

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, KANSAS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

4:00 p.m.

-Convene

CONSENT AGENDA

- (1)(a) Consider approval of Commission Orders;
- (b) Consider approval of Commission Order approving annexation and attachment of land to RWD#4 in Douglas County as presented at the 08/31/11 meeting. (Craig Weinaug)

REGULAR AGENDA

- (2) Receive information regarding the Kansas Forest Service partnership with the Planning and Development Services Department to conduct an assessment of the forest resource in Douglas County. The staff memo and attachments outlines the goals of the assessment, describes the process, and defines the Planning Departments participation in the project. (Mary Miller is the Planner)
- (3) Consider request from Theatre Lawrence for \$20,000 per year for five years to help fund a new theater and education facility. (Mary Doveton, Executive Director Theatre Lawrence)
- (4) Consider partnering with KDOT and City of Lawrence on TIGER grant application for construction of interchange at Bob Billings Parkway and K-10 highway (Keith Browning)
- (5) Other Business
 - (a) Consider approval of Accounts Payable (if necessary)
 - (b) Appointments:
 - Building Code Board of Appeals - vacancy**
 - Douglas County Advocacy Council on Aging – vacancy**
 - Douglas County Community Corrections Advisory Board - 12/2011**
 - Douglas County Senior Services, Inc. Board of Directors - 12/2011**
 - Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging Tri-County Advisory Council - vacancy**
 - Fire/EMS District No. 1 - 12/2011**
 - (c) Public Comment
 - (d) Miscellaneous
- (6) Adjourn

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

-Masonic Temple project NRA request (Dianne Stoddard)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2011 - 4:00 p.m. only

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2011

-CPA-10-8-10: Consider Comprehensive Plan Amendment to Chapter 14 – Southeast Area Plan, to reference and reflect the accepted Preliminary Alignment Study for 31st Street and to update the plan to reflect changes since adoption. (PC Item 7; approved 8-0 on 8/24/11) Michelle Leininger is the Planner.

***Note:** The Douglas County Commission meets regularly on Wednesdays at 4:00 P.M. for administrative items and 6:35 P.M. for public items at the Douglas County Courthouse. Specific regular meeting dates that are not listed above have not been cancelled unless specifically noted on this schedule.*

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, KANSAS**

In the Matter of the Petition for Approval of
Attachment of Lands to Rural Water District No. 4,
Douglas County, Kansas

**ORDER OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DOUGLAS COUNTY,
KANSAS, APPROVING ANNEXATION AND ATTACHMENT
OF CERTAIN LAND TO
RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 4, DOUGLAS COUNTY, KANSAS**

On August 31, 2011, the same being one of the regular meeting days of the Board of County Commissioners of Douglas County, Kansas (the “Board”), the Petition for Approval of Attachment of Lands to Rural Water District No. 4, Douglas County, Kansas (the “Petition”), seeking to attach the land legally described in the attached *Exhibit A* of this Order (the “Land”) to Rural Water District No. 4, Douglas County, Kansas (the “District”), came before the Board for hearing pursuant to K.S.A. Sections 19-270 and 82a-622, *et seq.*

The Board, having heard statements of the Petitioners and other evidence presented, having been duly and fully advised in the premises, and having considered the Petition, finds:

1. That a Notice of Hearing was published in the Lawrence Journal-World on August 12, 2011 and the Affidavit of Publication was duly returned to the County Clerk; that on August 9, 2011 the County Clerk mailed, by first class mail, a copy of the Petition and Notice of Hearing to each of the following: (i) owners of the Land, (ii) the office of the Board of Directors of the District, (iii) the Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources, State Board of Agriculture, (iv) the City of Lawrence, (v) Wakarusa Township, and (vi) the Lawrence-Douglas County Planning Commission; that proper notice has been given as required by K.S.A. Sections 19-270 and 82a-623; and that the hearing on this matter was commenced and completed on August 31, 2011.

2. That the statements in the Petition are true; that a majority of the Board of Directors of the District do not object to the Petition or the requested attachment; that the Land is without an adequate supply of water and can be economically served by the facilities of the District; and that such attachment of the Land to the District will be conducive to and will promote the public health, convenience and welfare.

3. That the Petition is in conformity with the requirements of K.S.A. 82a-622 through 82a-624.

4. That the Land is located within the three-mile “fringe area” (as defined in K.S.A. 19-270) of the City of Lawrence; that at least a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the Board have approved the extension of the boundaries of the District within the said fringe area; that the City of Lawrence, as well as the Lawrence-Douglas County Planning Commission and Wakarusa Township, were notified of the Petition and permitted to present testimony and recommendations concerning the Petition; that all such testimony has been considered.

5. That the Board has considered the criteria specified by K.S.A. 19-270, and in addition finds that the District boundaries currently include property surrounding and in the vicinity of the Land and that the District currently has water lines in the vicinity of the Land.

6. That the Land should be and hereby is approved for annexation and attachment to the District.

IT IS THEREFORE, BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, KANSAS, UNANIMOUSLY ORDERED AND DECLARED that, pursuant to K.S.A. Sections 19-270 and 82a-622, *et seq.*, the Land, legally described in the attached ***Exhibit A*** which is incorporated herein by this reference, be, and the same is, hereby approved for annexation and attachment to the District.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the County Clerk enter the foregoing declaration, findings, decisions and orders in the records of the Board.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Order is dated and entered this _____ day of September 2011.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
DOUGLAS COUNTY, KANSAS**

ATTEST:

Jameson D. Shew,
Douglas County Clerk

Jim Flory, Chair

Mike Gaughan, Member

Nancy Thellman, Member

EXHIBIT A
(Legal Description)

TRACT 5B:

A tract of land located in the South Half (S ½) of the Northwest Quarter (NW ¼) of Section Twenty-Seven (S27), Township Thirteen South (T13S), Range Twenty East (R20E) of the 6th P.M., Douglas County, Kansas, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Northwest Quarter (NW ¼); thence North 89°51'40" East a distance of 1,313.43 feet to the point of beginning, said point being on the South line of the Northwest Quarter (NW ¼); thence North 00°27'01" East a distance of 662.68 feet; thence North 89°50'42" East a distance of 437.70 feet; thence South 00°27'01" West a distance of 662.80 feet, said point being on the South line of the Northwest Quarter (NW ¼); thence South 89°51'40" West a distance of 437.70 feet to the point of beginning.

Memorandum

City of Lawrence

Planning & Development Services

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Mary Miller, Planner

CC: Craig Weinaug, County Administrator
Scott McCullough, Planning and Development Services Director

Date: For September 14, 2011 meeting

RE: Kansas Forest Service Tree Survey for Douglas County

Attachments: Kansas Forest Service letter outlining the project.
MARC Brochure

The Kansas Forest Service is utilizing a federal grant to assess the forest resource along the I-70 Corridor. Douglas County lies within this corridor and the Forest Service invited us to participate in the project. Kim Bomberger, Northeast District Community Forester, provided a summary of the project in the attached letter. The Forest Service recently partnered with the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) to complete an assessment of the forest resources in the Kansas City Metro Area. This assessment provides an estimate of the forest resources present in the area and quantifies the benefits they provide. (See attached brochure.)

Education and outreach is a principal component of our comprehensive plan's environment chapter. The chapter notes the following as a strategy: "Develop educational programs to foster community awareness of and support for the protection and enhancement of natural areas, efficient use of natural resources and appropriate waste management." (page 16-2) More specifically, Policy 2.2(a.4) recommends that we "*Develop public outreach and educational programs to increase public awareness concerning the importance of woodlands.*" (page 16-12)

The Kansas Forest Service assessment will provide data that quantifies the composition of the forest resource, and ecosystem values associated with trees and woodlands in Douglas County which will be useful not only in meeting the education and outreach policies and strategies of the environment chapter, but will also provide a framework for future policies, incentives, and regulations. The assessment is geared toward gathering general information on the amount and types of trees and woodlands currently in Douglas County and quantifying the functions they provide. This will work toward fulfilling Policy 2.2(a.4) of the environment chapter.

Staff is excited about this opportunity and looking forward to providing support services for the project. No cash match is required with this project, but as Ms. Bomberger pointed out in her letter, staff will perform support services, such as the creation of parcel maps.

The assessment will be conducted in the growing season of 2012 and the results will be made available to the City and County Commissioners and the public after evaluation and synthesis of data by Ms. Bomberger and US Forest Service research scientists.

In another project, the City Parks and Recreation Department partnered with the KS Forest Service in the summer of 2011 to inventory trees in the public right-of-way. With this project, trees are inventoried and categorized as to species, size and condition. This project will go toward meeting Policy 2.2 (b.1) of the Environment Chapter: *"The City shall conduct an inventory of the Urban Forest."* Many inventories are conducted primarily through aerial photographs, satellite imagery, and field testing; however, the inventory being undertaken with the KS Forest Service will provide more accurate and complete information about the trees on City property.

ACTION REQUESTED

No Commission action is necessary. This information is being provided as an update to the Commission.

Kansas Forest Service

2610 Claflin Rd.
Manhattan, KS 66502-2798
785-532-3300
Fax: 785-532-3305
E-mail: kfs@lists.oznet.ksu.edu
<http://www.kansasforests.org>

RECEIVED

AUG 10 2011

City County Planning Office
Lawrence, Kansas

July 8, 2011

Mary Miller
Lawrence/Douglas County Planning Division
P.O. Box 708
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Dear Mary,

Thank you for the opportunity to visit with you and other members of the Lawrence/ Douglas County planning office concerning a federally-funded grant opportunity between your organization and the Kansas Forest Service. After visiting with your organization's staff now several times, it appears that we have similar interests regarding the forest and natural resource.

Eastern Kansas is the most wooded part of Kansas, with Douglas County offering many natural and forested resources to residents and visitors alike. The Kansas Forest Service has developed a Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy that addresses our agency's priorities and helps us identify areas of the state to devote resources to. Douglas County and Lawrence fall within the I-70 corridor that we have identified as a priority area within the state.

The assessment, education and related activities that we have talked about for Douglas County is actually an extension of work that the Kansas Forest Service and our partners there have undertaken in the 9-county metropolitan Kansas City area the past couple of years. The first phase of the Kansas City project was to assess the natural and forest resource using a model called i-Tree Eco. Using this model, field crews collected tree, shrub and groundcover data from randomly gridded plots. We have learned that the forest resource in the metro Kansas City area is comprised of approximately 249,450,000 trees that provide hundreds of millions of dollars in air quality service to the region, more than 14 million dollars in energy conservation benefits and half a million dollars of benefit by avoiding the release of emissions from power plants. The structural value of these trees is placed at 93 billion dollars (structural value is defined as the cost of having to replace a tree with a similar tree). Having a similar understanding of the forest resource in Douglas County would complement the work that your office has already completed with the Environmental Chapter and provide a foundation of understanding based on data for Douglas County.

For a similar project to be successful in Douglas County, the Kansas Forest Service will certainly need your help and support. In the metro area, Mid-America Regional Council is the local planning agency who supplied local coordination, GIS and other local services and will be instrumental in the educational and outreach component of the second phase of the project there. I think we can duplicate to a certain degree the partner responsibilities as undertaken in the Kansas City project.



Your organization has GIS staff and expertise so I would ask for your help in creating plot maps that the data collection crews would use in the field. I currently have forestry contacts in Baldwin City and Lawrence but lack contacts in Eudora and Lecompton and would ask for your assistance in reaching those potential stakeholders. We can team up on the education and outreach to city and county staff, city and county commissions and other interested parties, as well as the development of project materials. It may be that data gleaned from the project could assist in the educational component of the Environmental Chapter as well as providing a base for policy development and implementation. We should plan to maintain regular contact as crews work in the county and the project progresses. There may be unforeseen local issues or details that arise during data collection or project implementation that I may need to request assistance for.

I had originally thought to undertake data collection before leaf drop this fall but the time remaining to do everything required before data collection is just too short. There would be a lot of administrative details that both our agencies would have to complete before crews go in to the field. Instead, I would propose that data collection begin in later May 2012, after leaf out, and finish by mid to late July 2012. It is necessary that leaves be on the trees to collect certain pieces of information required by the i-Tree Eco model.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with your organization, commissions and cities in Douglas County and all other interested parties. Please do not hesitate to let me know of any questions or comments to what I have described or proposed here.

Sincerely,



Kim Bomberger
NC/NE District Community Forester
Kansas Forest Service
2610 Claflin Road
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
785-532-3315
kbomberg@ksu.edu

pc. Larry Biles
Tim McDonnell

potential applications (cont.)

EDUCATION & PROGRAMS

Educate residents and city staff about the benefits of trees.

Train city staff on implementing new design and maintenance guidelines. Properly training staff about current practices and procedures will ensure consistent tree maintenance throughout a city or county.

Celebrate Arbor Day. An Arbor Day celebration can be a simple and brief event or an all-day or all-week observation. Consider a tree-planting event or an award ceremony that honors leading tree planters.

Become a Tree City USA. Tree City USA, sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, provides direction, technical assistance, public attention and national recognition for urban and community forestry programs in thousands of American towns and cities.

Hire a certified arborist. Proper tree care is an investment that can lead to substantial returns, but poorly maintained trees can be a significant liability. Cities should encourage appropriate staff to seek arborist certification.

Recruit volunteers. Some tree maintenance tasks can be performed by residents or community organizations. Consider a citizen tree stewardship program like Heartland Tree Alliance's Tree Keepers workshops, where residents can learn how to maintain our community's forests. The organization also holds tree care workdays where volunteers mulch trees on public property.



project partners



discussion questions

- What do you value most about the urban forest in the Kansas City region?
- What successes exist locally for urban forestry initiatives?
- Looking at the list of strategies provided:
 - What strategies are missing or do not belong?
 - Which strategies are key in advancing urban forestry in our region?

About the Kansas City project:
www.marc.org/Environment/itree.htm

More information on i-Tree programs:
www.itreetools.org

Questions:
Kassie Shelton, MARC Planner
kshelton@marc.org or 816-701-8233



Many thanks to the
Kansas City Public Library
for their support of this event.



agenda

- 2:30–2:35 p.m. Opening remarks
- 2:35–3:15 p.m. Regional tree assessment results by David Nowak
- 3:15–3:20 p.m. Heartland Tree Alliance's current projects
- 3:20–3:50 p.m. Facilitated discussions
- 3:50–4:00 p.m. Concluding remarks

about the speaker:

David J. Nowak is a Project Leader with the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station in Syracuse, NY. Dr. Nowak received a B.S. and M.S. from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. His research investigates urban forest structure, health, and change, and its effect on air quality and greenhouse gases. He is one of the chief architects of the software tools used in this project to quantify ecosystem services from urban vegetation.

Dr. Nowak has authored over 180 publications and is a recipient of the National Arbor Day Foundation's highest honor — the J. Sterling Morton Award, which recognizes lifelong commitment to tree planting and conservation at a national or international level. He has also received American Forests' Urban Forest Medal for outstanding national contributions in urban forest research, the Distinguished Science Award of the Northeastern Research Station, and the Forest Service Chief's Honor Award for Engaging Urban America. Dr. Nowak was a contributing member of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

overview

Trees provide a range of benefits to our region, including improved air and water quality, energy savings for buildings, stormwater infiltration, carbon sequestration and much more. In the fall of 2010 an initiative was undertaken to understand and quantify the benefits provided by urban trees in the Kansas City region. The assessment was conducted by the Mid-America Regional Council — the metropolitan planning organization for the bistate Greater Kansas City area — in partnership with Davey Resource Group, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Kansas Forest Service.

Information on tree structure was recorded from 340 randomly selected plots throughout the nine-county Kansas City region. The information has been analyzed by the U.S. Forest Service using their i-Tree software suite, and results of this study are now being released.



Findings from this report can help create a better understanding of our urban forest and the services and values it provides. Local leaders, planners and residents can use the study results to develop improved long-term management plans and policies that will protect and preserve our trees for future generations. Our region's urban forest is a valuable resource; by responsibly maintaining and growing trees throughout Greater Kansas City, we can all enjoy the benefits of a healthy environment and a high quality of life.

forestry terms

URBAN FORESTRY: The art, science, and technology of managing trees, forests, and natural systems in and around cities, suburbs, and towns for the health and well-being of all people.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION: The process through which agricultural and forestry practices remove carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere. Such activities can help prevent global climate change by enhancing carbon storage in trees and soils, preserving existing tree and soil carbon, and by reducing emissions of CO₂, methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O).

STRUCTURE: The urban forest's structure includes physical attributes such as number of trees, species composition and tree health.

FUNCTION: The services and benefits that the urban forest provides, such as energy conservation, air pollution removal, stormwater interception, and carbon sequestration.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: Commonly defined as the benefits people obtain from ecosystems, these services include provisioning services such as the delivery of food, fresh water, wood and fiber, and medicine. It also includes services that are less tangible and harder to measure but equally critical: regulating services like carbon sequestration, erosion control, and pollination; cultural services like recreation, ecotourism, and educational and spiritual values; and supporting services like nutrient cycling, soil formation, and primary productivity.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE: Green infrastructure consists of strategically planned and managed networks of natural lands, working landscapes and other open spaces that conserve ecosystem values and functions and provide associated benefits to people.

what is i-tree?

i-Tree is a state-of-the-art, peer-reviewed software suite from the USDA Forest Service that provides urban forestry analysis and benefits. The program provides affordable, easy-to-use tools communities can use to collect and analyze information on their urban forest. i-Tree products help strengthen management and advocacy efforts by quantifying the structure of community trees and the environmental services trees provide. For more information on i-Tree programs, visit www.itreetools.org.

study highlights

STRUCTURE

- Kansas City's regional urban forest has an estimated **249,450,000 trees**.
- Average tree cover in the Kansas City area is estimated to be **18.6%**.
- The overall tree density in our region is **88.1 trees per acre**.
- The five most common species in the urban forest are:
 1. *American elm* (28.9 percent)
 2. *Northern hackberry* (14.0 percent)
 3. *Osage orange* (7.2 percent)
 4. *Honeylocust* (6.7 percent)
 5. *Eastern red cedar* (5.0 percent)

FUNCTION

- It is estimated that **trees remove 32,000 tons of air pollution*** per year.
- Carbon sequestration by trees in the Kansas City area is about **667,000 tons of carbon per year** (2.4 million tons per year of carbon dioxide). Trees in the Kansas City area are estimated to store **19.9 million tons of carbon** (72.8 million tons of carbon dioxide).

VALUE

- Trees in the Kansas City area are estimated to **reduce residential buildings' energy costs by \$14.0 million annually** and save a total of 62,400 MWH and 572,800 MBTU in heating and cooling.
- Trees also provide an additional **\$500,800** in value per year by reducing the amount of carbon released by fossil fuel-based power plants (a reduction of 24,100 tons of carbon emissions or 88,500 tons of carbon dioxide).
- Urban forests have a structural value based on the tree itself (e.g., the cost of having to replace the tree with a similar tree). The structural value of the trees and forests in the Kansas City area is about **\$93.4 billion**.

FUNCTION	VALUE
Reduction of energy costs per year	\$14 Million
MWH ^a savings in heating and cooling	62,400 MWH
MBTU ^b savings in heating and cooling	572,800 MBTU
Reducing carbon released by fossil fuel-based power plants	\$500,800
Structural value (cost to replace trees)	\$93.4 billion
Pollutant* removal per year	32,000 tons
Net sequestration per year	667,000 tons of carbon
	2.4 million tons of CO ₂
Storage per year	19.9 million tons of carbon
	72.8 million tons of CO ₂

a) Million British Thermal Units

b) Megawatt Hour

* carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), particulate matter less than ten microns (PM₁₀)

our urban forest by the numbers



potential applications

VISIONING AND GOAL SETTING

Establish a canopy cover goal. A canopy cover goal allows communities to set specific goals that take into account factors such as climate, geography, land use and political conditions to set a minimum threshold for canopy coverage for each type of land use.

Establish a no-net-loss-of-trees goal. No net loss of trees would require that every time a tree is removed due to public or private development the responsible party would be required to replace it in kind, either through new planting or fees.

PLAN MAKING & PLANNING AHEAD

Comprehensive planning. Establish a green infrastructure urban forestry element within local comprehensive land use plans.

Improve storm response. Make sure that city staff or contractors conduct tree work according to national standards while meeting Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements for reimbursement. Have procedures in place for quickly hiring temporary workers in emergency situations, such as additional tree workers and inspectors to work with FEMA.

Review contracts with utility companies. Contracts with private- and city-owned utilities — both above- and below-ground — should specify requirements for the treatment of trees, including pruning, trenching and boring. Make sure policies exist to protect trees during utility work on new or existing lines.

Evaluate coordination among city departments. Communication among departments such as parks and recreation, public works, and planning and development is necessary to ensure that tree work is not overlooked or duplicated. Procedures for maintenance and planting should be set in a way that clearly identifies each department's tree-related responsibilities.

PUBLIC INVESTMENT

Budget for trees. The National Arbor Day Foundation recommends budgeting two dollars per capita for tree-related expenditures. This budget can include labor, equipment, contracts, volunteer time and many other things in addition to tree planting.

Create a dedicated capital funding source to support implementation of local forestry goals.

IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

Assess development practices. Assess current city practices, then create or strengthen appropriate development ordinances and codes. Consider using tools such as a tree-protection ordinance for existing trees, a landscape ordinance that encourages use of native species, or a stormwater and/or parks plan to protect and restore wooded stream corridors.

Develop urban forest design guidelines.

Have an effective tree ordinance. A tree ordinance provides clear guidance for planting, maintaining and removing trees from streets, parks and other public places.

Encourage public and private planting.

Use national standards. In the U.S. arborist industry there are two voluntary standards related to arborists' activities: the ANSI A300 Standard and the ANSI Z133 Standard.

Schedule regular public tree inspection and maintenance. Many storm-related problems and expenses can be avoided with good tree maintenance programs. Performing preventative tree work on a routine basis — such as early corrective pruning, monitoring rotten trees or identifying branch splits — can prevent many future problems and greatly reduce costs of cleanup work after a severe weather event.

Develop an urban forest "best practices" maintenance manual.

MEMORANDUM

To : Board of County Commissioners

From : Keith A. Browning, P.E., Director of Public Works/County Engineer

Date : September 8, 2011

Re : Consider support for partnering with KDOT and City of Lawrence
TIGER III grant application for construction of interchange
Bob Billings Parkway at K-10

KDOT is preparing plans for construction of an interchange at Bob Billings Parkway (BBP) at K-10 highway (SLT) on the west side of Lawrence. Construction is currently scheduled for 2015.

Recently KDOT informed the City of Lawrence and us that they cannot afford to construct bicycle/pedestrian facilities as part of the interchange project. KDOT told Chuck Soules and me that if we want bike lanes/sidewalks then the local governments must pay the additional cost (approximately \$800K - \$1 million). It is planned for the City to expand west of this interchange, and both Chuck and I feel bike/ped facilities for the interchange are important. My opinion is that it is appropriate for the County to share bike lane costs with City, but not necessarily sidewalk costs.

The City is working with KDOT to prepare an application for TIGER III funding for construction of the BBP/K-10 interchange including bike/ped facilities. The total interchange cost is estimated to be approximately \$20 million. In the TIGER application, KDOT will commit to \$8-\$10 million. KDOT is asking that the City and County commit to \$100,000 each. KDOT feels the application will be a strong one with KDOT, City and County support.

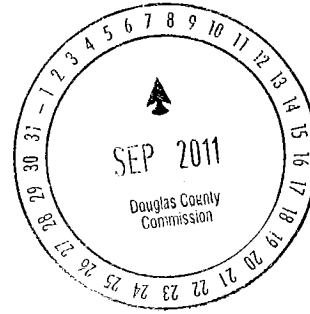
Shoeb Uddin, City Engineer, will attend the BOCC meeting to present information on the project. The BOCC should discuss the project and the requested \$100,000 commitment. Also, the BOCC will be asked to provide a letter in support of the TIGER III grant application.

Action Required: Discuss the project and the proposed financial commitment for the TIGER III grant application. Provide direction on preparation of a letter in support of the grant application.



8 September, 2011

Douglas County Commissioners
c/o Craig Weinaug, County Administrator
1100 Massachusetts
Lawrence, KS 66044



Dear Commissioners,

Board Members

Dean Bevan

Robert Bowline

Terry Campbell

Fred DeVictor

Kurt Goeser

Peter Hansen

Jane Henry

Jon Hobbie

Cindy Johnson

Bob Newton

Andrea Norris

Bobby Patton

Ron Renz

Robert Schwartz

Robert C. Sturgeon

Melissa Wick

Ex Officio

Janis Bunker

Doni Mooberry Slough

Charles Whitman

Executive Director

Mary Doveton

1501 New Hampshire

P.O. Box 3205

Lawrence, KS 66046

Theatre Lawrence is in the final stages of a \$6.2 million capital campaign to create a new theatre and education facility in the Bauer Farms development on the west side of the city.

We ask that Douglas County consider providing a campaign commitment to this project of \$20,000 per year for five years for a total of \$100,000. *This amount will help us secure a \$1 million out-of-state challenge grant that will be lost if we do not reach our campaign goal by the end of September.* In order to help us obtain these funds a definite commitment must be received from the County before the end of September.

We have spoken with all of the commissioners to enlist their support for this effort. The cultural and economic benefits will be immense and will create a new cultural 'destination' within our community.

The new facility will include a 300-seat theatre that will be in use over 200 nights per year. Classroom and educational program space will be tripled. It will be a great asset to Lawrence and to the 400+ volunteers who annually participate in our programs.

Our current facility is bursting at the seams with volunteers, patrons, children and seniors. Outside organizations requesting rental space for meetings and programs are routinely turned away. Existing programs vie for rehearsal space, and adult classes are often impossible to schedule.

We presently collaborate with the Lawrence School District, the Girl Scouts, The Boys & Girls Club, the Lawrence Housing Authority and others to provide meaningful opportunities for young people. Our after school and youth education programs are routinely filled to capacity because we simply do not have enough space in our current facility. In addition, our senior acting troupe, the 'Vintage Players', provides performances at senior living facilities throughout the city and also partners with the School District.

Theatre Lawrence has been part of our community since 1976. A new facility will provide more space to conduct all of these programs and allow them to grow. A successful campaign will allow Theatre Lawrence to move from its current home – a 65 year old church – and build on its 35 years of service to Lawrence and Douglas County. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Janis Bunker, Campaign Co-chair

CC: Doni Mooberry Slough, Campaign Committee Co-chair
Mary Doveton, Executive Director