

U.S. 36 study looks for economic effect of 4 lanes

By SARAH KESSINGER
The Marysville Advocate

Convenience stores, tourist spots and other vendors along U.S. 36 stand to gain significant business and communities could expect to add dozens of new jobs if the state were to expand the highway to four lanes, according to a recent study.

The economic impact study was conducted by Fort Hays State University's Docking Institute of Public Affairs. It was commissioned by the U.S. Highway 36 Association, which is made up of business people, tourism and highway staff and others who live in the 13 Kansas counties along the highway, which runs across the northern part of the state.

The association board met June 4 in Scandia to hear a presentation on the study by its authors, Docking senior fellow Dr. Preston Gilson and the institute's director,

Dr. Gary Brinker.

Research showed that the one-time regional economic effect of the construction phase of the project could be \$1.4 billion, although some income would also be lost to businesses where access would be blocked along the highway during construction.

The analysis of long-term economic growth resulting from an expanded U.S. 36 shows an effect of \$1 billion over 10 years and 898 new jobs, the authors said. The total of all economic activity associated with highway expansion was estimated at \$2.45 billion.

In Decatur County, the study expects creation of 44 jobs and economic impact of \$4.7 million a year for stores and nearly \$900,000 a year for restaurants and \$50,000 in increased spending by tourists. That should total \$56.2 million over 10 years, the authors said.

Construction spending should bring \$111.9 million to the county, not counting money spent elsewhere, for a total 10-year economic impact of \$168 million. The study notes that economic activity should continue beyond the 10-year study period.

One assumption of the study is that Oberlin would not see any new motels. The authors said those might more likely be built in larger towns such as Norton or Phillipsburg. However, Doc Franklin of Jennings, a U.S. 36 director active in economic development issues, said the fact that Oberlin has more traffic with the intersection of main north-south and east-west highways, might help draw a hotel here.

The research focused on economic activity likely in the 10 years after completion of the expansion but not beyond that period, Dr. Gilson said. It also

looked at the economic activity that could accompany the construction phase.

Missouri plans to christen its newly completed four-lane U.S. 36 in August. When the final stretches open this summer, the highway will be four lanes from the Mississippi River on the east to the Missouri at St. Joseph in the west. In Illinois, most the road is now Interstate 72.

The association sought the recent study to consider what might happen if Kansas were to undertake a similar project, said Steve Haynes of Oberlin, president of the group.

Shannon Kusilek, district planning engineer for the Missouri Department of Transportation in St. Joseph, said the widening of the final 52 miles to four lane was a \$72.4 million project. It was paid by a \$7 million federal earmark, \$22.4 million from the

state and \$43 million from a half-cent sales tax passed by counties along the route, which voted to form a Transportation Development District.

It remains unclear what the economic effect of the expanded highway has been in northern Missouri and whether traffic will increase, he said.

"We hear people say a lot of drivers on Interstate 70 will now take a four-lane highway 36," Kusilek said. "Maybe, maybe not."

U.S. 36 is now a four-lane from Uhrichsville, Ohio, to just west of the Missouri River at Wathena, including eight miles widened by Kansas during the last transportation plan.

The study's executive summary included this note:

"We conclude that while upgrading U.S. 36 to four lanes with bypasses kept close to com-

munities in the study area will not guarantee population and economic growth, without such improvements, potential growth is unquestionably stymied."

Mr. Haynes said communities along the highway should be able to decide whether or not they'd like a bypass or whether the highway should continue to run through their towns, narrowing to two lanes through some places.

The study noted that safety would improve with a divided four-lane highway. National statistics show that undivided two-lane highways have 10.25 more fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled than divided four lanes, according to the study.

A wider road could also relieve congestion in some areas, improve access and enhance economic development in general in the 13 counties that were part of the study, the report said.

Nationals

(Continued from Page 1) the top three in their state shoot also qualify for what has in recent years, with the absence of teams from other nations, become the national shoot.

In recent history, Norton won the international title in 1990, 1991, 1998 and 2000, placed second in 2003 and third in 1996. In 2008, Norton finished runner-up in shooting and fifth overall.

The young marksmen must be between 8 and 15 years of age. The written test will contain questions on information from the Daisy 10-Lesson Curriculum and the National Rifle Association BB Gun Rule Book.

Team members

Norton's team members and their ages are: Lane Archer, 14; Gabriel Bird, 14; Zachary Bird,

14; Erin Archer, 12 and James Berry, 11. Alternates are Trenton Sprague, 11 and Justis Posson, 10.

Fifth year head coach of the team is Cameron Archer. His assistant coach is Cole Archer and Chandra McKenna is the classroom instructor. Other adult helpers have been Angie Bird, Joni Berry, Jodi Sprague, Ted Hull, Christine Knapp and Steve Sprague.

Three members of this year's Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team have experience at the national level. Lane, Gabriel and Erin were alternates in 2008. Lane has been a team member twice and alternate once and Erin has been a team member once and alternate once.

Four of this year's marksmen

are second generation BB gun shooters for Norton. Lane and Erin's father Cameron was a shooter along with Gabriel and Zachary's mother Angie Bird.

The Norton team had its final pre-shoot practice on Monday night in the Norton BB Gun Museum building. The team has been practicing twice a week the last two months and the marksmen have also been practicing shooting at home.

The Norton team qualified for the championships through the Kansas Rifle Association State Shoot in Alma, where they won the championship, and the Kansas State 4-H Shooting Match in Alma, where they placed runner-up.

Coach's comments

"Overall, I feel that we are

ready for the shoot and are peaking at the right time," said coach Archer. "Our scores have become more consistent and we are shooting as a team.

"Our BB guns are well tuned and are shooting well.

"It will be an exciting time for us and we will make Norton proud."

A perfect score on the written test would be 20 percent of the total possible points in the shoot. The written test can make or break a team. Norton always concentrates on the written test during practices.

"Our youngsters are studying really hard on the written test," said classroom instructor Chandra McKenna. "Their test scores have been good and I expect good things out of them."

Began in October

Norton's preparation for the state shoot began in October when the shooters entered the gun safety program, sponsored by Daisy and the National Rifle Association. After passing the course, they began practicing marksmanship and studying for the written test.

The program was designed to introduce young shooters to the basics of safe gun handling and marksmanship. About 250,000 young people take part in the program each year. The safety program is based on a format

proposed by the late Norton Jaycees member Duane Winder. This program was adopted nationwide when Daisy and the U.S. Jaycees began the program.

"The community has supported this program because they know it passes on to the children and parents the proper safety knowledge of hunting," said coach Archer. "These youngsters have stepped it up in both the classroom and shooting since the state shoots. They'll do the best they can and will make a strong showing."

Relay

(Continued from Page 1) to find a cure for this disease," she said.

Relay was also attended by family members of people affected by cancer. Kevin Rule and his family traveled from Wichita for the event, after losing his father to cancer last year.

"We're honoring his memory this year," Rule said.

Rule's sisters, Susan Gilgenback and Sandy Brown, and their mother, Elaine Rule, still live in Norton.

Norton County Hospital Administrator Rich Miller spoke about services offered at the hospital, an improvement over years past when cancer patients often went to Kearney or Hays for treatment.

"Now our mission and goal is to bring as many services here as possible. In the last decade, we've improved," he said.

Miller said CAT scans, mammography and other services are

available for cancer patients. In 2011 the hospital plans to implement digital mammography.

"That will be a big investment," he said.

Norton County Relay for Life organizer Rita Speer said this year's theme was More Birthdays.

"I hope you have a great time at our birthday party. Happy birthday," Speer told the crowd.

Relay activities included:

- A scavenger hunt
- Ice breaker questioners
- A dunk tank
- A frozen t-shirt contest
- A poker walk

• The luminaria ceremony
The Core Committee included Rhonda Browning, Mary Byler, Sara Davis, Vicki Enfield, Dana Hanlon, Elvina McLallen, Marylin Mann, Carol Otter, Lee Russell, Bob and Rita Speer, Gayle and Jay Walsh and Melba Witt.

Grads

(Continued from Page 1) relearn everything. My mother and grandmother gave me lots of loving care and my brother taught me to ride a bike," said Anthony Blasi, a graduate in his address to the audience.

He spoke of his experience in special schools and how his high school teachers said, "Not worth trying for a diploma."

"I promised my grandmother, I would try to finish school but I dropped out at 24 years old," said Blasi.

"My promise to my grandmother has been fulfilled today."

"To others thinking about dropping out, don't. It's a great feeling to finish," said Blasi.

Mr. Greg Mann, superintendent of Norton Community Schools, presented the Learning Center class of 2010.

Mrs. Danna Kelly, director of Norton Community Schools Learning Center, introduced the candidates for diplomas.

Receiving diplomas from Norton Community High School were: Martin Orlando Arias, Seth Batson, Anthony Blasi, Cecilia Carter and Nicolle Meigs Smith.

The Telegram Office will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, July 5**

HAPPY 4th OF JULY!

Monday's EXTRA will be published on Tuesday, July 6 and Tuesday's paper will be published on Wednesday, July 7

Ad Deadlines for the Fourth of July
Ad deadline for Monday's edition will be Thursday, July 1 at noon.
Deadlines for Tuesday's paper will be Friday, July 2 at noon

THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

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• PUBLIC NOTICE •

ORDINANCE NO. 345

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROCEDURE TO ABATE WEED NUISANCES WITHIN THE CITY OF LENORA, KANSAS

Published in The Norton Telegram on Tuesday, June 29, 2010

ORDINANCE NO. 345

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROCEDURE TO ABATE WEED NUISANCES WITHIN THE CITY OF LENORA, KANSAS, AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS FOR THE REMOVAL THEREOF

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LENORA, KANSAS:

SECTION 1: Section 8-402 of the Code of the City of Lenora, Kansas, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"**DEFINITIONS.** Weeds as used herein, means any of the following:

- (a) Brush and woody vines shall be classified as weeds.
- (b) Weeds and indigenous grasses which may attain such large growth as to become, when dry, a fire menace to adjacent improved property.
- (c) Weeds which bear or may bear seeds of a downy or wingy nature.
- (d) Weeds which are located in an area which harbors, rats, insects, animals, reptiles, or any creature which either may or does constitute a menace to health, public safety or welfare.
- (e) Weeds and indigenous grasses on or about residential property which, because of its height, has a blighting influence on the neighborhood. Any such weeds and indigenous grasses shall be presumed to be blighting if they exceed eight (8) inches in height."

SECTION TWO. Section 8-403 of the Code of the City of Lenora, Kansas, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"**PUBLIC OFFICER; NOTICE TO REMOVE.** The governing body shall designate a public officer to be charged with the administration and enforcement of this article. The public officer or an authorized assistant shall notify the owner or his or her agent in charge of any premises within the City upon which weeds exist in violation of this article, by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the owner. Such notice shall include the following:

- (a) That the owner or his or her agent in charge of the property is in violation of the City weed control law.
- (b) That the owner or his or her agent in charge of the property is ordered to cut the weeds within 10 days of the receipt of the notice.
- (c) That the owner or his or her agent in charge of the property may, within the 10-day period, request a hearing before the governing body or its designated representative.
- (d) That if the owner or his or her agent in charge of the property does not cut the weeds, then the City or its authorized agent will cut the weeds and assess the costs of cutting, including a reasonable administrative fee, against the owner or his or her agent in charge of the property.
- (e) That the owner or his or her agent in charge of the property will be given an opportunity to pay the assessment; and, if it is not paid, then it will be added to the property tax as a special assessment and/or collected as a personal debt in the manner provided by K.S.A. 12-1,115 and amendments thereto.
- (f) That the public office shall be contacted if there are any questions regarding the order.

If the owner or his or her agent in charge of the property has failed to accept delivery or otherwise failed to effectuate receipt of a notice sent pursuant to this section during the preceding 24-month period, then the notice may be served by the following methods: door hangers, conspicuously posting notice of such order on the property, personal notification, telephone communication, first-class mail or certified mail, return receipt requested. If the property is unoccupied and the owner is a nonresident, then notice shall be given by telephone communication or first class mail."

SECTION THREE. Section 8-404 of the Code of the City of Lenora, Kansas, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"ABATEMENT; ASSESSMENT OF COSTS.

(a) Upon the expiration of 10 days after receipt or other service of the notice provided in Section 8-403, and in the event that the owner or his or her agent in charge of the property shall neglect or fail to comply with the requirements of Section 8-401, then the public officer or any authorized assistant shall cause to be cut, destroyed and/or removed all such weeds and abate the nuisance created thereby.

(b) If the City abates or removes the nuisance, the City shall give notice to the owner or agent by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the total cost of such abatement or removal incurred by the City. Such notice also shall state that payment of such cost is due and payable within 30 days following receipt of such notice.

(c) If the cost of such removal or abatement and notice is not paid within the 30-day period, then the cost shall be collected as a personal debt in the manner provided by K.S.A. 12-1,115, and amendments thereto, or shall be assessed and charged against the lot or parcel of ground on which the nuisance was located. If the cost is to be assessed, the City Clerk, at the time of certifying other City taxes to the County Clerk, shall certify such costs for collection by the County Treasurer. The City may pursue collection both by levying a special assessment and in the manner provided by K.S.A. 12-1,115 and amendments thereto."

SECTION FOUR. This ordinance shall be published in the official City newspaper and shall take effect upon publication.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the governing body of the City of Lenora, Kansas on this 21st day of June, 2010.

CITY OF LENORA, KANSAS
Raymond Heikes, Mayor

ATTEST:
Gayle James, City Clerk