



Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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KDOT Launches New US-56 Corridor Management Plan Web Site

A driver on US-56 from just west of Baldwin City to its intersection with I-35 experiences variety: a farm implement dealer and a facility that employs 300, a windmill and an oil pumpjack, a downtown and a regional park. This diverse corridor is the subject of a 15-month Corridor Management Plan profiled on the new plan web site, www.us56corridorplan.org. The project web site tracks community response to issues/concerns/needs and provides updated information, overall plan schedule, and related plan documents.

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) partnered with Douglas and Johnson Counties, the cities of Baldwin City, Edgerton and Gardner, and the Mid-America Regional Council to begin the corridor planning process in February 2009. The Corridor plan's purpose is to improve access management and capacity along US-56 in a way that supports the needs and addresses the concerns of the Corridor communities. To help determine those needs and concerns, the web site will feature a "Community Question" that will change during each of the plan's three phases.

In addition, a public opinion survey of Corridor residents was administered by ETC Institute in April 2009. The survey results, which have a high level of accuracy, are available on the project web site. Over 80% of the survey respondents indicated they felt either "very safe" or "somewhat safe" driving the US-56 Corridor. A large majority (73%) thought that the proposed BNSF Intermodal Facility near Gardner would result in a major increase in truck traffic, but about the same percentage (70%) thought that the Intermodal Facility would have a positive effect on the economy of the US-56 Corridor. Other survey results that can be viewed on the web site include frequency of travel, perception of travel speeds, bicycle, pedestrian and transit, Corridor identity and image, land use, water and sewer issues.

For more information, please visit the project web site at: <http://www.us56corridorplan.org>. ###

This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact KDOT Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, Kan., 66603-3754, or (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired - 711.