



# Testimony

Unified Government Public Relations  
701 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 620  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Mike Taylor, Public Relations Director  
913.449.4848 mtaylor@wycokck.org

---

## Joint Legislative Transportation Vision Task Force Delivered September 12, 2018 Wyandotte County/Kansas City Kansas

Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas are a vital part of the economic engine in Kansas. From manufacturing and logistics to tourism, KCK is a leader in the state. Superior highways and transportation networks are a major reason.

Growth in central and western Wyandotte County is exploding. Village West draws more than 10-million visitors a year to shop, dine and attend major sporting events. The Sporting KC Major League Soccer team has experienced more than 100 consecutive sell-out games at Children's Mercy Park, with each game attracting more than 20,000 fans. The Kansas Speedway regularly draws more than 80,000 NASCAR racing enthusiasts to its Spring and Fall races. In addition, plans are underway to build a new American Royal complex and hotel convention center in Village West. Village West is also home to 3,000 employees at the Cerner Continuous Campus. The City of Edwardsville has just announced a new Hard Rock Hotel and Convention Center at I-70/110<sup>th</sup> Street.

The I-70/I-435 corridor, including I-435/State Avenue and State Avenue/Village West Parkway, is outdated and unable to efficiently, effectively or safely handle all the vehicles which regularly travel to the area.

Amazon recently opened a 2.3-million square foot warehouse/fulfillment center just south of the I-70/Turner Diagonal interchange. The Amazon facility employs more than 2,000 people, with more workforce growth expected. Rebuilding the antiquated Turner Diagonal interchange would improve access to and from the Amazon facility and open up several hundred acres of ready to develop land just north of I/70. There is already strong interest from area developers in building an industrial park north of I-70. One major development group has purchased more than 200 acres surrounding the proposed I-70/Turner Diagonal Interchange with the vision of developing a 3-million square foot industrial park. This new industrial park will create a capital investment of over \$150-million and is projected to create at least 2,250 new jobs.

## Summary of Major Wyandotte County Projects

### **I-435 Corridor – I-435 and I-70**

- Traffic Volume (ADT): 62,800
- Estimated Project Costs: \$25,232,325
- Regional/State Benefits: This improvement will increase safety and access to the biggest tourism district in Kansas.
- Past Studies that have been done: - I-435/I-70/Village West Regional Transportation Study, 2010

### **I-435 Corridor – I-435 and State and State Avenue/Village West Parkway**

- Traffic Volume (ADT): 51,700
- Estimated Project Costs: \$10,740,698/\$23,411,970
- Regional/State Benefits: The area of Village West continues to grow as an economic engine for Kansas. The American Royals is current developing design plans for new facilities in the area. In addition, the Unified Government is frequently receiving plans for new commercial and residential developments. The City of Edwardsville announced new development agreements for hotel and convention center. With the completion of this project, existing off-peak congestion issues and operational deficiencies would be resolved. Additionally, major entertainment and sporting event traffic handling operations would be greatly enhanced by this improvement, and continuous traffic access across State Avenue during peak traffic events would be maintained.
- Past Studies that have been done: - I-435/I-70/Village West Regional Transportation Study, 2010

### **I-435 Corridor – I-435 and Parallel**

- Traffic Volume (ADT): 42,200
- Estimated Project Costs: \$9,363,435
- Regional/State Benefits: This interchange is also a major gateway to Village West and the expanding commercial/retail area on the east side of I-435.
- Past Studies that have been done: - I-435/I-70/Village West Regional Transportation Study, 2010

### **I-70 and Turner Diagonal**

- Traffic Volume (ADT): 75,400
- Estimated Project Costs: \$26,960,645
- Regional/State Benefits: With this project, a reconfiguration of the interchange at I-70/Turner Diagonal and a redesigned truck staging area will play a vital role in helping Kansas City reach its distribution potential, generate thousands of jobs, facilitate national freight efficiency, and improve regional economic competitiveness. NorthPoint Development has purchased more than 200 acres surrounding the proposed I-70/Turner Diagonal Interchange with the vision of developing a 3-million square foot industrial park. This new industrial park will create a capital investment of over \$150-million and is projected to create at least 2,250 new jobs. Considering that KCK has a poverty rate of more than 23%, these jobs will have a sizeable impact on the economy. If access off of Turner Diagonal is improved, NorthPoint has agreed to a community improvement tax that is estimated to generate \$2.7 million annually in state income tax receipts. The new interchange configuration will encourage efficient movements of pedestrians along Turner Diagonal, connecting them to city job centers, schools and the trail system within Wyandotte County. It will also allow almost 800 acres of land to be developed, helping to grow the tax base of the community.
- Past Studies have been done: - I-70/Turner Diagonal Interchange Access Modification Report