

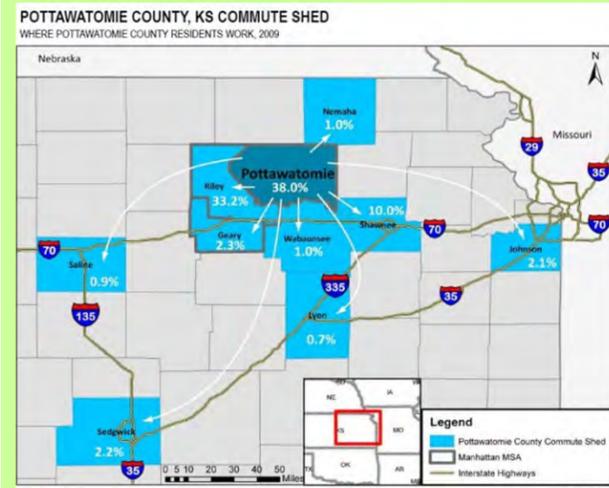
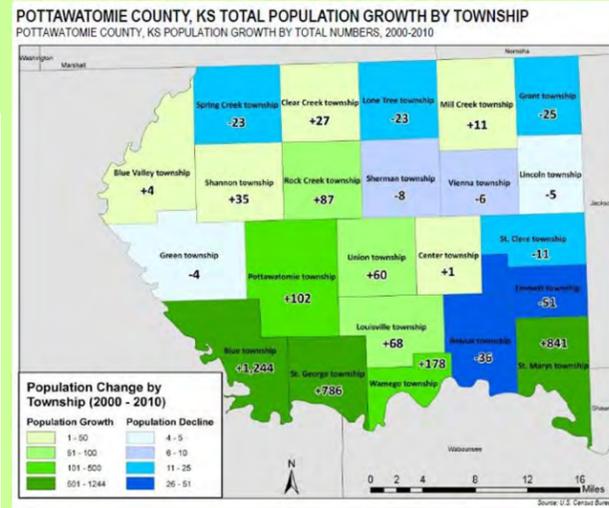
## Background

The Flint Hills Region has experienced significant population growth. Pottawatomie County's 18.4% population increase was the third highest in the state and three times the State of Kansas population growth rate of 6.1%. New developments within the Manhattan area have been consuming vacant land at a rate of 100 acres per year. The greatest percentage of growth in Pottawatomie County's has occurred along the US-24 Corridor in Blue Township's Green Valley Area. This area is immediately adjacent to the City of Manhattan.

In 2008, Pottawatomie County, the State of Kansas, and Cities of Manhattan, St. George and Wamego partnered to fund a comprehensive study of the US-24 Corridor. Identified within that study was the Marlatt/Junietta project presented as a way to accommodate the future traffic growth on US-24 while promoting economic growth.

At the 2012 Flint Hills Regional Leadership Retreat, the Marlatt/Junietta Extension was listed as a top priority by the collective group. Therefore in May of 2012, Pottawatomie County contracted with SMH Consultants of Manhattan, Kansas to provide a brief study that would substantiate the traffic rates along US-24 and to further evaluate a conceptual route as identified in the US-24 Corridor Study. This alternate route would alleviate some of the US-24 traffic issues and provide an alternate route into the City of Manhattan across the Blue River as well as complement the continued economic growth in the region.

The Conceptual Route Study has confirmed traffic counts in the Green Valley area to be in excess of 26,000 trips per day. Additionally, the annual rate of traffic growth in the area is calculated at 3%. At this rate, it is anticipated the average trips per day will meet or exceed 30,000 trips per day within 5 years.



# Marlatt/Junietta Extension

## Phase 1 – Conceptual Route Study

This Conceptual Route Study of the Marlatt/Junietta Connection involved four primary tasks. Those components included public involvement, traffic engineering and analysis, route selection and analysis and concluded with the development of a conceptual design report. The public involvement segment of the project included a project steering committee, stakeholder interviews and public officials briefings. As part of the analysis six options were studied. These options have been provided in the exhibit below.

### Goals of Study

- Preserve Right of Way for Future Roadway Needs
- Provide a Planning Tool for Local Entities
- Recruit Funding from the Kansas Department of Transportation for an Expanded Route Study

### Benefits to Project

- Reduce Congestion on US-24
- Enhance Safety of US-24
- Minimize Impact to US-24 Frontages
- Accommodate Future Growth
- Improves Regional Connectivity
- Provides Additional Blue River Bridge Crossing
- Promotes Economic Development
- Reduces Delays & Travel Time



*For approximately ten years, Pottawatomie County has partnered with the State of Kansas and our Flint Hills Region partners to create a regional community that provides extraordinary economic opportunities. Infrastructure improvements play a key role in the success of the region. We believe the conceptual route study provides a reasonable solution in solving the growing traffic issues on US-24 and provides another avenue for economic growth in our region. - Gary Yenzler, Pottawatomie County Commissioner*

## CONCEPTUAL ROUTE LAYOUTS

Estimated Construction Costs (2 Lanes Only)	
Option #1	\$41,158,000
Option #2	\$42,370,000
Option #3	\$34,000,000
Option #4	\$34,345,000
Option #5	\$49,325,000
Option #6	\$50,298,000

*The proposed Marlatt/Junietta Roadway Extension project is the next significant project to enhance this region. From my perspective as a Riley County Commissioner, it addresses traffic flows and safety concerns, while enhancing regional residential, commercial and education growth, all within the scope of a single effort. – Dave Lewis, Riley County Commissioner*

