

KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DEB MILLER, SECRETARY

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

RECEIVED

NOV 17 2004

CITY MANAGERS OFFICE
LAWRENCE, KS

ROY D. RISSKY, P.E., DISTRICT ENGINEER

November 12, 2004

Mike Wildgen
PO Box 708
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Mr. Wildgen:

KDOT is taking a hard look at how we work with local governments so that we can improve our working relationships and provide better service. Based on information developed through the Partnership Project, several recommendations have been made that will be of interest to local governments involved in transportation issues. Examples of those recommendations include:

- Get local officials and local KDOT employees involved at the very earliest stages of a project to help make decisions about location, detours and turn-back miles.
- Instead of improving the existing road that will be turned over to a local government when KDOT constructs a new road, consider paying that local government what that improvement would have cost. The local government could then decide how to use that money to fund their own local priorities.
- Update the City Connecting Links approach. Examine how local governments might have more shared responsibility and input on decisions related to access, signing, traffic signals, and other issues on their City Connecting Links.
- Consider giving cities greater control and authority over city connecting links that function more as local streets than as state highways. Also consider allowing city connecting links that function more as state highways and less as city streets to become eligible for programs such as Major Modification or Substantial Maintenance for which they currently don't qualify.
- Consider investing in improvement of local roads more often to serve as detours during construction of state highway projects.
- Make it easier for local governments to piggy back on KDOT purchasing contracts.

There are many other recommendations also under consideration. We'd like to hear your thoughts before any final decisions are made. **KDOT will hold an informational meeting for Douglas County communities on November 29th from 3:00 – 4:30 at Lawrence City Hall at 6 E. 6th Street.** The meeting will be held in the council chambers located on the first floor. There will be a short presentation on the proposed changes, and then time for you to share your thoughts. There are still many questions that need to be answered at this point, but your comments will be used to develop final recommendations.

I have enclosed a packet of information to give you a background on some of the proposed changes. Thanks for your interest in transportation, and I hope to see you on the November 29th.

Sincerely,



Roy Rissky, P.E., District Engineer

DISTRICT ONE
121 WEST 21ST ST., P.O. BOX 5128, TOPEKA, KS 66605-0128
VOICE 785-296-3881 TTY 785-296-3585 FAX 785-296-1162 <http://www.ksdot.org>