A review of transportation in Hays soon will shift into second gear.

During Thursday night's Hays City Commission meeting, commissioners expressed interest in letting the University of Kansas conduct a feasibility study for a fixed route bus system in Hays.

"I have worked with consultants and don't think you'll get any better work from a consultant than from the University of Kansas," said ACCESS Transportation Manager Ron Straight.

Commissioners expressed support for a fixed route system, but had some questions. Commissioner Alan Lynton wanted to know how a change in operating ACCESS might affect money from the Kansas Department of Transportation.

"If cost goes up and they won't pick it up, we have a choice to make," Straight said. "But for populations under 50,000, there is enough funding to draw from. KDOT has been generous — ACCESS is well taken care of."

Vice Mayor Barbara Wasinger said the feasibility study is a good start.

"Clearly, we do not lose anything by the feasibility study," she said.

Straight pointed out in addition to the possible fixed route system, ACCESS still would have to provide point-to-point transportation in Hays.

City Manager Toby Dougherty will sign the letter of support, and the study will begin soon.

Other items discussed include:
- Irrigation of Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course. The low bid for the project is $375,000 from United Golf. The bid is $5,000 over the budgeted amount, but Dougherty said he thinks the city can do some of the work to get the bid down to the budgeted amount of $370,000. The item will be on next week's agenda for approval.
- Annexation, platting and re-zoning of the third addition of Golden Belt Estates. The item will be on next week's agenda for approval.

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Director dies

Olathe-based Butler National Corp. has announced the death on Friday of director and area businessman William E. Logan, 69.

Logan, a native of Quenemo, Kan., was a University of Kansas graduate, a former tax professional with several firms including a private practice, and a partner in Wendy's franchisee WH of KC.

He joined Butler's board in 1990. A spokesman said the company would select a successor soon.

Butler engages in various aerospace and business service industries including casino gaming, and is an applicant to manage a state-owned casino in Dodge City, Kan.

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