

Reactions from the public on September 19, 2008  
Topeka, Kansas  
Reported by Julius Karash

**Bart Hildreth, T-LINK member and public finance professor at Wichita State University** – “There’s no free lunch. What’s your advice on either cutting the budget to create space for more transportation, or your willingness, as a state, to pay more, in whatever form you think it should be paid?”

**Deb Miller, Kansas Secretary of Transportation** – “There are community livability issues. There are social service issues we need to be mindful of. There are economic development issues, there are safety issues. The work we are going to do, the issues we’re going to raise will touch the lives of every single citizen of Kansas.”

**Heather Morgan, Leavenworth County Administrator** – “The road system in the state is crucial to economic development. Having safe roads for our citizens is crucial to everyday life. We’re hopeful that these meetings will lead to a comprehensive transportation plan that looks at both safety and economic development.”

**Michael Byington, CEO of the Kansas Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired** – “Transportation is an extremely vital issue for people who, for one reason or another, don’t drive. There’s a lot more we would like KDOT to do. We’d like to see the percentage of state interest and contribution in public transportation increase.”

**Rep. Ann Mah of Topeka** – “We need to pay attention to what type of player Kansas can be nationally in increased rail capacity in economic development.”

**Tim Ramirez, public works director for the Potawatomi (Prairie Band) nation** – “An airport would bring us into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. With the advent of statewide gaming, the number of people who come to our casino will go down. We have to do everything we can to assure the continued revenue that sustains the nation’s activities.”