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GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

Governor Laura Kelly Congratulates Ness County for Receiving \$80,000 in Cost Share Funds

~Ness County receives funds to repair historical stone arch bridge~

NESS COUNTY – Today, Governor Laura Kelly congratulated Ness County for receiving \$80,000 in Cost Share funds as administered through the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). This project will repair the historical stone arch bridge, FS-450, which was built in 1935.

“Congratulations to Ness County for receiving \$80,000 in the latest round of Cost Share funding,” said **Governor Laura Kelly**. “By working with our local partners to invest in our communities, our Cost Share program is improving road safety, mobility, and helping recruit new families and businesses to our state. This project is proof that when we work together to make smart investments in our foundation, all Kansans see results.”

A component of the Kelly Administration’s 10-year, bipartisan Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program, or IKE, the Cost Share program is designed to help rural and urban areas advance transportation projects to improve safety, support job retention and growth, relieve congestion, and improve access and mobility. Ness County was among 20 transportation construction projects selected for the Fall 2021 Cost Share recipients.

Ron Johnson, Ness County Road and Bridge Supervisor, said the project would not have been able to proceed without KDOT’s support. Ness County will contribute \$20,000 towards the project’s total cost of \$100,000.

“This project means so much to the community, mainly because the bridge is used on a daily basis,” **Johnson said**. “This is one of only 10 similar bridges constructed in the county between 1928 and 1941, and the only one with decorative sidewalls. We are over the moon that we as a County were granted funding to keep this bridge and have it repaired.”

Ness County Bridge FS-450 is a native limestone triple-arch bridge. The scope of the project is to repair the historical stone arch bridge by replacing broken and cracked stones, tuckpointing between stones, and resetting rail stones which have been knocked off.

Demand is high for Cost Share transportation dollars. **Michelle Needham**, Economic Development Programs Manager for KDOT, said 84 communities requested more than \$54.5 million in funding for this, the fifth round of the Cost Share program.

“KDOT was impressed with how this round of Cost Share projects hit markers for economic development, safety and community support,” **said Needham**. “KDOT and our Cost Share partners are working collaboratively to expedite delivery on selected projects.”

KDOT is investing \$9.4 million in this cycle of Cost Share, leveraging more than \$5.3 million in community matching dollars, a total of \$14.8 million in funding through state and local partnerships. Over the initial five rounds of Cost Share, more than 100 projects have received more than \$96 million in state funding.

The entire list of fall 2021 Cost Share projects and other information are available [HERE](#).

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