Project Description:

Johnson County Transit (JCT) and its partners researched the feasibility of implementing transit service in the K-10 Corridor to address the need for transit service between Johnson County and Lawrence, Kan. A task force with representatives from JCT, Johnson County Planning, Lawrence Transit, Kansas Department of Transportation, Mid-America Regional Council, University of Kansas Lawrence and Edwards campuses and Johnson County Community College (JCCC) reviewed options for transit service on K-10. The task force met to work through service options, operating parameters, service operator, type of service and primary market. After much discussion, it was determined that initial plans for transit service on the K-10 corridor would focus on service between the two KU campuses and JCCC. The primary objective was to remove cars from the corridor to reduce congestion, provide an alternative mode of transportation, change commuting habits and engage students to become regular transit riders.

Connecting the KU campuses and JCCC allowed JCT to tap into an existing commuter market of both student and faculty populations. The K-10 Connector is a commuter express service — only boarding and deboarding passengers at five specified stops. The service has reduced congestion and provided new mobility options for people within the corridor. Ridership on the K-10 Connector surpassed expectations (almost double what was expected at full buildout), and JCT staff has expanded the service due to additional demand. The cliché of “build it and they will come” is very true for this service. The success of this project is attributed to many factors, including having willing partners to promote the service, economic conditions, media releases to educate the public — but more importantly, reliability and adequate resources to provide the service.

What makes this a Success Story?

The Success Stories selection team chose this project due to its focus on public transit, as well as the inclusion of many partners in the planning process, and its potential to educate future generations about the efficiencies and reliability of public transit.

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