

# We Can Fix 99!

The Purpose of This Presentation:

To Encourage the Repair of Highway 99 in CQ and Elk Co.  
between Sedan and Howard.

A Presentation by Chautauqua County  
Farm Bureau

A member of Kansas Farm Bureau

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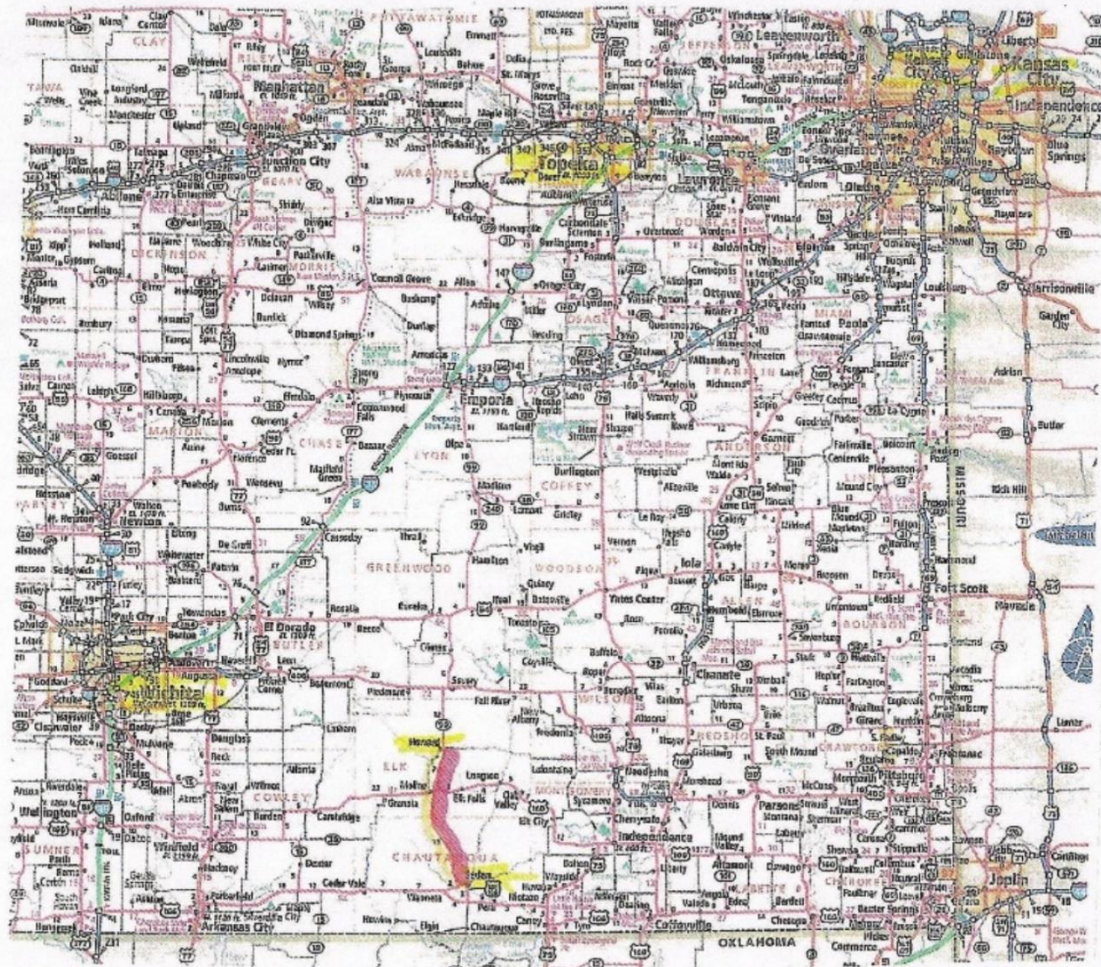
KDOT Accident Statistics

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Encouragement!







1. No shoulder, highway sloughing off. North of milepost 33.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile S. of Howard looking N.



2. Same location. Dangerous drop off.





3. Shows dangerous drop off of built up roadbed. Don't drop a wheel off here!



4. Mile post 16. Unbelievable drop off which gets worse. Notice darker blacktop patch in highway where there was not enough shoulder to prevent half the lane from just sliding down hill.





5. Same.





6. And you thought the drop off was bad on the last slide!! It gets worse!



7. LOOK AT THE DROP!!. It's terrible on the other side too. It's like a bridge with no railings!





8. The guard rail elevation is only slightly above to even with the road surface!! Notice again the area between the driving surface and the guard rail.





9. View of the edge of the highway looking S. (opposite direction) from the guard rail.



Characteristic skid marks into oncoming lane  
headed for opposite ditch.

# THE BEGINNING OF A ROLLOVER ACCIDENT



A Tire Drops off the  
roadway.





You overcorrect  
and everything  
rolls over!





You lose your truck, your trailer, your load, your job...MAYBE YOUR LIFE!!!





Amazingly, they walked away.

# Summary

- 1. K99 is not on the 10 yr. plan. That takes us out to 2019 with no real improvements.
- 2. K99 serves two county seats, Sedan and Howard.
- 3. K99 is a bus route for both communities, not just during the day but at night for school events.
- 4. There is no alternate route.

- 5. K99 is a major truck route for the movement of cattle, feed, grain and hay both in and out of the area.
- 6. KDOT's T-WORKS program requires that \$8 million be spent in each county by 2020. According to the [ksdot.org](http://ksdot.org) web site, "Under T-WORKS, an increased emphasis has been placed on improving the Kansas economy through the use of transportation investments." An improved K99 will be a positive investment for the state.



- 7. It is extremely dangerous for law enforcement to make traffic stops on K99 because of the narrow roadway and lack of shoulder. There is no place to pull out of the lane of traffic!
- 8. K99 is often the designated route for over width, over length loads.
- 9. From 2007-2011 there were 67% more accidents on K99 from the Jct. of 99 and 166 west of Sedan to Howard, than statewide on a similar road type! When other roadways have 10 accidents K99 has 16.7!

**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**  
**Geometric and Accident Data Unit**

**MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT ANALYSIS**

**ROUTE: K-99 COUNTY: CQ and EK**

**LOCATION:**K-99: from the W Jct of US-166B to Howard, KS; North of Sedan

**LENGTH: 25.274 miles**

**TIME PERIOD: January 1st, 2007 through December 31st, 2011**

Million vehicle miles of travel per analysis period: **38.17**

AADT (Average Annual Daily Traffic): **827**

This analysis location reflects a 2-lane, undivided, no access control, rural roadway for most of its length.

	ACCIDENTS				PEOPLE	
YEAR	Total	Fatal	Injury	P D O *	Deaths	Injuries
'07-'11	96	1	28	67	1	35

\* Property Damage Only

## **5-Year Rates: 2007-2011**

Overall accident rate per million miles of vehicle travel: **2.515**  
**(for this 25.7 miles of K99)**

Statewide overall accident rate for similar roadway type: **1.502**

Fatal accident rate per 100 million miles of vehicle travel: **2.620**

Statewide fatal accident rate for similar roadway type: **1.935**

$$2.515 - 1.502 = 1.013 \quad 1.013 / 1.502 = 67.4\%$$



**MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT SUMMARY**  
**K-99 from the West City Limits of**  
**Sedan, KS in Elk Co. to the South City**  
**Limits of Howard, KS in Chautauqua Co.**

Year	ACCIDENTS				PEOPLE	
	Total	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Deaths	Injuries
2010	13	-	4	9	-	5
2011	22	1	3	18	1	4
2012	16	-	2	14	-	2
2013	28	1	4	23	1	8
2014	20	-	7	13	-	9
2015**	18	-	7	11	-	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>35</b>

\*PDO- Property Damage Only Accidents

\*\*Data are incomplete and unofficial at this time

With suggestions or questions please contact me  
anytime.

Jim Beason

Policy Chair

Chautauqua County Farm Bureau

620.330.7430 anytime

[beasonj@totelcsi.net](mailto:beasonj@totelcsi.net)



CHAUTAUQUA CO. FARM BUREAU ASSOCIATION  
230 East Main Street  
Sedan, KS 67361  
620-725-3191  
chautauquaafb@kfb.org

JANUARY 26, 2016

To: House and Senate Transportation Committees

Re: Highway 99 in Chautauqua County

At the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting, the Farm Bureau Board of Directors resolved to request that you help address what is considered here, a public safety issue in regards to the safety of the motoring public to K-99 in Chautauqua County, and they have been working towards that goal since. The largest safety issue is the lack of a safe shoulder on either side of the highway in the event the driver gets a tire off or has mechanical issues and needs to leave the travel portion of the highway. As you are aware, Highway 99 was recently overlaid and has a very good surface, however, the overlay only built up a road surface that was already dangerously high compared to the shoulder and ditch area. There have been a number of accidents in the past several months where the low shoulder, or no shoulder in some cases, was a key factor in the accident. Some of these accidents occurred where a vehicle has dropped a wheel off the roadway and then lost control when trying to reenter the roadway or have just simply rolled over into the ditch.

As you are probably aware this highway is used by not only Chautauqua County residents, but many travelers including a lot of truckers going through the county to other destinations. This highway is also used by several school districts to reach activity sites as well as every day routes for our local USD #286 Sedan school system. For much of the length of the K-99 Highway, there is no suitable place to pull off the roadway without becoming a statistic!

The off road conditions of this highway is quite likely a factor in stopping any future economic growth that we so desperately need in Chautauqua County.


We realize that projects of this magnitude require a great deal of resources, time, and planning; however, both as representatives of our organization and also as tax payers, we are encouraging you to look at the safety issues as well as future economic benefits; not only for our county but for every county that is affected by the current safety issues that have been mentioned.

We ask that you find a suitable remedy as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chautauqua County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

  
Butch Lewis, President

  
Robyn Sutton, Vice President

  
Vicky Hadley, Sec/Treasurer

  
Jeanie Beason, Women's Chair

Letter from CQ. Co. Farm Bureau



Board of Education

620-725-3187



302 Sherman  
Sedan, KS 67361  
FAX 620-725-5642

To whom it may concern:  
RE: Highway 99 in Chautauqua Co.

At the January 11, 2016 meeting, the USD 286 Board of Education resolved to request help to address a chronic safety issue due to the lack of a safe shoulder on state Highway 99 in Chautauqua County.

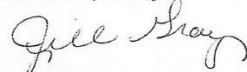
Highway 99 provides drivers with little or no room for error and has been built up to the point where there is now a significant drop off between the surface and the shoulder. There have been several recent accidents where the low shoulder was a key factor in the accident, including instances where vehicles have dropped a wheel off the roadbed and jerked back into the oncoming lane or have rolled over into the ditch.

Of course our primary concern is the safety of our students. We have two regular bus routes on the highway and use it frequently for school activities at neighboring districts. For much of the length of Highway 99, a school bus simply cannot safely pull off the road.

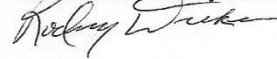
We understand the many challenges faced by the Kansas Department of Transportation. However, we do ask that you please keep the safety of the drivers and passengers of Highway 99, particularly the students of USD 286, in your thoughts and that you work toward to remedy this dangerous situation.

Sincerely,

President: Jill Gray



Vice-President: Rodney Dickens



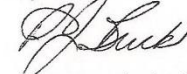
Randy Clark



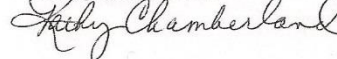
Heath Joslin



P.J. Buck



Kathy Chamberland



Michael Clark



Superintendent: Nathan Hinrichs



Letter from Sedan Board of Education

**CONSOLIDATED**  
OWS MANAGEMENT, INC.

MAIN OFFICE  
P.O. Box 884  
Chanute, KS 66720  
620/431-9210, 1-800/467-8676  
FAX 620/431-0012

January 17, 2014

Mr. Jim Beason  
Chautauqua County Farm Bureau  
230 East Main  
Sedan, Ks. 67361

Subject: Support for Improvements to K99

Dear Jim,

The purpose of this correspondence is to advise you of our support and appreciation for your efforts to initiate road improvements on state highway K99 between Sedan and Howard, Kansas. In many instances this particular stretch of highway is only a twenty-three foot roadway, lacks any shoulder, and has numerous areas where there are significant drop-offs from the pavement to the adjoining road base. These conditions, combined with a split second of inattentive driving, can result in dropping a tire off the road. When that occurs, a strong potential exists for a serious and possibly life threatening accident as the driver attempts to get their vehicle back on the roadway.

Consolidated Oil Well Services is acutely aware of the dangers on K99 as we have had drivers drop a wheel off the pavement and roll the vehicle they were driving. Fortunately, these were single vehicle incidents involving only our vehicles and did not result in a fatality. The outcome of these accidents could have been devastating. We are also aware of a number of other accidents, not involving our company, which have occurred during the past couple of years on this stretch of highway.

The current condition of K99 from Sedan to Howard, Kansas, as well as a couple of other stretches of K99, creates an unsafe condition for the general public. The traffic mix along this corridor includes passenger vehicles, commercial motor vehicles, emergency vehicles, and school buses. The potential for serious injury and loss of life is real.

Thank you again for your efforts and know that because of our experience on these roads and our unwavering commitment to public and employee safety, we strongly support your road improvement initiative.

Sincerely,



Steve Stanfield - President

Letter from Consolidated Oil  
Well Services

**Jim Beason**

**From:** "Alan Lepard" <alepard@bsaemail.org>  
**To:** <chautauqua@kfb.org>  
**Cc:** <beasonj@totelcsi.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2014 2:02 PM  
**Subject:** K-99

Chautauqua County Farm Bureau Leaders,

Thank you for advocating for the safety of our Kansas Highway 99 in Chautauqua County, particularly for our local citizens and those who travel to and through Chautauqua County. I am personally and professionally in support of safety measures that can be taken to improve K-99 in the months and years to come.

As the **Program Director** for Quivira Council, Boy Scouts of America, I am charged with the responsibility of camp operations at our two council camps. **Quivira Scout Ranch (QSR)** is in Chautauqua County several miles north of Sedan on Road 19. We utilize QSR year-round to host events for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturers as the three age-specific programs of the BSA. The heaviest usage is during the months of June and July during summer camps, but most months include several events each weekend throughout the year.

QSR Summer Camp includes five separate weeks of camp sessions, each with 200 to 600 persons (Scouts, adult leaders, summer staff) plus another 50 to 200 visitors during our family night of each week. This totals something like **2000 to 4000 persons traveling to and from QSR over a six week period**. All of our leaders use K-99 to arrive to camp, some locally from Sedan, many traveling from a distance such as Coffeyville and Wichita, and yet others from greater distances such as Lawrence and Great Bend and Oklahoma and Nebraska and Iowa.

QSR year-round usage includes a variety of council-operated events and also troop-initiated campouts. On a **normal weekend through Spring or late Summer or Fall**, we regularly host 50 to 300 persons. Again, all of these persons are traveling K-99 to arrive at camp. This totals something like 200 to 1200 persons each of those months, which yields something like **an additional 6000+ persons annually**.

QSR Camp Ranger Ricky Butts uses K-99 on an almost-daily basis for needs in Sedan or Moline or otherwise. Rick has told me several times that semi accidents occur often and he remains vigilant of traffic concerns while driving K-99 to ensure his own personal safety. Additionally, I am at QSR at least once monthly (usually more) and can attest to the need for vigilance while driving K-99. Wider driving lanes, wider shoulders, and more gradual declines to ditches seem to be in order.

Again, I am personally and professionally in support of all safety improvements that can be made to Kansas Highway 99 in and around Chautauqua County.

Alan Lepard

Alan Lepard | Council Program Director

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
 Quivira Council  
 3247 N. Oliver  
 Wichita, Kansas 67220

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[www.quivira.org](http://www.quivira.org) <http://www.quivira.org/>

## Letter from Boy Scouts of America

1/22/2014



## DRISCO L.L.C.

2249 SW OHIO STREET  
EL DORADO, KS 67042

January 21, 2014

Re: Hwy 99 Improvements

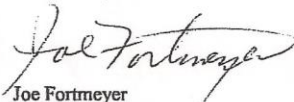
To Whom It May Concern:

The section of Highway 99 from Sedan to Howard is a vital route for our business. Drisco, LLC averages 20 to 25 trucks per day on that section of Highway 99. Our trucks are loaded going south on that section of road, usually early in the morning, and they are empty going north to load at the quarry at Moline. Since 2009, we have had eight accidents on 99. Two of the accidents resulted in driver injuries that required them to be taken to hospital emergency rooms. Seven of the accidents caused major damage to our equipment. Only one of the accidents involved another vehicle. In that accident, the other vehicle dropped off the edge of the roadway, came back across the road and hit our truck. Our truck and trailer was a total loss from that accident.

Our company investigations have shown that each accident was caused by one tire on the right hand side of the truck that dropped off the edge of the roadway. Because of the high elevation of the asphalt above the shoulder, once a wheel drops off, there is no way to keep control of the truck/trailer and safely guide it back onto the roadway. The shoulder area of the road is basically non-existent. It is so steep in most areas that once you drop off, you need to steer for the bottom of the ditch if you want a chance of keeping the rig upright. A large percentage of the ditch areas are too steep or too rough/rocky to drive into. With the 8 inch to 2 foot differences in the edge of the asphalt and road shoulders in various locations, and the steepness of the ditch slope, a rig is severely leaning as soon as one wheel is off the road. There are sections of the road edge that have settled, which cause a vehicle to pull to the right. Most of our drivers are aware of these areas and they will compensate when they pass over them.

There was a period of time when we did not allow our drivers to use that section of 99 if they were loaded. We have since opened it back up to our drivers because of the impact of using a longer alternative route.

Having a flat roadway with out the dips and edge sink holes and wide road shoulders, such as the ones between Highway 400 and Howard would be a major safety improvement.



Joe Fortmeyer  
Operations Manager  
(316) 321-0100 Office  
(316) 323-3868 Cell

Letter from Drisco LLC

Office Of  
**CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Goff Searl, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Danny Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Jack Carpenter, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

215 N. Chautauqua  
Sedan, KS 67361

Phone: (620)725-5800

E-mail: [cqclerk@gmail.com](mailto:cqclerk@gmail.com)

Fax: (620)725-5801

March 11, 2014

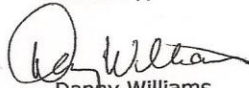
Honorable Mike Petersen  
Senate Transportation Committee Chairman  
Topeka, KS

Dear Chairman Petersen:

The commissioners of Chautauqua County, representing the citizens of Chautauqua County, fully support any effort to improve the southern route of State Highway 99 between US Highways 166 and 400. This is a documented, dangerous road which we believe has been a factor in the deaths of too many travelers and the result of too many accidents. These conditions adversely affect the economic development of this region.

We strongly encourage you to work toward improvements which will remedy this situation.

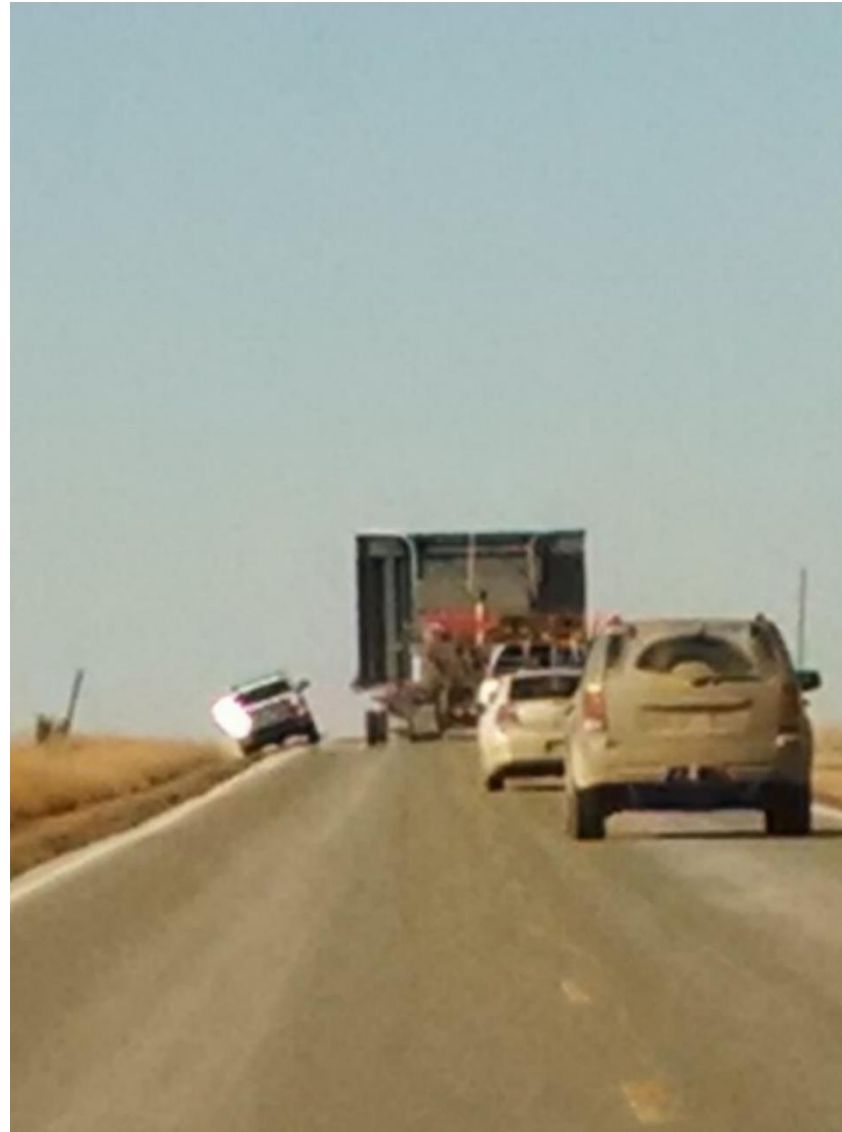
Sincerely,

  
Danny Williams  
Chairman

  
Goff Searl  
Commissioner

  
Jack Carpenter  
Commissioner

Letter from CQ Co. Commissioners



OVER HEIGHT, OVER WIDTH LOAD





We Can Do Better.  
We Can Fix 99!!

Thank You for your help!