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Greater Kansas City Chapter of the National Audubon Society

## **Urgent Immediate Action Requested Protect the Habitat NO-South Metro Connector**

*Please give your comments of Opposition Today – MARC Deadline is April 18<sup>th</sup>*

The confusing yet expensive proposal to build a traffic way through an environmentally significant area of Southeast Johnson County is very much alive and has taken yet another turn in the past few weeks. The Johnson County Commissioners were ready to walk away from this proposal but a last minute appeal by the Heavy Constructor's Association of Greater Kansas City convinced them to allow one more comment period. The pro-highway proponents have organized and are busy getting out their votes; that is why we need you to go to the MARC website today and vote no to the proposal and vote for the "NO build" option.

<p><b>REGISTER YOUR OPPOSITION with MARC</b> <a href="http://www.marc.org/transportation/smc">http://www.marc.org/transportation/smc</a></p>	<p><b>History:</b> After two years and \$600,000, the MARC/HNTB study team has published its final recommendation.</p> <p><b>No-Build Position:</b> It is <b>CRITICAL</b> you share your input <b>BY APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup></b>.</p>
<p><b>Adverse Environmental Impacts</b></p> <p><b>The entire area is perfect for a wildlife sanctuary unique in Johnson County.</b></p> <p><b>Environmental Impact Statement is NEEDED!</b></p>	<p><b>Natural Areas Inventory:</b> High quality forests and prairies are extremely rare in Johnson County, according to the Kansas Biological Survey. This road project would directly and adversely impact one of the last remaining pieces of high quality native forests remaining in Johnson County.</p> <p><b>Baum Conservancy and Park Donation:</b> This area contains the Baum Nature Conservancy, several wildlife and conservation easements, and several additional acres Mr. Baum is donating to the county as park land. The proposed route cuts right through this donated land. Johnson County has already purchased nearby property as a future park.</p> <p><b>State acknowledges sensitive habitat:</b> In a letter to local property owner Connie Chapman, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has found that the area contains "critical habitat" for at least two threatened Johnson County species. They suggest that road planners avoid disturbing the area's habitats and floodplains.</p> <p><b>EIS before anything else:</b> There is enough evidence to insist that the county should do an <b>Environmental Impact Statement</b> before taking any other action to develop this road.</p> <p><b>The Whole Value:</b> The South Metro Connection proposal through this corridor would greatly compromise this valuable ecological area. The road will destroy and fragment the wildlife habitat contained here, while further undermining its quality by bringing significant air, noise and water pollution to the area.</p>
<p><b>The Road to No Where!</b></p>	<p><b>No Need:</b> The original 'need' for the South Metro was to 'hook up' to the North Cass Parkway - now abandoned by Cass County. The original North Cass Parkway concept was to build a highway from 71 Highway to the Mo-Ks State Line between 183<sup>rd</sup> and 187<sup>th</sup> street. The SMC was to join this HIGHWAY! Even though the proposed map still shows The North Cass Parkway, it has been replaced by the Peculiar Connector - a concept that would involve a southern HIGHWAY from Peculiar, Missouri west to northern Miami County and on to the southwest corner of Johnson County into I-35.</p>

Please don't miss this chance to protect what little natural habitat remains in Johnson County. It takes a lifetime of vigilance to protect this kind of habitat but it only takes a moment to destroy it forever.

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