

Bureau of Public Involvement 700 SW Harrison Topeka, KS 66603-3754

NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

#08-115

May 6, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Record of Decision Signed for the South Lawrence Trafficway

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has approved the selection of the 32nd Street Alignment B Alternative for the completion of a new section of K-10, commonly known as the South Lawrence Trafficway (SLT).

The FHWA issued and signed its Record of Decision (ROD) on May 2, 2008 for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The FHWA formally adopted the Corps' Final EIS on November 9, 2007.

The signing of the ROD is the final action in FHWA's decision-making process under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The signed ROD opens the possibility for the state to use federal funds to partly fund the construction of the SLT. The current Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Comprehensive Transportation Plan expires in 2009. Funding for construction projects beyond 2009 is uncertain, so construction for the SLT has not been scheduled.

The FHWA ROD is available on the South Lawrence Trafficway website at www.southlawrencetrafficway.org. The Final EIS released by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is available in CD-ROM format by contacting the KDOT Bureau of Design at 785-296-3901 or 1-877-550-5368 (toll-free in Kansas).

A copy of the FHWA ROD will be available for viewing at the following locations after May 7 during their normal business hours:

• Federal Highway Administration, 6111 SW 29th St., Suite 100, Topeka

- Kansas Department of Transportation, Bureau of Design, 11th Floor, Eisenhower State Office Building, 700 SW Harrison, Topeka
- Haskell Indian Nations University Library, Tommaney Hall, Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence
- Anschutz Library, University of Kansas, 1301 Hoch Auditoria Drive, Lawrence
- Lawrence Public Library, Local Document Collection, 707 Vermont, Lawrence
- Douglas County Public Works Department, 1242 Massachusetts, Lawrence
- Lawrence/Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Office, 1st Fl., City Hall, 6 East 6th St., Lawrence
- Baker University Collins Library, 606 8th Street, Baldwin

Persons with questions or concerns about the FHWA Record of Decision can contact Doug Hecox, FHWA Office of Public Affairs, at 202-366-0660.

BACKGROUND

The FHWA became involved with the SLT in November 2005 as a result of a \$1.5 million federal appropriation to resume development of the project. These funds will not be sufficient to start construction of the project. The selected 32nd Street Alignment B is estimated to cost about \$148 million to build.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released its approved Final EIS for the SLT in January 2003. In its ROD in December 2003, the Corps selected 32nd Street Alignment B as its preferred alternative, completing the environmental documentation that would allow the state to build along that route without using Federal aid highway funds. On April 10, 2006, the FHWA announced its intent to adopt the Corp's approved Final EIS, for which it accepted comments through May 31, 2006. Also on April 10, 2006, the FHWA announced it would prepare and coordinate the distribution of a Draft and Final Section 4(f) Evaluation for the project. The Final Section 4(f) Evaluation was approved on November 1, 2007.

The SLT project consists of building a new section of K-10 Highway beginning at the K-10/US-59 Highway interchange in southwest Lawrence and extending approximately six miles north and east to existing K-10 near the eastern edge of the city of Lawrence. The No-Action alternative and five roadway corridors with a total of twelve reasonable-build alternative alignments were evaluated and discussed in the Corps' Draft and Final EIS.

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This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request. For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information, 700 SW Harrison St., Second Floor West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice) (TTY).