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Hiawatha officials meet with KDOT on 1st Street concerns  
**(KNZA)--Hiawatha city officials met with Kansas Department of Transportation officials last week to discuss safety concerns along the 1st Street corridor.**

**City Administrator Becky Berger updated the Hiawatha City Commission Monday evening on the meeting, which she called productive.**

**The meeting follows KDOT's decision to have the traffic signals at the intersection of 1st and Oregon removed.**

**Berger said discussed was converting the existing four-lane street to a three-lane roadway consisting of two through lanes and a center two-way left-turn lane.**

**The reconfiguration, known as a “ road diet”, would be similar to what was done in Fairview.**

**Berger said there is some speed limit modifications that need to be made along the corridor, with KDOT planning a speed study this winter.**

**She said the street would be re-striped following a seal project planned next spring.**

**The proposed project would be completed by the start of school in the fall of 2024.**

**Commissioner Brian Shefferd said while he believes the proposed project would improve north-south traffic flow, he has some concerns how it would effect traffic leaving the high school. Shefferd said he believes it would create a bottleneck.**

**Berger said she will check with KDOT to see if there are other communities where the same change has been made within a school zone and the impact its had.**

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