

March 2, 2007

Cliff Galante, Transit Administrator  
City of Lawrence  
933 New Hampshire  
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Mr. Galante:

Re: Kansas Long Range Transportation Plan

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the development of the Kansas Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). As we enter Phase 2 of the LRTP, Topical Working Groups are being formed around specific thematic areas to make recommendations for meeting the State's transportation needs over the next 20 years. Those themes include freight, metropolitan transportation issues, rural and micropolitan transportation issues, funding and finance, and economic impact. I have enclosed a short summary of the LRTP Phase 2 process for your review.

The Topical Working Groups have an important role to play as the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) seeks new ideas and approaches for a future transportation program. I am pleased that you are willing to serve on the Metropolitan Topical Working Group, chaired by Tom Winters, Sedgwick County Commission. I anticipate each Topical Working Group will meet four times – once each month in March, April, May, and June.

The first meeting of the Metropolitan group is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 2007, at the Kansas State University Alumni Center located at 1720 Alumni Center (17<sup>th</sup> and Anderson) in Manhattan, Kansas. In this first meeting, members of all the Topical Working Groups will gather for an introductory session beginning at 9:30 a.m. and a group luncheon at noon. There will also be breakout sessions during the day and each group will conclude by 4:00 p.m. The second meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 19, in Wichita. More details about location and times will follow, but please hold this date on your calendar.

Any travel, lodging or meal expenses that you incur as part of serving as an LRTP Topical Working Group member will be reimbursed by the Kansas Department of Transportation. Detailed information about the reimbursement process, including what items are reimbursable as well as the necessary forms will be available at the first meeting.

Katie Blakemore, a consultant working on the LRTP, will be serving as the staff liaison between the agency and the group. If you have questions or comments please contact Katie at 816-527-2760 or [kblakemore@hntb.com](mailto:kblakemore@hntb.com)

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I know people's schedules are very busy and I appreciate your willingness to join the LRTP effort to improve the Kansas transportation network and strengthen the economic future of the state.

Sincerely,



Deb Miller  
Secretary, Kansas Department of Transportation

Enclosure

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## Kansas Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Phase 2 Underway



The Kansas Department of Transportation is developing a long range transportation plan for the State. The LRTP is an evaluation of the current status and future needs of all modes of the Kansas transportation system, including state highways and the local road network, transit, rail, aviation, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The planning process is designed to meet the requirements of the federal surface transportation act (SAFETEA-LU) as well as the needs of State of Kansas and KDOT.

By combining a technical analysis of the needs and gaps of the transportation system with input from a series of eight regional workshops around the State, five themes emerged from Phase 1 as the organizing framework to be carried into Phase 2. Those themes include: freight, metropolitan (defined as counties with a population of 50,000 or more and a metropolitan planning organization) transportation issues, rural and micropolitan transportation issues, funding/finance, and economic impact. An extensive review and input structure involving more than 150 stakeholders is being put into place for Phase 2 to comment on these themes. That structure includes:

- Five **Topical Working Groups** are being formed (one around each of the themes) to examine issues in detail and develop possible approaches to meeting the state's transportation needs in that area over the next 20 years.
- Because there are many issues which span more than one theme, the **LRTP Policy Committee** will review and integrate input from the Topical Working groups.
- **The LRTP Technical Committee** will also review the investment scenarios options in detail.
- **The KDOT Steering Committee** will continue to have input and provide guidance as well.

KDOT, with the assistance of the groups listed above, will explore new ideas and approaches for a future transportation program in terms of funding sources, program configuration and doing business. Phase 2 will focus on answering two over-arching questions:

1. What might a new transportation program look like?
2. What transportation needs would various investment scenarios meet?

Recommendations will be developed in Phase 2 and the draft LRTP will be rolled out in Phase 3 for citizen and stakeholder comment. Based on comments, the LRTP will be refined. Phase 2 is anticipated to run through the summer 2007 and a draft plan will be available for review in fall 2007.

For more information, contact Kyle Schneweis at 785-296-0293 or check out the web site at **[www.KansasLRTP.org](http://www.KansasLRTP.org)**