

**FORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
JOINT CITY/COUNTY/USD# 443/DODGE CITY COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**



**MARCH 9, 2023
MEETING NUMBER 2023-10
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING,
2112 1ST AVE. Dodge City, KS
6:30 p.m.**

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The Board of County Commissioners met in a joint meeting with the City of Dodge City, USD #443, and Dodge City Community College, at the USD #443 Administration Building, 2112 1st Ave. Dodge City, KS

USD 443 Superintendent Fred Dierksen opened the meeting.

Those present for the County were:

Shawn Tasset, Chairman

Chris Boys, Commissioner

Ken W. Snook, Commissioner

J.D. Gilbert, County Administrator

Heather Johnson, Deputy County Clerk

City Commissioners present: Mayor Michael Burns, Commissioners Joseph Nuci, Rick Sowers, City Manager Nick Hernandez

Dodge City Community College Board of Trustees present: Chairman Gary Harshberger, Dr. Kelly Henricks, Kathy Ramsour, Bill Turley, Sheila Bertelsen, and College President Dr. Harold Nolte. Board members Jim Lewis and Dr. Jammie Phillips were absent.

USD #443 Board of Education present: Tammie West, Traci Rankin, Jamie Lewis-Gonzales and President Lisa Killion. Ryan Ausmus, Jerad Goertzen. Board members, Jeff Hiers, and Traci Rankin were absent.

US 50 & Loretta Ave. Intersection Improvements

Ray Slattery, City of Dodge City Director of Engineering, presented for discussion a presentation regarding the improvements for US HWY 50 and Loretta Avenue intersection. The plans presented are preliminary findings for the discovery phase for the potential improvements. This is not the final design. It can be changed in the future.

Mr. Slattery, spoke and explained how this project got to the point it is at today. In 2017 the city requested a traffic study on HWY 50 from city limits to city limits from KDOT through their Traffic Engineering Assistants Program. As a result of that study and the desire of having a second entrance into the high school KDOT initiated another study and at that time they hired Trans-Systems to complete the study. The study was completed, and they found that it was feasible to have a second entrance from the highway on to US 50, with some additional design work that would have to be done, and cooperation between KDOT, the City, the school district, DC3 and Ford County, who all have properties at that intersection that needs to be improved to make that intersection work.

Mr. Slattery introduced the design team: Brett Letkowski, Principal Senior Vice President and Brandon Stevens of Trans System also present was Kurt Lancaster of SMH Consultants.

Project Status

Discovery Phase Submittal – Recommended Improvements

1. Loretta Ave. & US 50/Loretta Ave. & Frontview Rd.
2. 14th Ave. & US 50
3. DCHS Campus
4. DC#/Ford County (Santa Fe Community Corrections)

Future Improvements

1. 14th Ave & US 50

Overall Opinion of Costs/Budget

1. Recommended- \$11.7 million
 1. Breakdown of Costs by properties

Future - \$ 5.8 million

Funding

- a. US 50 Intersections – KDOT Cost Share/CCLIPP/Other possible sources
- b. City – CIP/RHIP/Sales Tax
- c. Ford County – CIP/other sources (TBD by Commission)
- d. USD 443 – CIP/other sources (TBD by School Board)
- e. DC#- CIP/other sources (TBD by Board of Trustees)
- f. Partnerships

Design Contract(s) need to be approved and final design scheduled, with final plan by February 2024.

Ford County Chairman Shawn Tasset had concerns about the truck traffic, truck shop and trucks that park there. Is the access coming down Frontview Street or is there access of the proposed lanes that are being built to get to this property? Will run into trouble if there is not some kind of access off the new proposed road at the west end of their property so they can get in and out of their yard.

Mr. Stevens stated that there would be access through the proposed drives and a second access along Frontview street.

Mr. Slattery stated truck traffic would be using the roundabout and coming around the back side of what is now the trucking company. Currently they are utilizing city right of ways for their parking lot. That circle will be designed in such away so the trucks can navigate that circle and come around so they will be able to get to their property.

Ford County Commissioner Chris Boys asked about when the first round is created, is this creating some new eminence that are isolated like on patricians. Do they now absorb them as part of theirs or is that KDOT, or who becomes owner of that property that is adjacent to theirs?

Mr. Slattery stated one or two things could happen. They will still maintain access to the new Frontview Drive that will be extended to the roadway. If the current configuration of Frontview is vacated, they would get half of the property or from the property line out to the centerline would become theirs. Or the City can retain ownership and could enter into an agreement for use of it.

City Commissioner Joe Nuci asked why Country Acres Road does not continue all the way down so that access can be allowed to the homeowners to exit on the south side.

Mr. Slattery stated for a number of years there has been a desire to not have that access point. So, at this point and time, that has not been included in the connection between the existing Country Acres, Center and the new round-about. If the desire is there and we hear from the community and neighbors, that will be something we can look at. We do not want to create a short circuit of the signal at the highway and Loretta for kids trying to rush down County Acres to get to 14th and causing more traffic issues there. Those are two of the reasons why we did not connect it.

Commissioner Nuci then asked if that means that traffic for the new housing additions would need to go strictly to Ross Blvd.

Mr. Slattery stated these is an exit and there is a possibility, if we can work with Rodeo Hills, they can have an exit on the new roadway. We have reached out to them.

This is just phase one of the improvements, the full build out there are still improvements that need to happen on 14th and US 50 and Brandon. This will eliminate some of the access from Frontview and County Acres on 14th Avenue.

Ford County Commissioner Ken Snook stated Ray is a good engineer but asked if he has ever been out there when school has let out? He disagreed with the plans and is not a fan of roundabouts.

County Commissioner Boys asked if Rodeo Hills, and the new housing going in, will have access to the Ross Bld. or just come out on that road. Mr. Slattery said there are two access points from the Rodeo Hills south subdivision that will access Ross Blvd. to the north of the subdivision.

Question was asked if the speed would be reduced. Mr. Slattery advised that there has been talks with KDOT to reduce the speed around that new construction.

Mr. Slattery said this is just the end of the discovery phase, this is not final design. That is yet to come. What is here is a final concept but that could be changed.

College President Harold Nolte stated there is a large population of students running back and forth on Highway 50, from the high school to the college, for academics or work force and that is a little concerning.

It was noted there would be an activated pedestrian crosswalk put there.

After much discussion, meeting was adjourned. No action taken.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FORD COUNTY, KANSAS**

Shawn Tasset, Chairman

ATTEST:

Debbie Cox, County Clerk