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## **KDOT announces K-10 South Lawrence Trafficway study**

**Topeka** - The Kansas Department of Transportation announces the initiation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (SEIS) of the South Lawrence Trafficway corridor.

KDOT has decided to evaluate the South Lawrence Trafficway corridor, which extends from I-70 at N. 1800 Road to east of K-10 at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and includes E. 600 Road and portions of U.S. 40.

The SEIS will fully evaluate and document the impacts and benefits that alternatives will have on the surrounding area throughout the study process. The SEIS will also allow KDOT to gather additional input from the public and local stakeholders.

The most recent studies of the west leg of the South Lawrence Trafficway were completed in 2016.

The eastern portion of the trafficway was opened in 2016, and since that date, the area has seen additional growth and increased traffic. KDOT has determined a study to assess options for improving the level of service is necessary to provide drivers and residents decision tools.

The SEIS process is expected to take approximately three years to complete. Throughout the process, KDOT will engage the community through stakeholder and public meetings and workshops to provide updates and gather input.

The most recent studies of the South Lawrence Trafficway area are available at <https://www.ksdot.org/bureaus/TopekaMetro/projectstudytest.asp>

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## **South Lawrence Trafficway Supplemental EIS Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Study Process**

Q: What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

A: An Environmental Impact Statement or EIS is a document required by the Federal Highway Administration to evaluate the impact proposed improvements will have on the natural and manmade environment. It is designed to help agencies, elected officials, and the public make sound decisions for the project and its surrounding area. An EIS is prescribed by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and is one type of environmental document necessary to secure federal clearance and funding for transportation improvements.

Q: What is a Supplement to an EIS (SEIS)?

A: A Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) reviews the findings of an existing EIS. A SEIS considers new or additional environmental impacts based on the introduction of new improvement options and/or major changes in the natural environment or communities. The South Lawrence Trafficway SEIS will evaluate if – and how – upgrading the corridor to a four-lane freeway, modifying access, and exploring new funding mechanisms alter the impacts and recommendations previously identified through the 1990 EIS and 2008 East Leg EIS.

Q: Why is there another study?

A: KDOT conducted the K-10 West Leg Concept Study from 2014-2016, which proposed adding two new lanes between I-70 and US-59 and modifying existing access through reconfiguration of existing interchanges, removal of at-grade intersections, conversion of existing at-grade intersections to new interchanges, and adding new interchanges to improve safety and traffic flow. During this study, an environmental reevaluation of the past NEPA decision for the West Leg was initiated to assess changes since the time of the initial 1990 EIS. In the spring of 2016, the public raised concerns regarding K-10 access at Farmer's Turnpike that led to the Federal Highway Administration recommend additional evaluation of the proposed alternatives and the study area through a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). The SEIS will review the concept alternatives and evaluate the entire corridor for impacts, and identify ways to minimize or avoid impacts to sensitive project environmental features within the project footprint.

Q: What will the SEIS evaluate?

A: The current SEIS, as a supplement to the original 1990 EIS, will evaluate a 'No Action' alternative as well as a combination of potential funding options for the entire SLT study area. Roadway configuration options will be evaluated, including upgrading the West Section as a four-lane freeway with controlled access and the interchanges at West 6<sup>th</sup> Street/U.S. 40, Bob Billings Parkway, Clinton Parkway, an interchange between Wakarusa Drive and E 1200 Rd/Kasold Drive, and at U.S. 59/Iowa Street. Also, interchange alternatives at I-70/East 600 Road/Lecompton Road and K-10/I-70/North 1800 Road will be considered.

## **Schedule**

Q: Why does the SEIS take 3 years to complete?

A: While there has been a lot of work done over the past several years to develop improvement alternatives, the SEIS process involves reviewing the previous work completed, looking for issues that could impact the improvement alternatives, and evaluating the potential funding options as part of the overall solution. There is coordination with many federal and state agencies that needs to occur, along with opportunities for public engagement throughout the project. These steps all take time, and KDOT and FHWA mutually agree that a three-year schedule is realistic to arrive at an approved final Record of Decision (ROD) for the project.

## **Study boundaries**

Q: What are the physical limits of the study?

A: The overall project study limits begin just north of Interstate 70 at North 1800 Road(Farmer's Turnpike) and extend to just east of the existing K-10/23<sup>rd</sup> Street interchange. The overall length is 19.0 miles and is broken down as follows:

- The West Leg SLT begins just north of Interstate 70 at North 1800 Road(Farmer's Turnpike) to US-59/Iowa Street (approximately 8.7 miles);
- The East Leg SLT begins at US-59/Iowa Street and continues to the existing K-10/23<sup>rd</sup> Street system interchange (5.6 miles); and
- The project study area also includes East 600 Road/Lecompton Road at Interstate 70 (approximately 0.6 mile), and U.S. 40 from K-10 to E 600 Road (approximately 4.1 miles).

## **Funding**

Q: Is there funding for construction?

A: There is no funding for construction at this time. A range of funding options will be evaluated as part of the SEIS.

## **How do I get information?**

Q: How will stakeholders be kept informed?

A: Stakeholders can stay informed by attending scheduled public meetings, or requesting a specific meeting for your community group. A project website is under development and will be live later in the fall. You can also sign up for project updates or ask question by emailing the project team at [info@SLT-KS.org](mailto:info@SLT-KS.org) .

Q: How can I get involved?

A: Please stay informed by attending meetings, and asking questions. There will be surveys and focus groups to provide input at different times throughout the study process. When the SEIS Draft is released, you may review and provide comments about the alternatives and the study process to the project team at [info@SLT-KS.org](mailto:info@SLT-KS.org).