



COUNTY OF LEAVENWORTH

Department of Public Works

300 Walnut, Suite 007

Leavenworth, Kansas 66048-2815

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November 1, 2013

To: Leavenworth County landowners along approved Participatory Road Program road candidates:

Re: **Leavenworth County Participatory Road Program**

Dear Leavenworth County Landowner:

In the forthcoming years, the Public Works Department would like to upgrade specific segments of local roads from gravel surfaces to chip-seal surfaces under the **Leavenworth County Participatory Road Program**. On October 17, 2013, the Board of County Commissioners approved an updated and expanded list of County road candidates that have been identified as local roads upon which Leavenworth County would like to construct surface, drainage, and geometric improvements. You are being notified because our records indicate that you own property along one of these road segments. This program has been labeled as "Participatory" because the County will provide the surveying, engineering, materials, equipment, labor, and administration needed to complete the project; and in turn, the County is asking for the affected landowners to grant to the County all easements (both temporary and permanent) needed to complete the project, and to relocate any fencing or other personal items within said proposed easements.

When County road surface upgrades are proposed, corresponding geometric improvements are typically constructed as well. Prior to construction, temporary and/or permanent easements must often be obtained from landowners affected by the project in order to properly construct the planned improvements. More often than not, acquisition of these easements is costly and time consuming, and can set road improvement projects over budget and behind schedule. Donation of easements to the County by affected landowners significantly decreases the total project cost and overall project timeline.

Since this is a Participatory program, and due to limited resources, Leavenworth County *does not intend* to initiate condemnation proceedings for landowners unwilling to grant easements to the County – either the entirety of affected landowners along a given road candidate are in favor of the proposed improvements and freely donate the necessary easements, in which case the project is likely to move forward; or the affected property owners are not wholly in favor of the proposed improvements and are reluctant to donate the necessary easements, in which case that project will not move forward and another project will likely be the beneficiary. Participatory Road Program candidates in which all corresponding landowners donate all necessary easements will be given top priority. Please note that the construction schedule would be contingent upon the official donation of easements by all affected landowners, the timeframe necessary to properly relocate utilities, and the budget authority established annually by the Board of County Commissioners. The construction of improvements to Dempsey Road between 147th Street and 155th Street (2009), 163rd Street between Fairmount Road and Cattlemont Drive (2012), and Metro Avenue from 150th Street to 158th Street (2013) are recent projects completed under the Participatory Road Program.

County staff will be conducting a public meeting to provide information and answer questions with respect to this program. The meeting will be held from **6:00pm to 7:00pm on Monday November 18, 2013, at the Basehor-Linwood High School auditorium** located at 2108 N. 155th Street, in Basehor, KS. Your attendance at this event is encouraged.

If you are unable to attend, information regarding the Participatory Road Program, including a Frequently Asked Questions document, is available online at www.leavenworthcounty.org, then click *Public Works*, then click *Documents*, then click *Participatory Road Program – PRP*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Spickelmier".

Michael Spickelmier, P.E.
Director of Public Works