

METRO



planning NEWS



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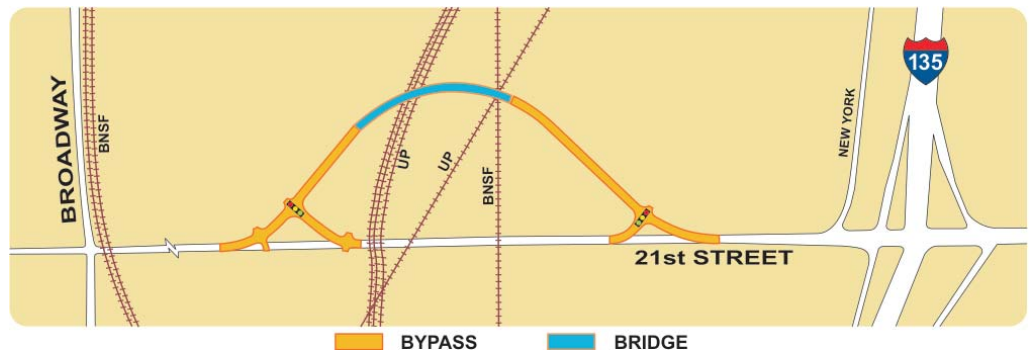
21st Street Overpass Design Concept

By Dave Barber AICP

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In September, the Wichita City Council will be asked to approve the recommended North Bypass Design Option, that if eventually constructed, would eliminate all but one of the existing rail-auto conflicts occurring along 21st Street North between Broadway and I-135. This design concept, a recommended project item in the *21st St. North Corridor Revitalization Plan*, is the result of work completed earlier this year by the City's consultant, Parsons Brinkerhoff, and a local area advisory committee. The committee met on a monthly basis with the consultant to look at different design options and evaluate all facets of the project, including impacts on adjacent property owners, access issues, right-of-way requirements and project feasibility. The recommended North Bypass Option is deemed to have the least negative impact on existing property owners while also being the least costly design. The eventual construction of this project will be contingent upon the City securing sufficient project funding. Costs are initially estimated in the order of \$28+ million. For more information, contact Gary Janzen, Design Engineer, at 316-268-4450.



West 21st Street CDC Up and Running

By Dave Barber AICP

On June 28, 2006, a Board of Directors and Officers were elected to officially commence operations of the West 21st Street Community Development Corporation, Inc. Over a year in the making, the mission of the West 21st Street CDC is to “create economic self-sufficiency for the disadvantaged by redeveloping the business, housing and social environment to promote job development, education and security while valuing the diversity, heritage and culture of the community.” Efforts and activities will be concentrated around the 21st Street North corridor in north central Wichita. Immediate priorities include searching for office space and beginning the development of a Mercado, an indoor/outdoor public market, in the vicinity of 21st Street and Market. The Mercado project is intended to encourage minority business development and employment opportunities, as well as, to preserve cultural traditions of the Hispanic/Latino community in the area.

For more information, contact the West 21st Street CDC President, Brian Devlin at 316-261-4955.

Wichita-Sedgwick County
Metropolitan Area Planning
Department (MAPD)
268-4421

Wichita Area
Metropolitan
Planning Organization
(WAMPO)
268-4391

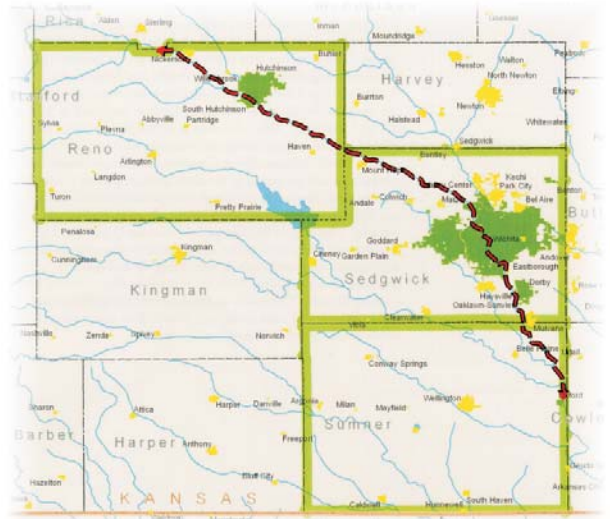
Arkansas River Corridor Access Plan

By Scott Wadle

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP), Reno County, Sedgwick County, Sumner County, City of Derby, City of Hutchinson, City of South Hutchinson, City of Oxford, City of Wichita, and the Arkansas River Coalition have teamed up to enhance public access to the Arkansas River by developing the Arkansas River Corridor Action Plan. The Plan will serve as a blueprint, identifying areas for developed and undeveloped kayak /canoe access points along the approximately 100-mile route. The Plan will examine a number of factors including river conditions, soils, wildlife habitats, flora, and property ownership/access.

KDWP partnered with the Wichita Park and Recreation Department to create the initial planning process. Once a planning process was developed, Ken McCloskey, with the KDWP, traveled to various communities along the Arkansas River to encourage participation in the planning process. The communities Ken approached were excited by the prospect of further connecting with the Arkansas River and have committed to participate and assist in funding the project. Each community understands that by increasing public access to the Arkansas River, tourism and recreational opportunities will increase that will in-turn, assist in attracting and retaining residents and businesses. The KDWP and City of Wichita Parks and Recreation Department will each contribute approximately one third of the project cost, with the remaining third being funded by all other participating entities.

The consultant for Arkansas River Corridor Access Plan will be hired in early September, with initial data gathering and website development starting soon thereafter. Public meetings will be initiated in late 2006, and the Plan is to be completed and ready for adoption by the participating communities by mid-to-late 2007. Contact Ken McCloskey at 316-683-8069 or Larry Hoetmer (City of Wichita) at 316-268-4361 with any questions you may have about this project.



Finding a Compatible Balance:

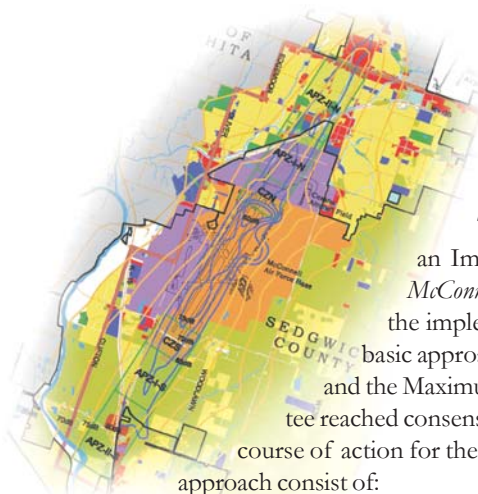
Joint Land Use Study Nears Implementation

By Scott Knebel

The Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners and the City Councils of Derby and Wichita formed an Implementation Coordinating Committee to develop recommendations on how to implement the *McConnell Air Force Base Joint Land Use Study*. The Committee met a total of eight times to review and discuss the implementation merits of the recommendations contained in the study. The Committee identified two basic approaches to address the study's recommendations: the Compatible Growth Approach (least effort/cost) and the Maximum Base Protection Approach (maximum effort/cost). Following extensive discussion, the Committee reached consensus that the Compatible Growth Approach would be the most appropriate, affordable and reasonable course of action for the three municipal jurisdictions to follow. The implementation recommendations associated with this approach consist of:

- Revising the existing Airport Overlay District to bring the list of allowable uses into closer conformity with uses recommended in the Federal Land Use Control Guidelines
- Adopting a new Air Force Base District, to replace the existing residential zoning classification of the McConnell Air Force Base
- Adopting a new Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Overlay District, to restrict the height of any new buildings to a maximum of 25 feet within approximately 1/2 mile of the Base
- Adopting a new Industrial Park District, to replace existing zoning on certain agricultural, vacant and undeveloped lands surrounding the McConnell AFB. This new zoning district would prevent the creation of new residential development while allowing future industrial/commercial-type uses that are consistent with uses recommended in the Federal Land Use Control Guidelines
- Allowing the extension of municipal services to undeveloped lands surrounding the McConnell AFB to support compatible uses
- Implementing a voluntary real estate disclosure related to AFB noise
- Developing noise mitigation standards for new construction in the area

These recommendations will be presented to the governing bodies in early fall. The public review process for consideration of these recommendations is anticipated to occur this fall and winter. If you have questions about this effort, please call Scott Knebel at 316-268-4456 or go to <http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Planning/AP/Comprehensive/JLUS.htm>.



Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization News

For more information regarding the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization contact Nancy Harvieux at 268-4391

Regional Pathway System Plan Making Headway!

By Scott Dunakey



WAMPO hired Charlier Associates in April of this year to develop the Regional Pathway System Plan. The Plan will assess the existing regional bicycle/pedestrian network, recommend policies to strengthen regional multi-modal transportation opportunities, and identify, prioritize and recommend future connecting links for bicycle/pedestrian use. The Plan is a cooperative effort involving local units of government within the WAMPO planning region, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Charlier Associates kicked off the project in June and recently met with representatives from various jurisdictions within the region to begin gathering information that will be incorporated into the draft plan. In addition, a pathway user's focus group was also held on August 1st at the Minisa Park Shelter. Over 50 area bicycle/pedestrian facility users were in attendance providing input for this regional planning effort.



One component of the Regional Pathway System Plan is the recently announced Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program, which was approved as a part of the federal SAFETEA-LU legislation. The program is federally funded and is being implemented through KDOT. The SRTS program will provide funding to local governments, school districts and metropolitan planning organizations to initiate planning for providing safe ways for students to travel to schools. The program includes development of infrastructure or educational programs. The Regional Pathway System Plan is expected to take one year to complete. For information on either the Regional Pathway System Plan or Safe Routes to School, contact Scott Dunakey, Principal Planner at sdunakey@wichita.gov or 316-268-4457. The Pathways Plan can be viewed at the following website: www.wampopathways.org.

Railroad Crossing Plan Moving Forward!

By Scott Dunakey

WAMPO hired TranSystems Corp. in April 2006 to develop the Railroad Crossing Plan that will identify and analyze the transportation and safety needs of railroad crossings throughout the WAMPO region. The project is a cooperative effort involving local units of government within the WAMPO planning region, KDOT, FHWA and the Federal Railroad Administration. TranSystems has begun their initial data gathering efforts, and the Plan is expected to take one year to complete. The first round of meetings with state, federal, local and railroad representatives will begin in September of this year. For information, contact Scott Dunakey, Principal Planner at sdunakey@wichita.gov or 316-268-4457. Additional information can also be found at the project's website: www.wamporail.com.

New Transportation Improvement Program Policy Under Development

By Scott Dunakey

WAMPO staff have been busy for the past several months developing a formal Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Policy. The TIP is a listing of significant transportation projects in the region that have qualified for federal funding. The TIP Policy is being created with input from the WAMPO Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Body to guide WAMPO decision makers through the processes of new TIP development, amendments and revisions. The Policy will include project selection criteria, which will be used to select and prioritize projects included in the TIP for the WAMPO region. The proposed Policy was taken to the Policy Body in late summer, and the complete Policy should be in place early this fall. If you have any questions about this effort, please call Scott Dunakey at 316-268-4457.



Save-A-Lot Ribbon Cutting

By Scott Wadle

The residents of the North Central neighborhood association and Central Northeast Area are celebrating the opening of the new Save-A-Lot grocery store at 13th and Grove. Numerous City, State, and National leaders celebrated with residents on July 26th at the ribbon cutting ceremony. Among the dignitaries were officials from Representative Todd Tiahrt's staff, Mayor Carlos Mayans, and City Council Members Carl Brewer and Sharon Fearey. Once the ceremony concluded, everyone swept inside to tour the facility.

Mr. James Arbertha, Executive Director of POWER CDC, stressed that the store is an important investment in the community and a huge step forward in efforts to revitalize the area. It has had an immediate impact on area residents who no longer have to travel great distances outside the area for basic necessities. Area residents now have a local option for purchasing groceries--one that helps to

employ other area residents and supports the greater economic development of the area. If you have any questions about the new Save-A-Lot grocery store, please call James Arbertha at 316-267-3036.

Learn how to become a homeowner!

Home Buyers Fair

Date: Saturday, October 21st
Time: 9 a.m. to noon
Location: Grace United Methodist Church
944 South Topeka

Sponsored By:
South Central Progressive Neighborhood Association
South Central Improvement Alliance
Wichita Independent Neighborhoods, Inc. (WIN)



**Wichita-Sedgwick County
Metropolitan Area Planning Dept.**
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Planning/



PLANNING GREAT COMMUNITIES