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GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

**Governor Laura Kelly Congratulates Sedgwick County for Receiving
\$611,250 in Cost Share Funds**

~Sedgwick County receives funds to improve access to key business in Colwich~

COLWICH – Today, Governor Laura Kelly congratulated Sedgwick County for receiving \$611,250 in Cost Share funds as administered through the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). This project will replace a rural gravel road with a paved two-lane roadway to add a reliable route for 300-plus heavily loaded trucks accessing a Colwich business each day.

“Congratulations to Sedgwick County for receiving \$611,250 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. The Sedgwick County road project was among 20 transportation construction projects selected for the Fall 2021 Cost Share recipients.

“The City of Colwich, Element ethanol plant and Sedgwick County partnered to bring these funds to the project,” **said Lynn Packer, Deputy Director of the County’s Public Works Department**. “We all recognize the importance of improving 61st St., not only for the safety of the current traffic, but also for future growth opportunities.”

Packer said the Element plant buys about \$120 million worth of corn annually from Kansas farmers for use in developing ethanol. He said accommodating the traffic generated by the ethanol plant is an important factor to encourage the facility’s growth, which will create additional opportunities that directly support the local and regional economies.

The \$815,000 project will include a 25% match from the County (\$203,750 plus the costs of preliminary engineering and design work). It will reconstruct the east-half mile of 61st St. between 151st and 167th streets in an unincorporated area near Colwich. The current gravel road does not drain well, and the road is subject to periodic flooding. Paving the roadway to a two-lane industrial standard, adding shoulders, and improving the roadside drainage

ditches will provide general overall safety improvements and specifically enable this route to accommodate the truck traffic. Construction is slated for 2023.

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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