

Transportation Stakeholders:

As the state’s 10-year Comprehensive Transportation Program (CTP) reaches its conclusion, we need to begin planning for our state’s next multi-modal transportation program. Governor Kathleen Sebelius has enlisted me to form a task force, Transportation Leveraging Investments in Kansas (T-LINK), which will be charged with developing recommendations for a new strategic approach that recognizes all forms of transportation and serves our future.

Local input is critical to T-LINK’s process in order to make sure it develops an approach that will serve our entire state. And considering the fiscal challenges our state is facing, having a thorough understanding of our regional priorities is of even greater importance. KDOT will be hosting a series of local consultation meetings in the coming weeks, which will provide a forum for this important discussion to take place, and I would like to invite you to attend the meeting(s) regarding your community’s interests.

Meeting Schedule:

Primary Discussion — **8:30 a.m.- Noon**
Lunch (on your own) — **12- 1 p.m.**
Optional Afternoon Session — **1:30- 4 p.m.**

Kansas Freight Study
In order to take full advantage of the meeting opportunity, participants will also have the option to learn more about an on-going freight study and provide their input about freight issues in Kansas from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Dates/Locations:

<u>Region/City</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>
Southwest	Sept. 11	Ulysses	Grant County Civic Center
Northwest	Sept. 12	Hays	Holiday Inn
South Central	Sept. 23	Hutchinson	Convention Center at Grand Prairie
North Central	Sept. 18	Abilene	Central Kansas State Fairgrounds
Northeast	Sept. 19	Topeka	Ramada Inn
Kansas City-Metro	Sept. 22	Olathe	Holiday Inn
Wichita-Metro	Sept. 30	Wichita	WSU- Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex
Southeast	Sept. 26	Pittsburg	Lamplighter Inn & Suites

A New Input Approach

For those of you who participated in discussions with T-2000, the task force responsible for developing the CTP, this year’s meetings will be different. Rather than providing testimony to the task force, you will be asked to work in collaboration with your fellow citizens and KDOT staff to identify the needs and priorities of your region. T-LINK members will be participating in these sessions too giving them the opportunity to learn about each region’s needs.

The purpose of these discussions is to identify each region’s needs and establish its priorities for the future. Input from each meeting will then be consolidated to craft a statewide approach for meeting our transportation needs.

Meeting Format

We have organized the meetings to have the primary discussion take place during the morning from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Participants will be provided background information and then given the opportunity to participate in a breakout session to identify the needs and priorities of the transportation mode they choose. The groups will then reconvene to report back the results from each mode and incorporate them into a set of priorities for the entire region, which takes into account the financial constraints we face.

Optional Afternoon Session

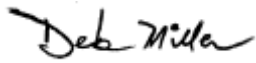
There will be a lot material to cover and thus, participants may not have a chance to get all their questions or concerns voiced during the morning session. Thus, KDOT staff will be available in the afternoon for further discussion and to answer any additional questions participants may have.

Working Together

During the last twenty years we have made tremendous improvements to our transportation infrastructure, thanks to the investment Kansans have made. We must protect this investment. And we must put ourselves in position to seize new economic opportunities and to address our future transportation needs. I strongly encourage you to take part in this process.

By working together, we can create a transportation approach that serves all Kansans. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Deb Miller
Secretary of Transportation

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