
COMMENTS RECEIVED
on the draft KANSAS FFY 2018-2021 STIP
August 10, 2017- September 8, 2017

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) thanks all commenters for their responses during the draft STIP comment period.

STIP TELEPHONE COMMENT #1

Commenter Name	John Green
Address: if provided	HutchNews
Telephone or email to be contacted- if desired	
Date Comment Received	8/10/17
Project Number or STIP page or section referenced:	Appendix C and delayed project KA-1007-02
Brief Description of Comment:	
<p>Question 1: Concerned Appendix C and the programming levels in the latter two years of the STIP. Question 2: Concerned why project 14-78 KA-1007-02 was no longer in the STIP project listing.</p>	
Action Taken if applicable	Date Taken:
<p>Responded with emails to Mr. Green and placed a Pdf of email response concerning questions on the Comments Received for the draft 2018-2021 link on STIP webpage.</p>	

From: Brianna K. Landon [KDOT]
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2017 10:24 AM
To: John Green (jgreen@hutchnews.com) <jgreen@hutchnews.com>
Subject: RE: Your KDOT inquiry regarding the STIP document

John,

Thanks for your follow up inquiry.

As noted in my previous email, the STIP does not reflect all KDOT project expenditures, because it only shows projects for areas not covered by MPOs. Additionally, the STIP does not show (and even in previous years did not show) all preservation projects for the four-year period the document covers. This is because KDOT typically schedules most preservation projects no more than two years out at a time so that the agency has the flexibility to be responsive to emerging needs.

The agency evaluates areas for potential preservation work each spring, so while some preservation projects for FY19 may be determined sooner, others will not be determined until after next spring's evaluation takes place. This means that the \$6.8 million you referred to in Appendix C of the STIP does not reflect the total amount of construction spending KDOT anticipates for that year, and preservation spending is not currently included at all for the later fiscal years in the STIP because those needs would be determined at a later time per KDOT's standard practice. Projects that were listed in previous STIPs but have since been temporarily postponed will be included in the document again once a new phase is scheduled for them.

Regarding how much KDOT expects to spend on projects: the agency anticipates letting around \$320 million in new construction in FY18 and about the same amount in FY19. Additional light preservation projects are in processing for addition to the FY18 schedule, and the FY19 schedule will be determined as the agency evaluates what preservation work will be needed for that year.

Again, it is important to remember that the STIP is a federally required document that provides a snapshot in time. In the case of this STIP, it contains the project list as of July 12, 2017, at which time some – but not all – KDOT projects were captured. As required, the remaining federally funded projects will be amended to this STIP document throughout the year using the amendment process. As noted above, KDOT anticipates project spending significantly larger than the construction amounts currently reflected in the STIP document. However, some of the anticipated spending will either not be federally funded or will take place in MPO areas – and therefore will not be included in the STIP or STIP amendments.

For more information on KDOT projects, including those in MPO areas, those that are federally funded, and those that do not use federal funds (like many of our preservation projects), please refer to our TWORKS web site at <http://tworks.ksdot.org/>. Projects appear on this site as they are created and the site is in real time rather than a snapshot in time.

Best,
Brianna

From: Brianna K. Landon [KDOT]
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2017 2:42 PM
To: John Green (jgreen@hutchnews.com) <jgreen@hutchnews.com>
Subject: Your KDOT inquiry regarding the STIP document

Hi John,

I understand you had some questions about KDOT's STIP document.

The Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) document provides information about projects administered by KDOT that will have a work phase obligated for the first time within the next four fiscal years. If a project is not currently scheduled to have a new phase begin during that timeframe, it will not be listed in the STIP. The STIP can be amended to include more projects, however, should a project's schedule change, and additional projects are still being evaluated for potential inclusion in the FY18 calendar. KDOT anticipates letting around \$300M in projects in FY 18 and about the same amount in FY19.

Additionally, the expenditure amounts currently listed in the STIP do not reflect all KDOT expenditures, since the STIP only includes projects for areas not covered by a metropolitan planning organization (MPO). This means that projects in the state's larger urban areas are not listed in the STIP. Project letting dates have currently been determined through FY18, so additional expenditures for later years may be added to the STIP as other project phases are determined at a later time.

Hope this helps.

Best,

Brianna K. Landon

Communications Director
Kansas Department of Transportation
700 SW Harrison St.
Topeka, KS 66603
Office: 785.291.3956
Cell: 785.633.7172
Email: Brianna.k.landon@ks.gov

STIP COMMENT #2- Letter

Commenter Name	Miami County Board of Commissioners
Address: if provided	Miami County Kansas- Board of Commissioners 201 S Pearl, Suite 200 Paola, KS 66071-1777
Telephone or email to be contacted- if desired	
Date Comment Received	08/28/2017
Project Number or STIP page or section referenced:	No direct STIP section as Miami county is included in the MARC MPO area which is included in the Kansas STIP by reference only.
Brief Description of Comment:	
See attached letter.	
Action Taken if applicable	Date Taken:
Pdf of letter added to Comments Received link on STIP webpage.	

August 23, 2017



RECEIVED BY
KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

AUG 28 2017

2ND FLOOR
WEST WING

Ms. Brianna Landon
Kansas Department of Transportation
Bureau of Program & Project Management
2nd Floor Eisenhower State Office Building
700 Southwest Harrison Street
Topeka, KS 66603

RE: 2018-2021 Public Comments for Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan

Dear Ms. Landon:

The Board of County Commissioners, Miami County, Kansas desires to enter public comments for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan. Specifically, the Board places strong interest in the improvement of K-68 Highway in Miami County to improve the safety of travelers and enhance economic development along the corridor. KDOT references the K-68 Highway project in three phases:

- KA-2373-01 (K-68 from US-169, East to US-69 at Louisburg)
- KA-2373-02 (Road Improvements on K-68 in Miami County)
- KA-2373-03 (K-68 from US-169, East to US-69 at Louisburg)

K-68 Highway between US-169 and US-69 Highways is a primary route (7.25 miles long) that not only serves Miami County residents but also is a truck route from points in Kansas to Interstate 49 in Missouri. The current traffic count per KDOT's 2016 Traffic Flow Map is 7,290 vehicles per day, with 515 heavy commercial vehicles. KDOT projects a traffic count for 2038 at 14,550 vehicles per day, a 100% increase. The roadway is hilly with multiple driveways and county roads connecting to the corridor. The proposed improvements would create frontage roads to minimize driveway and county road connections along with four-lanes of highway.

Over a decade ago, Miami and Franklin Counties, along with the Cities of Ottawa, Paola, and Louisburg collaborated with KDOT to fund 50% of the \$300,000 K-68 Highway Corridor Study. The Study, to no one's surprise, concluded the need to build a four-lane highway between US-169 and US-69 Highways and numerous intersection and safety improvements from Ottawa to the Missouri state line. In addition, the Study recommended land use principles and regulations to minimize right of way acquisition costs. Miami County implemented the regulations into the existing zoning regulations, in part, as another way to demonstrate strong local support to improve the corridor.

The T-WORKS Program incorporated K-68 Highway improvements to include four-lane highway from US-69 Highway for one-mile west, and select intersection improvements. KDOT performed survey work along the corridor and started to acquire the necessary right of way for the improvements. In

response to the State of Kansas financial situation, funding for the project was suspended. The project is now shown to be in an indefinite status.

Miami County is no stranger to advocating for safe highways. One only needs to look back 20 years at US-169 Highway and discover over 20 fatalities due to head-on collisions along the two-lane highway in Miami County. Local residents came to know the highway as the "Highway of Death". Residents lost siblings, parents, grandparents, and friends to the tragic vehicle accidents. K-68 Highway is starting to refresh old memories as two recent deaths occurred between US-169 and US-69 Highways. Miami County's population is growing and many residents commute to other areas for employment and recreation along K-68 Highway. The Logistics Park-Kansas City opened a few years ago in Edgerton, Kansas. K-68 Highway is experiencing an increase of intermodal trucks operating on the busy two-lane highway. Based on reports from officials involved with the Logistics Park, Miami County can expect increased truck traffic along the corridor.

The aforementioned K-68 Highway Corridor Study already documents the need for improving the highway. The T-WORKS Program already documents the need for and funding of \$10,000,000 worth of safety improvements to the highway. The Board of County Commissioners strongly asks KDOT to return the necessary funding to finish the improvements within the T-WORKS Program already commenced. Additionally, KDOT needs to reassess its position on improving K-68 Highway to a four-lane highway as outlined in KDOT's own K-68 Highway Corridor Study. Miami County already knows the outcome when highway deficiencies are ignored and funding is not allocated. Such history is preventable and the Board of County Commissioners ask KDOT to make the necessary safety improvements to K-68 Highway.

Respectfully,



Daniel Gallagher
Chairman

cc: Sen. Molly Baumgardner
Sen. Caryn Tyson
Rep. Jene Vickrey
Rep. Kevin Jones
Rep. Larry Campbell
Mr. Marc Hansen, Mid-America Regional Council

STIP COMMENT #3- email

Commenter Name	Shane Krull (MI County Administrator) and Jene Vickrey (State Representative 6 th District)
Address: if provided	Emailed- < SKrull@miamicountyks.org >
Telephone or email to be contacted- if desired	
Date Comment Received	08/28/2017
Project Number or STIP page or section referenced:	
Brief Description of Comment:	
See attached email.	
Action Taken if applicable	Date Taken: 08-28-2017
Sent an email of thanks for support and interest and added a Pdf of email to Comments Received link on STIP webpage.	

From: [Brianna K. Landon \[KDOT\]](mailto:Brianna.K.Landon@ks.gov)
To: [Linda Fritton \[KDOT\]](mailto:Linda.Fritton@ks.gov)
Subject: FW: Miami County Comments for Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 8:50:37 AM

From: Shane Krull [<mailto:SKrull@miamicountyks.org>]
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2017 11:05 AM
To: Brianna K. Landon [KDOT] <Brianna.K.Landon@ks.gov>
Subject: FW: Miami County Comments for Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan

Brianna:

Representative Jene Vickrey provided a letter of support for the STIP on behalf of the K-68 Highway. I am sending this to your attention in hopes that I am sending it to the proper person. If I am in error, please let me know the proper person to send it to.

Sincerely,

Shane Krull
County Administrator
Miami County, Kansas

From: Jene Vickrey [<mailto:vickrey@jenevickrey.org>]
Sent: Sunday, August 27, 2017 8:13 PM
To: Shane Krull <SKrull@miamicountyks.org>
Subject: Re: Miami County Comments for Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan

State Representative
Jene Vickrey
6th District
Room 276-W
State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas 66612

August 28th, 2017

Dear Ms. Landon.

Thank you for your service for our state and would ask to provide these as public comments to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan.

The 6th House District, that I have the honor to represent, is the northern portion of Miami

County and is where K 68 Highway comes through Louisburg from the Missouri State line to Ottawa. This section of our state highway system has increasing traffic count numbers for years. And with the growth of economic activity in the metro area including the Gardner Inter-modal traffic these counts are known to be dramatically on the increase into the years in the future. Miami County in the past has already experienced a similar traffic expansion that was not foreseen on 1-69 Highway that became known though out the Kansas City Media as Heartbreak Highway because of the tragic number of lives lost. It became an issue to the point that many avoided driving on 1-69 Highway. Today local residents in Miami County and those traveling through are reliving these same realities on 68 highway. It is vital that the previously funded safety improvements be the 1st priority to be moved from the current status of delayed to being funded.

Cities of Louisburg, Ottawa, Paola and both Franklin and Miami County with KDOT have already invested in the 68 Corridor Study and local residents are anxious to see safety improvements become a reality. The design and RFP are ready for the 4 lane up grade West of Louisburg for a mile and frontage roads to move traffic to intersections away from private driveways is the first logical step. The full solution is a 4 lane highway which will both save lives and create an economic growth corridor. Thank you for your consideration as you look at priorities 68 highway needs safety improvement as soon as possible,

Sincerely,

Representative Jene Vickrey

On Wed, Aug 23, 2017 at 1:58 PM, Shane Krull <SKrull@miamicountyks.org> wrote:

Hello:

The Board of County Commissioners ask for your support by advocating for improvements to K-68 Highway as part of the ongoing public comment period for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan. The public comment portion closes on September 8, 2017. As you recall, KDOT completed a corridor study of said roadway from Ottawa to the Missouri state line. The study concluded a list of safety improvements, including the construction of four-lane highway between US169 and US69 Highways. The TWORKS Program awarded \$10,000,000 to the project to construct one mile of four lane highway immediately west of Louisburg, along with other intersection improvements. The project was suspended due to state budget problems. The Board of County Commissioners is optimistic this project can return to a funded status and ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Shane Krull
County Administrator

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