation;
- Evaluate how well KDOT works with local communities to deliver projects and what opportunities exist for improving that service; and
- Engage community leaders and transportation stakeholders in creating a vision and a plan for Kansas that best meets the state's needs in the future.

Identifying and Meeting the Transportation Needs of Kansans

KDOT seeks to develop a long range transportation plan in which a variety of issues, ranging from system needs to future funding sources to address those needs, will be examined. KDOT intends for the process to be open and transparent and KDOT recognizes that stakeholder involvement is critical to developing and ultimately implementing a successful long range plan.

In Phase 1, for example, KDOT will conduct a significant public outreach effort to identify and incorporate the values and concerns of the public and transportation stakeholders. This effort, among other things, will include:

1. **Interviews** with internal and external stakeholders to identify their transportation related opinions and concerns.
2. **Regional workshops** for exploring the state's transportation needs and desires from a local and regional perspective. Invitees to the workshops will include, among others: manufacturers, shippers, commercial vehicle operators, emergency service providers, Chamber and other economic development agencies and organizations, environmental and other quality of life organizations, opinion leaders and local officials (elected and staff).
3. **Advisory Committees**
 - a. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Policy Committee will provide high-level strategic oversight and guidance to help KDOT build support for the LRTP.
 - b. LRTP Technical Committee will provide technical feedback on early needs, revenue and gap analysis, drawing on the expertise of members from KDOT and stakeholders representing modal interests, user groups, and city and county transportation officials.
4. **Project website updates** and related information that will be posted periodically to the KDOT website and, later this fall, to a website devoted specifically to the long-range plan. The KDOT website can be found at: www.ksdot.org.
5. **Statewide Transportation Symposium** drawing together leaders and transportation stakeholders. This early 2007 event will feature a full day of presentations and break-out sessions on the:
 - a. Status of the state and national transportation system;
 - b. Results of the technical analysis conducted by the consultants and information gathered in the regional workshops;
 - c. Facilitated discussion of issues and priorities.

For More Information

If you would like to learn more about the long-range plan, or to contribute your insights and knowledge to this effort, please contact:

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