

NEWS RELEASE

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Traffic Signal Option Selected for US-24 & Topeka Boulevard Intersection Project

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) in partnership with the City of Topeka have chosen the final alternative for an intersection project to replace the existing US-24 and Topeka Boulevard cloverleaf interchange in north Topeka. The existing US-24 and Topeka Boulevard cloverleaf interchange will be replaced with a signalized intersection.

KDOT began a study, in early spring 2006, to look at options for replacing the cloverleaf interchange at US-24 and Topeka Boulevard with an intersection project. The two options that KDOT evaluated in the study were traffic signals and a roundabout. In June 2007, a public open house was held to present the study findings on the two options and obtain comments from citizens, stakeholders and businesses on the preferred option.

KDOT had originally planned to repair the overpass bridge; not remove the interchange. After considering the nature of repairs that are needed, the age of the bridge, the outdated interchange design, and the expected increase in traffic, engineers decided it would be more cost effective to replace the interchange with an intersection. An at-grade intersection was chosen to accommodate the future development plans for North Topeka. Plus a signalized intersection at Topeka Boulevard will match the existing character of US-24 which currently has traffic signals at Kansas Avenue and Rochester Road.

The US-24 and Topeka Boulevard interchange opened on September 18, 1941 and was built at a cost of \$168,500. It was the first cloverleaf interchange in the state. The overpass bridge is functionally obsolete, meaning the bridge roadway is too narrow. The width allowed for Topeka Boulevard under the bridge is also narrow. The ramp openings on both US-24 and Topeka Boulevard are close together, contributing to issues with merging traffic and other operation concerns. KDOT will continue to maintain the bridge so it can remain in service until it can be replaced.

The US-24 and Topeka Boulevard intersection project is a cooperative project with KDOT and the City of Topeka. Construction for the intersection project will be funded through federal dollars and \$1.5 million from the City of Topeka, subject to Council approval. The intersection project is tentatively scheduled to begin construction in 2012 with a completion date of 2013.

For more information on this intersection improvement project, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340.

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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.