

## KANSAS REGISTER NOTICE: U.S. 69 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

AGENCY: Kansas Department of Transportation

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Conduct Environmental Assessment

Public notice is hereby given that the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposal to modernize and expand the U.S. 69 Corridor located in Johnson County, Kansas. The City of Overland Park and the Kansas Turnpike Authority are serving as partners on the study.

The overall environmental study limits begin just south of W 179<sup>th</sup> Street and extend to just north of 103<sup>rd</sup> Street. The overall length is approximately 10 miles. Major roads at interchanges are included within the environmental study area, including W 103<sup>rd</sup> Street, College Boulevard, W 119<sup>th</sup> Street, Blue Valley Parkway, W 135<sup>th</sup> Street, W 151<sup>st</sup> Street, W 167<sup>th</sup> Street and W 179<sup>th</sup> Street. Additionally, I-435 at the interchange with U.S. 69 is included.

Within the EA, FHWA and KDOT will evaluate a 'No Action' alternative as well as modernization and expansion alternatives, including a toll alternative as the proposed action. The toll alternative will evaluate the potential benefits of express toll lanes for north and southbound traffic to improve safety and improve congestion in the corridor. Roadway and interchange configurations will be evaluated throughout the corridor.

The FHWA and KDOT plan to prepare an EA for the project. The EA will analyze the potential social, economic, and environmental impacts resulting from the proposed project. The following issues will be specifically analyzed as part of the EA: impacts to the aquatic ecosystem, impacts to cultural resources; impacts to threatened and endangered species; impacts to floodplains; impacts to transportation; impacts to parks/recreation; environmental justice; and socioeconomics. This includes direct, indirect and cumulative impacts. Other Federal approvals or permits that may be required; a Section 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), a floodplain development permit from the City of Overland Park as well as water resource and floodplain permits from the Kansas Division of Water Resources.

A scoping and coordination process will be initiated that involves appropriate federal, state and local agencies, as well as stakeholders and the public. This will continue throughout the study to engage the local and regional community, to obtain public input and to keep the public informed. Coordination meetings will be held as needed with affected/concerned local, State, Tribal, and Federal governmental entities. Public meetings will be held to gather input and share findings on the EA. The EA will be made available for public and agency review and comment prior to the final public meeting.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to the proposed action are addressed and all significant issues defined, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning the proposed action and the EA should be directed to KDOT at the addresses provided below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kansas Department of Transportation:  
Tom Rhoads, P.E., Alternative Delivery Manager  
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