The process of attempting to select preferred routes along the upper Westport route in Kansas near the border with Missouri—roughly north of Prairie Village and northeast of Overland Park—presented unique challenges due to the number of separate city governments and other specific conditions related to existing development, neighborhoods, and community preferences. No selected route would run through all the potentially involved cities, and some cities expressed to the project team that determining a route for the NHT was not a priority for their communities at the time. Although various meetings and discussions were held with the participating communities, it was not possible to reach an agreed-on alignment within the scope of this effort and with current resources. If there is community interest in the future, as the other trail routes outlined in this document continue to develop, reaching a proposed alignment in this area could be undertaken as a separate planning effort with these communities. Shown here are some of the alignments considered in this process, which may be used as a starting point for future discussions.

Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site, in the City of Fairway, is a historic site associated with the Santa Fe NHT. It is owned and managed by the Kansas Historical Society and is open to the public. With or without developed national historic trail accessing it, it is an important location and opportunity for NHT interpretation and visibility.