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City Discusses Highway Projects

In a special meeting last night of the Liberal City Commission, commissioners discussed road projects that will be submitted to the Kansas Department of Transportation for consideration for funding with the stimulus money that is expected to come to southwest Kansas. According to Larry Thompson with KDOT, only about 3 million dollars will come to the entire southwest region of the state, so cities in this region were to submit projects and prioritize them, to be looked at by the state. The projects were to be new projects, and were to be “shovel ready”. Cities participation in the projects was also expected by KDOT. After a presentation by city staff, and much discussion by commissioners, the projects the city of Liberal would be putting on the agenda for a vote, which would then be sent to the state, were improvements to Highway 54 from the Clay street intersection east to where the highway widens out, as their #1 priority, with Western Avenue from the railroad track north to 15th Street as priority #2. Western Avenue will be repaired within the next couple of years, but commissioners thought if the state would help fund part of the project, it would save the city money. It was also discussed that the city would submit a proposal of a 70/30 match. This will be on the upcoming agenda

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