

# Kansas Department of Transportation

## BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

**MEMO TO:** Project Team

**FROM:** Mike Moriarty, KDOT Corridor Management

**DATE:** January 18, 2011

**REFERENCE:** Project No. KA-1869-01  
Douglas County

**SUBJECT:** Area Transportation Plan: US-40 (West 6<sup>th</sup> Street) and K-10 Interchange

### **Core Message:**

- The area surrounding the US-40 (West 6<sup>th</sup> Street) and K-10 interchange has significant development potential.
- With any large-scale development a variety of transportation challenges will eventually come about.
- Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), Douglas County, the City of Lawrence, and the Lawrence-Douglas County MPO have partnered to develop a transportation plan that will recommend improvements to better handle future traffic demands and support economic opportunities in this growing area.
- This plan, dubbed an Area Transportation Plan, will gather information about the nature and magnitude of future development and develop a list of transportation improvements and access management guidelines to accommodate future growth.
- The end product of this planning process will present a meaningful, coordinated strategy to preserve safe and efficient movement of people and goods through the planning area.
- Construction funding has not been identified at this time.

**Who is developing this Plan?** KDOT has partnered with the City of Lawrence, Douglas County, and the Lawrence-Douglas County MPO to develop this Plan. The partner agencies have hired a local engineering firm to assist with the plan development process.

**What area does the Plan cover?** The planning area includes a segment of US-40 (West 6<sup>th</sup> Street) beginning at George Williams Way in Lawrence proceeding west to East 800 Road in Douglas County. Total length is approximately 1.5 miles. The planning area also includes the K-10 interchange ramps and an area approximately 1.5 miles on either side of US-40 (West 6<sup>th</sup> Street).

**How long will it take to develop the Plan?** The partner agencies anticipate a seven to nine month Plan development process. The final report is scheduled to be completed in summer 2011.

**What is the purpose of the Plan?** The partner agencies recognize the significant development potential at the US-40 (West 6th Street) and K-10 interchange. As with any development a number of transportation challenges will eventually come about, such as, safety concerns and traffic congestion. The Plan will help the partner agencies to better understand the nature of future development at this location and what transportation improvements might be necessary to accommodate growth along this corridor.

**What types of transportation improvements will the Plan recommend?** This Plan will recommend potential improvements to US-40 (West 6<sup>th</sup> Street), the K-10 interchange, nearby local roads, bicycle/pedestrian facilities, and public transit. Examples may include turn lanes, traffic signals, shared use paths, future transit stops, and frontage roads.

**How will the public be involved in this process?** The planning process includes an extensive public and stakeholder involvement component. The consultant team and partner agencies will conduct various outreach activities with affected stakeholders (e.g. meetings with businesses, developers & property owners, neighborhood associations, etc). In addition, meetings with the City Commission, County Commission, and the MPO Policy Board will take place along with two public meetings. News releases and other electronic venues will also be utilized as part of this process.

**What are the next steps after the Plan is complete?** It is hoped that each partner agency will formally adopt the Plan and sign an Implementation Agreement. By signing the Implementation Agreement the partner agencies agree to consider the Plan in their respective decision making processes.

**When will the recommended improvements be constructed?** It is difficult to say when the recommended improvements may be constructed since many of them are contingent upon development and subsequent increases in traffic volumes. However, the Plan may identify various “short-term” improvements that are not dependent upon development, and, these could potentially be constructed sooner – should funding be made available.

**Has construction funding been identified?** Not at this time. However, by completing the Plan and signing the Implementation Agreement the City of Lawrence and Douglas County become eligible to apply for KDOT Corridor Management funds. These funds can be used to help finance the improvements recommended by the Plan.

**What is being done to address rush hour congestion at the US-40 (West 6<sup>th</sup> Street) and K-10 interchange?** At this time, KDOT has started designing improvements for the interchange. These improvements will initially include the addition of dual left turn lanes and traffic signals at the ramp terminals to help improve traffic flow at this location – especially during the PM rush hour. Long-term improvements may include widening the bridge to accommodate additional dual left turn lanes and possibly even bicycle/pedestrian accommodations. Construction funding has not been identified at this time.