

Jeff Sims
Project Lead
Bureau of Roads Design
2033 Becker Dr, STE 208
Lawrence, KS 66047

June 26, 2026

RE: K-254 Development Plan – Rock Road, Webb Road, and Greenwich

Dear Mr. Sims;

First, thank you for the presentation of concepts at the meetings held on June 4, 2026, at Northeast Magnet High School in Bel Aire. The presented concepts were informative and well received. We especially appreciate seeing that the team has given value to our input.

As the Mayors of adjacent cities to this section of K-254, we remain united in our desire to see an urbanization of the corridor. Safety is paramount in whatever we do. We simply have to reduce the rate of accidents and deaths along this corridor.

We believe the proposed Interchange Alternative A1, with Alternative A2 for Greenwich, is the best of the four concepts presented. We recognize your constraint to only propose one interchange, Webb Road, as an urban labeled road, is the better interchange option with a safety and urbanization focus. We like the interchange at Greenwich, a multi-county paved and designated rural road. Please consider this for future enhancement.

For continuity of the City of Kechi, we cannot close the connection Rock Road provides north to south. The bridge overpass is the only reasonable way to do this and not negatively impact the Woodlawn/Kechi Rd overpass interchange area with increased traffic volume, especially with a Casey's committed to be built just west of the overpass interchange with diesel fuel pumps.

With this in mind, we understand frontage roads and other access roads were not included until the interchange location is decided so that a better traffic pattern can be developed. With that understanding, we look forward to seeing your proposals for the addition of appropriate frontage roads and backage roads. **Both cities do have concern about impact upon local businesses and traffic flow, especially to backage roads, as it appears 53rd will be the main backage road for Bel Aire and ??? for Kechi (for backage access to Webb). We appreciate KDOT addressing the significant impacts that may occur and in presenting workable solutions.** This will then give everyone a complete picture of the full proposed, final product.

Respectfully, we request, again, that these overpass interchanges include provision for bike/walk paths. Rock Road would be a route that students could safely cross K-254 to get to school at Northeast Magnet High School and the possibility of younger students with a safe route to Isely K-8. Additionally, with significant proposed industrial growth in the city of Bel Aire, we respectfully request that KDOT consider acquiring right-of-way at Greenwich, as part of this project, for the likelihood of a needed overpass interchange in the future.

As Bel Aire and Kechi expand their utility infrastructure, this section of the corridor will continue to explode with development; more housing, more freight (warehouses and manufacturing), more retail. In looking toward the future, we desire to fully realize these safety and urbanization improvements while minimizing the negative impact of future upgrades needed regarding additional safety issues that may arise in a few short years.

We appreciate your consideration of our joint efforts, on behalf of both cities, regarding these safety improvements. Please feel free to contact either or both of us with any questions or concerns.

Jim Benage
Mayor, City of Bel Aire
Cell 316-684-0226

Joanie Harris
Mayor, City of Kechi
Cell 316-633-9604