

5-COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY



DOUGLAS • JOHNSON • LEAVENWORTH • MIAMI • WYANDOTTE

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Transportation Summit Begins Look Toward 5-County Area's Future Needs

Kansas City, KS – The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) will host more than 150 area stakeholders for a regional Transportation Summit on Wednesday, December 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Jack Reardon Civic Center, 500 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, Kan.

The summit is an early and significant step in the launch of the 5-County Regional Transportation Study, which is assessing and prioritizing the changing transportation needs for Douglas, Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami and Wyandotte Counties.

According to Thomas Dow, KDOT's State Transportation Planner, "Growing transportation needs are not something that can be successfully addressed by individual communities. A collaborative approach will benefit communities and travelers as we all face limited funding resources. This study is challenging stakeholders to rethink transportation strategies to support community values and priorities. In the present economy, there will not be enough money to address all of the transportation needs. In order to best apply the limited budgets to the massive needs, it is important to understand the priorities and look for new ways to solve transportation challenges."

The study's Phase One objective is to compile a comprehensive inventory of transportation needs in the five-county study area. Study participants will identify issues and needs, as well as significant developments and how those developments are impacting the regional transportation system. Through exploration of a variety of passenger and freight transportation options, including automobile, truck, train, airplane and bicycle, goals and potential strategies will be identified. Phase One is expected to

be complete by the end of 2009. Phase Two, currently unfunded, will prioritize the identified projects.

On December 17, stakeholders will hear from Kansas Transportation Secretary Deb Miller and U.S. Senator Sam Brownback as well as regional and national transportation planners. This also will be an opportunity for attendees to contribute and discuss their own ideas about transportation needs and opportunities. In addition, Reid Ewing, Research Professor at the National Center for Smart Growth, will deliver a keynote speech on the transportation challenges confronting Kansas, and our nation, along with viable solutions to those challenges.

Stakeholder and citizen input will be a critical component of the 5-County Regional Transportation Study. There will be other opportunities for stakeholder participation including community dialogues to be held in each of the five counties, as well as an interactive website.

This study is a partnership of the Kansas Department of Transportation, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), the Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the numerous study area's counties and cities.

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