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## **KTA releases Long Term Needs Study**

Wichita, Kan. – The Kansas Turnpike Authority released its Long Term Needs Study, outlining plans to preserve, modernize and enhance the Turnpike system during the next ten years. The study serves as a resource, allowing people to better understand what to expect from KTA during this time.

“KTA leadership has been working for more than a year to update its Long Term Needs Study,” said Steve Hewitt, KTA CEO. “We’re confident in and excited about the projects and direction presented in this study.”

The study is available on KTA’s web site at [www.ksturnpike.com](http://www.ksturnpike.com). There are 44 projects identified in the study that would require an estimated investment of \$1.2 billion in the system. Project highlights included in the study can be viewed at [bit.ly/1nweSWT](http://bit.ly/1nweSWT).

The process of completing the study included assessing preservation, modernization and enhancement needs of the Turnpike system over a 10-year period. It will help guide the KTA by prioritizing projects through 2025.

“Some of the projects were selected to address aging infrastructure needs,” said David Jacobson, KTA’s Director of Engineering. “Others are driven by customer expectations and changing traffic patterns.”

While the Long Term Needs Study identified improvement and enhancement needs on the Turnpike, it also resulted in the KTA leadership taking a closer look at how to fund those projects.

“Since the KTA receives no tax funding and user fees support the operations and maintenance of the roadway, modest toll increases will be necessary for future capital needs,” said Hewitt.

Beginning May 1, rather than offering two toll rates—a cash rate and an electronic rate—KTA will have one base toll rate, with electronic customers receiving a discount. The current cash rate will increase approximately 10 percent to create the new base rate. Electronic customers will then receive a 20 percent (class 2-4) and 10 percent (class 5+) discount on their monthly statement.

“Even with an increase, KTA’s per-mileage rate will remain one of the lowest in the country,” said Hewitt.

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### **About KTA:**

The Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) maintains 236 miles of user-fee supported roadway from the Oklahoma border to Kansas City. The KTA doesn’t receive state or federal tax funds. KTA’s mission is to provide safe, economical, high-quality highway transportation service to our customers. 2016 is KTA’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrating “236 Miles of Possibility” for its users. K-TAG is the electronic toll collection program of KTA. Learn more about us at [www.ksturnpike.com](http://www.ksturnpike.com) or [www.myktag.com](http://www.myktag.com)

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