

DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Bob Johnson
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April 7, 2008

Michael H. Dever, Mayor
City of Lawrence
City Hall
6th & Massachusetts
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Mayor Dever:

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is aware the City of Lawrence has contracted with Wilson & Company, Inc. to study and complete concept phase plans for improvements to 31st Street from Haskell Avenue to O'Connell Road. It is our understanding the cost of these services is \$219,330, and the City is using the \$800,000 federal earmark to fund these costs.

We think it prudent planning to consider as a whole 31st Street from Iowa Street to Route 1057 in order to ensure improvements in the Haskell-to-O'Connell segment jibe with the other segments. While the 31st Street alignment between Iowa and Haskell is well established, we feel it important to determine a recommended alignment east of O'Connell to Route 1057. We also feel it important to identify the required right-of-way needed in order to preserve the corridor, as possible, through the planning process.


It makes fiscal sense to expand the current Haskell-to-O'Connell study as opposed to conducting a separate study for areas east of O'Connell. An expanded study to include areas east of O'Connell would also allow for more informed discussion between the City Commission and BOCC to determine:

- Phasing of improvements
- Timing of phased improvements
- Prospective funding of improvements
- City/County collaboration on improvements

Although the study segment length would quadruple, our Public Works Director estimates expanding the study to include the O'Connell-to-Route 1057 segment would roughly double the cost of the current study. The estimated additional cost of an expanded study is \$220,000, of which the BOCC is willing to pay a disproportionate share.

Speaking on behalf of my fellow commissioners, I request a work session with the City Commission as soon as possible to discuss expanding concept phase plan development for 31st Street to include the segment east of O'Connell Road to Route 1057.

Respectfully,



Bob Johnson, Chair
Board of County Commissioners