The South Lawrence Trafficway Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Let’s Review

KDOT conducted the K-10 West Leg Concept Study from 2014-2016, which proposed adding two new lanes between I-70 and US-59 and modifying existing access through reconfiguration of existing interchanges, removing at-grade intersections, converting existing at-grade intersections to new interchanges, and adding new interchanges to enhance safety and traffic flow. During this study, an environmental reevaluation of the past NEPA decision for the West Leg was initiated to assess changes since the time of the initial 1990 EIS.

In the spring of 2016, the public raised concerns regarding K-10 access at Farmer’s Turnpike that led to the Project Team recommending additional evaluation of the proposed alternatives and the study area through a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). The SEIS will review the concept alternatives and evaluate the entire corridor for impacts, and identify ways to minimize or avoid impacts to sensitive project environmental features within the project footprint. The SEIS is scheduled to be completed in 2021.

What the Project Includes

The South Lawrence Trafficway (SLT) Project will examine the benefits and impacts of improvements. For the West Section, from I-70 to U.S. 59, the SEIS will evaluate alternatives to upgrade the corridor to a four lane freeway with grade separated interchanges. For the East Section from U.S. 59 to K-10/23rd Street, the SEIS will only evaluate the impacts of funding options and no physical improvements or new right-of-way will be needed. The East Section is being evaluated in this study because it is a key component of the SLT corridor from I-70 to 23rd Street and it could provide sustainable funds for operation, maintenance and future SLT improvements.
What will the SEIS do?

The SEIS will help KDOT evaluate options for improving the SLT to enhance safety and improve capacity while supporting its ability to serve as a thriving corridor for the City of Lawrence and the region.

The SEIS will:

- Supplement previous SLT environmental documents.
- Establish formal project goals (called purpose and need).
- Review existing conditions for significant changes since the completion of previous SLT studies.
- Evaluate the impacts of improvements to the natural and man-made environment.
- Provide multiple opportunities for public input through public information meetings, public hearings, online surveys and focus groups.
- Identify a preferred alternative.
- Evaluate the socio-economic impacts associated with the different funding options.
- Be submitted as a draft document for public comment then finalized and submitted for a formal federal approval called a Record of Decision (ROD).

An SEIS guides the process and:

- Allows public and stakeholder input throughout the SEIS process,
- Documents how improvements would affect both the natural and man-made environment,
- Is required by the federal National Environmental Protection Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the Federal Highway Administration,
- Is one type of environmental document necessary to secure federal funding for transportation improvements (federal dollars typically pay 80 percent of the cost of major highway projects).

To learn more about the SEIS and its progress, please visit www.slt-ks.org
To request a presentation or to provide project comments, please email info@slt-ks.org