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KC.247Townhall.org: A New Way for Kansas Citians to Speak Out on Light Rail

KANSAS CITY—One Economy Corporation, a global nonprofit organization that uses technology to connect low-income people to the economic mainstream, today launched KC.247townhall.org, a new website that will engage citizens across the Kansas City Region in a dialogue about important local issues and priorities, beginning with public transportation. The site offers everyday Kansas Citians an opportunity to add their insights and concerns to a long-term discussion about public transit.

"247Townhall uses the tools of technology to involve people who might not otherwise participate in a public dialogue," said Rey Ramsey, chief executive officer of One Economy Corporation. "In Kansas City, this site puts the important questions about light rail and public transportation to the regions' commuters and taxpayers. What do you think should be done about it?"

KC.247townhall.org provides powerful tools, a safe environment, and an array of information that make it easy to advocate for change in the Kansas City community. The site's content areas include:

- **Civic Journalism.** Civic Journalism allows users to write their own articles about the issues and events that affect their neighborhoods and their lives, providing a platform for advocacy and debate.
- **Open Forum.** Open Forum allows users to post their opinions on a range of issues. The Open Mic section has an audio recording feature that allows users to record themselves from their computers' browsers.
- **Townhall Presents.** Townhall Presents features local and national podcasts, public affairs content, and live, town hall meeting-style webcasts.
- **24/7 Voter.** 24/7 Voter provides a forum for users to discuss issues related to local, regional, state, and national elections, as well as basic how-to content about voting.

In addition to user-generated content, kc.247townhall.org also offers high-quality content created by One Economy and its local partners, such as the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority, Kansas City Public Library, and elected officials.

"On an issue as important as light rail, everyone must have an opportunity to be heard," said Mark Huffer, General Manager for the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority. "KC.247townhall.org is a place for Kansas Citians to contribute their ideas and concerns, so this region can create a transportation plan that works for everyone."

One Economy launched 247townhall.org nationally in June as a unique civic engagement and social media application that uses technology to make it easy for people to share ideas and learn about national and local issues. Though the initial launch of the Kansas City-area 247townhall.org is dedicated to transit issues, it will be expanded to support a broader online discussion of other topics. KC.247townhall.org was created with support from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation as part of the grant for the Kansas City One Economy program.

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One Economy Corporation is a global nonprofit organization that uses innovative approaches to deliver the power of technology and information to low-income people, giving them valuable tools for building better lives and entering the economic mainstream. We help bring [broadband into the homes](#) of low-income people, [employ youth](#) to train their community members to use technology effectively, and provide [socially responsible media properties](#) that offer a wealth of information on education, jobs, health care and other vital issues. Visit www.one-economy.com for more information.