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Seventeen miles west from where you are meeting today is one of the most significant examples of the role transportation improvements can play both locally and for the state in economic development. I'm speaking of course of the Legends/NASCAR development.

In 1996 the International Speedway Corporation began looking into building a racing facility in the Midwest. In 1997 its attention turned towards the Kansas City area. When word got out, Kansas and Missouri officials put proposals together to secure the project. Missouri's proposed location was by Kansas City International Airport.

The Kansas proposal was located on the northwest quadrant of Interstates 70 and 435 which included significant road and interchange improvements. Kansas won the competition and construction of the raceway started in 1999.

The decision to build the speedway triggered significant new commercial developments around the speedway, initially including Cabela's, Nebraska Furniture Mart and retail developments. More developments have followed; hotels, the Sporting KC Stadium – Children's Mercy Park and Hollywood Casino, among others. A 2008 survey by The Washington Economics Group revealed that Kansas Speedway brings over $240 million to the state of Kansas each year.

There are three points in this for your takeaway. 1. The NASCAR project was an unforeseen opportunity, 2. The state and Kansas City were able to compete in this unforeseen opportunity, in part by a commitment from the state to provide road & interchange improvements for the project, was a key component to success, and 3). KDOT was able to support the governor's commitment because the agency had adequate funding available.

Thank you.