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CITY MANAGERS OFFICE  
LAWRENCE, KS

Date: 14 May 2006

To: Mayor Mike Amyx, City Hall, Lawrence

From: Les Hannon, 5504 Plymouth Drive, Lawrence 66049

Subject: The SLT East Leg, Proposed Letter

Dear Mayor Amyx,

You and Commissioner Sue Hack have taken an excellent and well-reasoned stand in support of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street route for the east leg of the SLT. This is also supported by County Commissioner Bob Johnson.

The plan by Commissioners Highberger, Schauner and Rundle to route the SLT south of the Wakarusa River is seriously flawed.

It will result in:

1. The cost of going south of the Wakarusa being much higher than for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street route recommended by the Army Corps of Engineers. Funding will be seriously compromised.
2. Costs escalating. The citizens of Lawrence will have to pay the difference, with the result that mil levies and/or taxes will rise.
3. Having minimal effect on easing the ever-increasing 23<sup>rd</sup> Street traffic flow.
4. Fewer Lawrence citizens using the south-of-the-river bypass than would use the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street route.
5. Baker losing the additional wetlands acreage, promised by the Army Corps of Engineers.
6. Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) losing promised additional land.
7. The loss of HINU administration's endorsement of the Army Corps recommendation of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street route.

We are all aware of the problems raised by some members of the community. They have been able to attract enough adherents to their theory (including, it appears, our three anti-32<sup>nd</sup> street commissioners) to have lawsuit after lawsuit either brought or threatened. For 10 years or more this has brought the much needed eastern leg of the SLT project to a grinding halt.

We need to remember that fifty years ago the Baker wetlands were arable land. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Street route would provide a substantially larger combined new and old wetlands which would provide all of Lawrence with a true "local natural treasure".

The costs of the east leg of the SLT have virtually doubled in the last 15 years. Let us not make matters worse. The total package for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street project delineated by the Army Corps of Engineers is fair and equitable to all. Further, it is supported by the E.I.S. (The Environmental Impact Statement). Please let us endorse the Army Corps of Engineers recommendation.

May I ask that you, Mr. Mayor, stick to the strength of your convictions and

refuse to endorse the proposed letter. Alternatively, if you feel, as Mayor, that it is your duty to send this Highberger, Schauner, Rundle letter to the Federal Highway Administration, could you add that you are doing this under protest and that you do not concur with their recommendations. Further, that you do not believe that it is in the best interests of Lawrence as a whole.

I strongly believe that if a referendum were to be held City and County wide, with all pros and cons considered, that your and Commissioner Hack's stance would win by a wide margin.

Sincerely

*Les Hannon,*