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Main Street Transition Underway

(KNZA)--A plan is being put in place to transition the Kansas Main Street program to local control, following the decision of the Kansas Department of Commerce, made public September 20th, to end Main Street.

Cutting the program is due, according to Commerce Secretary Pat George, to expected smaller state and federal budgets moving forward.

The Department, according to a press release, began working with Main Street Communities after the decision to cut the program was made public. That effort is to transition Main Street out of state control.

A key part of the program has been the 3-point-7-million-dollars in Incentives Without Walls funding that has been used by 35 communities since 1996. Those funds are loaned to communities to help with various downtown business needs.

Current IWW funding already in use can continue to be utilized so long as it is used for economic development and downtown revitalization efforts. Those communities will continue to submit annual reports on IWW funding to the Department of Commerce.

Local communities included in using the Mainstreet Program are Holton, Seneca, Highland and Marysville.

Many Signals Communications