

KC Council will set Modesa boundaries in January

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Kansas City won't set boundaries until next year for which part of the city will qualify for help from the Missouri Downtown and Rural Economic Stimulus Act, a Kansas City Council committee chairman said Monday.

Troy Nash, chairman of the Planning, Zoning & Economic Development Committee, said hearings on the act will resume Jan. 7. Nash said he hopes the City Council will be able to pass an ordinance establishing the district's boundaries on Jan. 8.

The act, better known as Modesa, lets developers capture new state taxes they generate to offset the costs of building public infrastructure.

The committee began debating the district's boundaries on Nov. 19. Consideration has been prolonged by a push from committee member Bonnie Sue Cooper to extend the district north of the Missouri River. This expansion would include part of the 2nd District, which Cooper represents.

Cooper said she began pushing to qualify the Northland for Modesa after receiving a proposal that would extend the district south to 31st Street and east to Cleveland Avenue. Cooper said she had expected the district to be bounded by the Interstate highway loop, which rings the central business district.

If the district goes south and east of the loop, Cooper said, she wants it to go north, too.

Before Modesa can be used in Kansas City, Mayor Kay Barnes must name a new authority to review requests for financing. Barnes could not be reached for comment about when she'll announce her picks.