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## NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **KDOT to Host Public Open House in Emporia for Amtrak Passenger Rail Feasibility Study**

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is hosting a public open house for the Amtrak Passenger Rail Study on Thursday, May 27 in Emporia. The public is invited to stop by the open house-style meeting anytime between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Best Western – Flint Hills Room, 3021 W Highway 50, Emporia. We will offer a brief, formal presentation at 5:20 p.m. and 6:20 p.m.

At the open house, participants can review information on the four passenger rail service alternatives presented in the Amtrak study, including operating and infrastructure costs, potential travel schedules, estimated ridership and connections to other cities. KDOT staff will be on hand to answer questions and discuss issues or concerns.

KDOT will be conducting similar public open house meetings in towns along the proposed corridor. These community meetings will allow the public to learn more about the proposed options for expanded passenger rail service in Kansas and have their questions answered. KDOT wants to hear the public's thoughts about the four passenger rail alternatives.

Once KDOT has completed the series of public open house meetings with communities, we will be meeting with the departments of transportation in Oklahoma, Texas and Missouri, as well as legislators, public officials from the four states and railroad advocates to use their input in selecting a preferred alternative. KDOT will then hire a consultant to prepare a Service Development Plan (SDP). The SDP is a comprehensive business and operations plan of the selected passenger rail alternative, and is required before passenger rail service can be implemented. The SDP will provide information that the Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Missouri Legislatures can use when they decide whether to fund the proposed expansion of passenger rail service.

For more information on the Amtrak study public open house meeting, please call or e-mail Abbey Luterick at 785.296.3769 or [abbey@ksdot.org](mailto:abbey@ksdot.org). ###

NOTE: 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.