PRESERVATION +
Provides ‘add-on’ improvements to preservation projects that are focused on safety enhancements and broadband expansion along priority corridors for transportation purposes. In the first year of the program, $7 million of Preservation+ funding added safety enhancements including intersection improvements, shoulder widenings, rumble strips, guardrail upgrades, edge wedge rock, and bridge approach replacements; $10 million has been allocated for construction for installing conduit and fiber along 150 miles of priority freight routes.

BROADBAND
The IKE Program is supporting the first state-funded competitive broadband grant opportunity to fund projects that facilitate access to high-quality internet service to Kansas homes, businesses and communities. The program, administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce, received $5 million in 2020, and is slated to receive $85 million during the IKE Program.

LOCAL BRIDGE
This program assists cities and counties with infrastructure improvements by providing up to $150,000 toward the replacement or rehabilitation of a bridge on the local roadway system. In 2020, 27 counties and three cities received a combined total of $5.1 million for local bridge projects.

SHORT LINE RAIL IMPROVEMENT
The Short Line Rail Improvement program is a new partnership created by IKE between the public and private sectors. Applicants to the program must provide at least a 30 percent match for projects that expand or make improvements to short line rail. In its inaugural year, 13 projects were awarded grants totaling $5 million. Four projects were awarded to short line railroads and nine projects were awarded to shippers. These projects will improve and/or construct nearly 15 miles of track totaling a $7 million investment.

COST SHARE
The Cost Share program leverages public and private partnerships to help both rural and urban areas of the state improve the transportation system. KDOT opens the Cost Share program for application twice a year, allowing communities to apply for assistance with a wide range of highway, local road, bridge, rail, airport, bicycle, pedestrian and public transit projects – as long as they can provide at least a 15 percent local cash match. In 2020, 38 projects were awarded funding with communities contributing $21.7 million and KDOT contributing $26.1 million towards the total project investment.

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY
The program provides financial assistance to partners for innovative transportation technology projects that improve safety and increase KDOT’s total technology investment. Five Innovative Technology projects totaling $1.3 million were announced in this program’s first round of project selections.

STRATEGIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS
This program provides flexible funding to address projects such as passing lanes, turning lanes and intersection improvements. Projects are selected through a data-driven process that identify infrastructure improvements with the biggest potential for safety impacts. The first project for this program started construction in 2020.

DRIVER EDUCATION REIMBURSEMENT GRANT PROGRAM
The new program, established under IKE allows providers of driver education classes to be reimbursed up to $200 per eligible student, making driver’s education an option once again in many communities. In its first year, nearly 1,000 students participated by enrolling in a driver education course in their community.