

To Greene County residents:

The Greene County Highway Department has started the next phase of the Kansas extension project, which involves conducting an environmental study along this future roadway corridor.

An extension of Kansas Expressway has been planned for several years to provide an additional north-south roadway in southern Greene County that will improve traffic flow in the area. Plans are to extend Kansas Expressway from where it currently ends at Republic Road for a little over two miles south to a connection with Cox Road at Farm Road 190. This new corridor will be designed to accommodate a future four-lane roadway (two lanes in each direction) with a grass median. Initially, the new road will be constructed as a two-lane roadway along with intersection improvements and turning lanes. The additional driving lanes can then be paved in the future when the need for additional traffic capacity exists.

Conceptual planning for this project began in the 1980s, and continued with public outreach and roadway alignment studies in the 1990s. As part of those long range planning efforts, right of way along the corridor was acquired and land was preserved. Currently, Greene County owns about 90 percent of the right-of-way that is needed to build the roadway. Continuing into the 2000s, preliminary design and environmental screening activities were conducted to assess potential impacts.

The next step, which is a more in-depth environmental study, is part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It will involve a number of different activities through the end of the year, including: architectural studies, wetland delineations, sound studies, identification of potential sensitive species, geotechnical work, and surveying. These activities will take place within the right-of-way boundaries of the project corridor.

At the conclusion of this environmental study, the roadway design elements can then be finalized in anticipation of starting construction in 2018.

There will be opportunities throughout the environmental and design phases of the project for the public to provide input into the project. Information on those opportunities will be posted here.

Anyone interested in joining the project email list or who has questions should email:

KansasExtension@greencountymo.org