PROPOSED WAKARUSA DRIVE EXTENSION

TOWN HALL MEETING SEPTEMBER 29, 2022
MEETING AGENDA

Welcome and introductions  5 minutes
Project description and overview  20 minutes
Roundtable discussions  20-30 minutes
Summarize group discussions  10 minutes
Additional discussion  15 minutes
FOLLOW AND STAY CONNECTED

Wakarusa Drive Extension Project

The proposed extension of Wakarusa Drive is a high priority improvement in the county’s road network. The proposed alignment will restore north-south connectivity for a large service area in southwest Douglas County, and provide Lawrence residents with increased access to city park facilities. The proposed road will be maintained by Douglas County.

See the Full Report for the Proposed Wakarusa Drive Extension

TOWN HALL MEETING

6:30 PM Thursday, September 28
Greenbush Resource Center (map)

A town hall meeting about the Wakarusa Drive extension project will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28, at the Greenbush Resource Center, formerly Wakarusa School, 1104 E 1000 Road. It will be an opportunity for the community to hear about the project, ask questions and provide comments. To review a report about the project, click here.

Proposed Wakarusa Drive Extension

Sign up for project updates!

Get information about the Wakarusa Drive extension project in your inbox.

Email

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Sign up!

Project Collaborators

Public Works
Visit Website
Phone: 785-832-5263
Email Us

Zoning and Codes
Visit Website
Phone: 785-331-1343
Email Us
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND OVERVIEW

• Long-range planning
• Conceptual layout
• Project benefits
• Anticipated environmental concerns
• Estimated project cost
2021 ROAD CLASSIFICATIONS
SOUTH LAWRENCE TRAFFICWAY PLANNING
PROJECT TIMELINE

• Road identified in long-range plans
• Project listed in Capital Improvement Plans
• Start the design process, contract for engineering services
• Preliminary engineering, evaluate design options
• Identify environmental concerns
• Present design options and seek public input
• Review recommendations and identify a preferred design
• Proceed with final engineering, prepare construction plans
• Property and easement acquisition
• Final approval of plans and permits
• Bid for construction
• Road construction, inspection and acceptance
• Road open for public use
EXISTING ROAD CONTINUING SOUTH
PROJECT BENEFITS

- Improved access for rural residents
- Improved fire and medical response
- Reliable access during flood events
- Reduced traffic in recreational areas
- Reduced travel times and vehicle use
- Reduced traffic in congested areas
- Improved access to city park facilities
RURAL SERVICE AREA

Total area served: 62 square miles
Publicly owned land: 10 square miles
Privately owned parcels: 1,218
Total appraised property value: $280 million
EXISTING TRAFFIC PATTERNS

Traffic counts collected July 2022

Dam road 1,900 VPD
Lower dam road 700 VPD
N 1200 Road 2,500 VPD
E 1000 Road 3,500 VPD
ESTIMATED 2026 TRAFFIC PATTERNS

Wakarusa Drive  3,650 VPD
Dam road        450 VPD
Lower dam road  400 VPD
N 1200 Road     900 VPD
E 1000 Road     3,500 VPD
REDUCED VEHICLE USE

REDUCED TRAFFIC IN CONGESTED AREAS

Average reduction 1.2 miles per trip
X 3,650 vehicles per day
Eliminates 1.6 million miles driven per year

Average reduction 2.4 minutes per trip
X 3,650 vehicles per day
Eliminates 53,000 vehicle hours per year
RELIABLE ACCESS DURING FLOOD EVENTS
REDUCED TRAFFIC IN RECREATIONAL AREAS
PROJECT BENEFITS

• Improved access for rural residents
• Improved fire and medical response
• Reliable access during flood events
• Reduced traffic in recreational areas
• Reduced travel times and vehicle use
• Reduced traffic in congested areas
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ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Removal of trees
Removal of man-made wetlands near N1200 Road
Removal of prime farmland

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Buffer area along the river
Native prairie restoration areas
Coordination with city park plans
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

• Evaluate design options and preliminary plans
• Share preliminary plans with environmental review agencies
• Obtain permit determinations or impact determinations
• Modify the project design to address environmental factors
• Share modified plans with the public and discuss environmental concerns
• Incorporate comments and finalize project plans
• Submit formal environmental permit applications for approval
• Implement environmental conditions and restrictions during construction
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AGENCIES

US Army Corps of Engineers
  • Enforcement of the Clean Water Act
  • Protection of Waters of the US
  • Protection of Wetlands
  • Affected landowner

Kansas Department of Health and Environment
  • Pollution prevention
  • Erosion and sediment control

Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources
  • Floodplain management
  • Stream crossings

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
  • Represent the USFWS
  • Protection of threatened and endangered species
  • Protection of critical habitat areas

Kansas State Historical Society
  • Protection of cultural and historic resources
## ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WAKARUSA DRIVE 1.4 MILES</th>
<th>WAKARUSA RIVER BRIDGE</th>
<th>SHARED USE PATH 2 MILES</th>
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<tr>
<td>DESIGN (2023)</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
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<td>RIGHT-OF-WAY</td>
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<td>CONSTRUCTION ADMIN</td>
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<td>CONSTRUCTION (2025)</td>
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<td>TOTAL 2023-2026</td>
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<td><strong>$3,960,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,100,000</strong></td>
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DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Will the road lead to city annexation and urban development?

   Urban expansion will be limited by the wastewater collection system

Will the road lead to increased rural development?

   The proposed road creates frontage for one additional house
RURAL DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Focus questions

• What are your questions about the project?
• What benefits and solutions does this project address?
• What are the biggest concerns about this project?
• What other perspectives or information are needed to inform this process?
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