

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



TRANSPORTATION IN KANSAS
A YEAR IN REVIEW | PUBLISHED JANUARY 2024



FROM THE SECRETARY

A FORMULA FOR PROGRESS Delivering for Kansas

With certainty, 2023 represented tremendous progress for Kansas and our transportation system. At a pace set into motion by the IKE Program, KDOT's projects, programs and initiatives are being delivered at a truly impressive rate. And, as importantly, we are doing so with an eye to the future and a focus on community-specific solutions at a statewide scale.

What's been critical to achieving this positive-trending motion are the strong partnerships in place with Kansans, the communities they represent, the private sector, state agencies, legislators and government resources across the country. The investments made possible and maximized by these partnerships can be easily linked to the economic impact we're seeing in our communities, the enhanced safety on our roadways and bridges, greater opportunities for multimodal transportation and the steady transportation project pipeline progress we're experiencing.

Last fall, we witnessed this first hand as KDOT employees from across the agency traveled throughout the state to host the 2023 round of Local Consult meetings. From community to community, we were energized in meeting with people, sharing detailed updates on the state of our Kansas transportation system, exploring opportunities to work together, and hearing directly from Kansans about their concerns and local transportation priorities.

This momentum continues as we move into 2024. KDOT is taking the input we gathered and the lessons learned to continue refining the formula to proudly deliver on our mission—to provide a safe, reliable, innovative statewide transportation system that works for all Kansans today and in the future.



Calvin E. Reed, P.E., Secretary
Kansas Department of Transportation
Director, Kansas Turnpike Authority



The Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program (IKE) is the state's current 10-year comprehensive program to address highways, bridges, public transit, aviation, short-line rail and bike/pedestrian needs across Kansas.

On the cover
K-68 expansion project in
Miami County

IKE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The IKE Program (2020-2023) has delivered...

- 
PRESERVATION
 - \$1.7B in Preservation projects
 - 5,200 roadway miles improved
 - 250 bridges improved
- 
HIGHWAY EXPANSION + MODERNIZATION PROJECTS
 - \$2.1B in construction pipeline
 - \$723M constructed or under construction
 - 23 projects in development pipeline
- 
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - \$87M in program investments
 - \$5.4B in capital investment statewide
 - More than 10,000 jobs created

In 2023, KDOT awarded more than \$127 million to fund local projects to improve Kansas airports, bridges, rail, roadways and broadband infrastructure.

	Cost Share Program	\$23 million	30 projects
	Kansas Aviation Improvement Program	\$11 million	66 projects at 35 airports
	Local Bridge Programs	\$42 million	35 bridges
	Short Line Rail Improvement Fund	\$4.8 million	9 projects
	Broadband Acceleration Grant	\$5 million	11 projects
	City Connecting Link Improvement Program	\$22 million	27 cities
	High Risk Rural Roads Program	\$8.8 million	19 counties
	Economic Development Program	\$10.6 million	7 projects

View program details at ike.ksdot.gov/community/resources



DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS



U.S. 75 Expansion
Brown County



U.S. 69 Expansion
Johnson County



K-177 Expansion
Morris County



U.S. 281 Modernization
Russell County

District 1 - Northeast Kansas

- KDOT completed improvements to the U.S. 75 corridor by adding passing lanes to the highway in Brown County. The project started about 3 miles north of the K-20/U.S. 75 intersection and continued north for more than 2 miles. It also included widening the bridge over Plum Creek. This \$8 million project wrapped up in 2023. KDOT also completed a \$5 million intersection improvement project on U.S. 75 in Sabetha. The 2-mile project included building left turn lanes, removing existing bypass lanes, resurfacing pavement and installing a street light at 280th Street.
- Local, state and federal officials joined KDOT to break ground on the U.S. 69 expansion project (69Express), a project to reconstruct and widen U.S. 69 in Johnson County. Work includes adding one express lane in each direction between 151st and 103rd Streets and interchange improvements at U.S. 69/167th Street. Since the groundbreaking, 69Express crews have constructed more than one million square feet of pavement and built six new bridges. The scheduled opening is December 2025.

District 2 - North Central Kansas

- K-177 north of Council Grove underwent significant reconstruction with more than 20 miles rebuilt as part of two projects. The first project, from north of the Council Grove reservoir to halfway between the K-4 junctions, was completed in 2022. The second project, from the north K-4 junction to I-70 was completed in 2023. The \$56 million projects included widening shoulders and rebuilding the highway to improve visibility.
- The last of four projects to improve U.S. 77 on the west side of Junction City is nearing completion. The projects cost \$43 million and include a new diverging diamond interchange (DDI) at I-70 and U.S. 77, transforming the interchange at U.S. 77 and K-18 into a full diamond and improving the intersection of K-18 and Spring Valley Road.

District 3 - Northwest Kansas

- Construction continued on improvements to U.S. 281 in Russell County. The project is reconstructing and widening 11 miles of U.S. 281 starting near Land Road and ending at the west K-18 junction.
- Work was completed to replace three bridges on U.S. 24 in Graham County. Shoofly detours were constructed at each location to detour traffic around the work zones while the bridges were built.
- Modernization work to widen the highway and flatten sections of hills to improve visibility on 26 miles of K-383 in Phillips and Norton Counties continued. KDOT divided this project into three construction phases. Phase 1, a 6-mile, \$13 million project in Phillips County, is complete. Phase 2, a 6-mile, \$16 million project in Norton County is nearing completion. Phase 3, a 14-mile, \$50 million project in Phillips and Norton Counties is scheduled to start in 2026.

District 4 - Southeast Kansas

- KDOT completed work on two projects along U.S. 69 in 2023. One project expanded U.S. 69 into a four-lane expressway and the other added at-grade intersections in Crawford and Bourbon counties. With the completion of these projects, U.S. 69 is now four lanes from Pittsburg to Kansas City.
- Work continued on two K-68 improvement projects in Miami County. Improvements include adding turn lanes and access roads, widening K-68 to a four-lane expressway from Spring Valley Road east to U.S. 69 at Louisburg, building left-turn lanes at K-68 and Somerset Road and constructing an access road to the Louisburg Cider Mill. These \$19 million improvements opened to traffic before the end of 2023.
- New U.S. 169 passing lanes in southern Neosho County opened to traffic while work continues on adding passing lanes to U.S. 169 north of K-47 in Neosho County, and on U.S. 400 west of K-99 in Greenwood County. Work is expected to be completed on these projects this year, weather permitting.



K-68 Expansion
Miami County



K-14 Realignment
Reno and Rice counties

District 5 - South Central Kansas

- A 15-mile, \$82 million project to realign K-14 between Hutchinson and Sterling opened to traffic in summer 2023. The highway was realigned to provide a more efficient route for motorists that avoids stops, changing speed limits and sharper turns.
- In May 2023, KDOT and its partners cut the ribbon on a new, two-lane flyover from northbound I-135 to southbound I-235 in Wichita. It replaced a single-lane loop ramp that could no longer support increased traffic. The two-lane flyover bridge is 1,323-foot long, has seven piers and was constructed on a weathering steel superstructure on a curved alignment. The project is already improving traffic flow at the North Junction.



I-135 to I-235 Flyover Bridge Project
Sedgwick County

District 6 - Southwest Kansas

- KDOT is investing more than \$100 million in Seward County highway infrastructure to enhance safety, reduce congestion and support economic growth within the region. There are 12 projects in various stages along U.S. 54 and U.S. 83. One of those is the expansion of U.S. 54 from two lanes to a four-lane divided highway. The current four-lane will be extended an additional 3 miles to the east with a second bridge constructed over the Cimarron River for westbound traffic. New rails will be installed on the existing bridge.
- Work was completed in 2023 on a \$2 million project in Garden City. The project, which ran along U.S. 50/Fulton Street between Washington Street and near Center Street, included storm sewer/gutter improvements and pavement replacement.



U.S. 54 Expansion Project
Seward County



EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM



The Kansas Statewide Interoperability Communications System (KSICS) is another way KDOT is fulfilling its mission of providing a safe and reliable transportation system for all Kansans. KSICS is a 700/800 MHz system that provides public safety radio communications to state, federal, tribal and local units of government.



The system operates from two master cores and 80 towers statewide. A total of 27 counties have also attached their towers to the KDOT cores to enhance the system's coverage. The radio system is a cost-free service with users only needing to sign a shared user agreement and to purchase their own radios. The KSICS has over 824 signed agreements with 55,600 radios activated and 2,877 talk groups assigned. At least one agency in all 105 counties in Kansas participates in the service. While some counties choose to use the system primarily for law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services and school districts, other counties use it for interoperability communications.

KSICS averaged 34 million calls in 2023 with more expected as the use of the system continues to grow.

KEEPING KANSAS HIGHWAYS OPEN

KDOT assists in road crash recovery when requested by law enforcement. The agency currently tracks how long it takes to get all lanes cleared after a crash in the Kansas City and Wichita metro areas. In 2023, the average amount of time in both metro areas was 35 minutes. KDOT's target is to get all lanes open in less than 30 minutes.

Every year, Kansas experiences winter weather events that impact transportation across the state. In addition to crash recovery, KDOT crews also work hard to respond quickly and efficiently to help people and goods continue to travel as safely as possible when these weather events happen. One metric KDOT uses to evaluate its response is the percent of miles cleared from winter weather within two hours of a storm ending.



Percent of Road Miles Cleared Each Year Within Two Hours of a Winter Weather Storm Ending

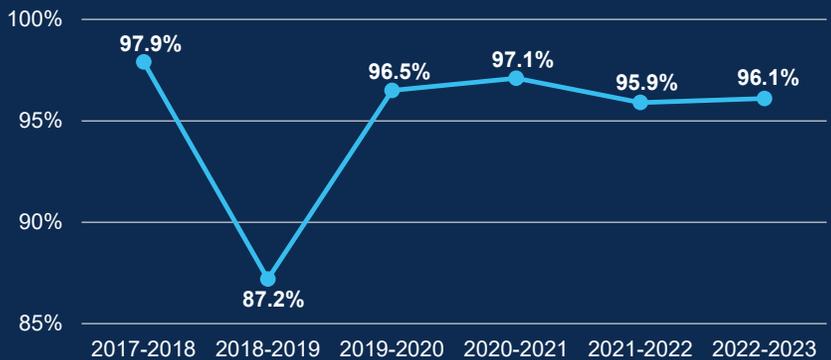


Chart based on storms recorded and available data from the National Highway System (NHS). Chart data reflects NHS in the state of Kansas.



BRINGING FEDERAL FUNDS TO KANSAS

Kansas has been successful in bringing federal grant dollars to the state to improve its transportation system. Below are examples of grants that were approved under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

Heartland Flyer Passenger Rail Expansion

The proposed extension of the Heartland Flyer passenger rail corridor was selected by the Federal Railroad Administration for inclusion in the Corridor Identification and Development (ID) Program. The Corridor ID Program will provide funding for the development of a Service Development Plan (SDP), which is expected to be completed this spring. In this first cycle of Corridor ID Program awards, \$500,000 will go to the development of the Heartland Flyer Corridor SDP.

The proposed Corridor would connect Amtrak’s existing Heartland Flyer intercity passenger rail service between Fort Worth and Oklahoma City, extending north to Wichita and then Newton. The proposed Corridor would include new station stops in the Oklahoma cities of Edmond, Perry, and Ponca City, as well as Kansas stops in Arkansas City, Wichita, and Newton.

KDOT submitted the Corridor ID Program proposal in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the Texas Department of Transportation.



\$3 MILLION
matched by KDOT

\$14.8 MILLION
in federal funds

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

In 2023, 38 Kansas communities were awarded SS4A grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The grants provide funds for counties, cities, transit agencies, metropolitan planning organizations and federally recognized tribal governments that want to support initiatives focused on reducing roadway deaths and injuries. To encourage local governments to apply for the federal SS4A funding, KDOT created the Kansas SS4A Match Pilot Program, which will contribute to the required local match.

To view the list of Kansas communities receiving grants, visit transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/2023-awards.

National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI)

The NEVI program provides federal funds for the development of electric vehicle infrastructure projects. An estimated \$14 million in NEVI funds are available for KDOT to award.

In 2023, KDOT announced its first call for projects. On Jan. 3, 2024 Governor Laura Kelly announced the first six locations that will receive more than \$4.6 million of federal funds. They include: Emporia, Garden City, Pittsburg/Cherokee/Baxter Springs, Fredonia/Parsons/Neodesha/Severy, Concordia/Belleville and Pratt.

KDOT intends to release an RFP for additional locations in 2024.





LOCAL FUNDING PROGRAMS

Cost Share Program

- Financial assistance to local entities for rural and urban construction projects to leverage state funds increasing total transportation investment and improvements.
- More than \$23 million to 30 transportation construction projects across Kansas, requires a minimum 15% local cash match.
- Must address an important transportation need such as: promoting safety; improving access or mobility; improving condition; or relieving congestion.

Economic Development Program

- Awarded seven Economic Development projects, investing \$10.6 million and resulting in potentially 777 new and retained jobs in Kansas.
- Eligible for any transportation improvement project able to show support of job growth and capital investment in the state.

Local Bridge Programs

- Thirty-five local and off-system bridge projects across the state received a combined \$42 million as part of two local bridge improvement programs.
- Capitalizing on new revenue from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), KDOT more than doubled annual funding.
- KDOT's Off-System Bridge Program and the Kansas Local Bridge Improvement Program target city and county bridges not on the state highway system in need of replacement or repair.
- Funds awarded through an application process and, in most cases, require a local contribution.
- Selection criteria includes bridge condition, detour length, inability to carry legal loads and past project history.

Safety Corridor Pilot Program

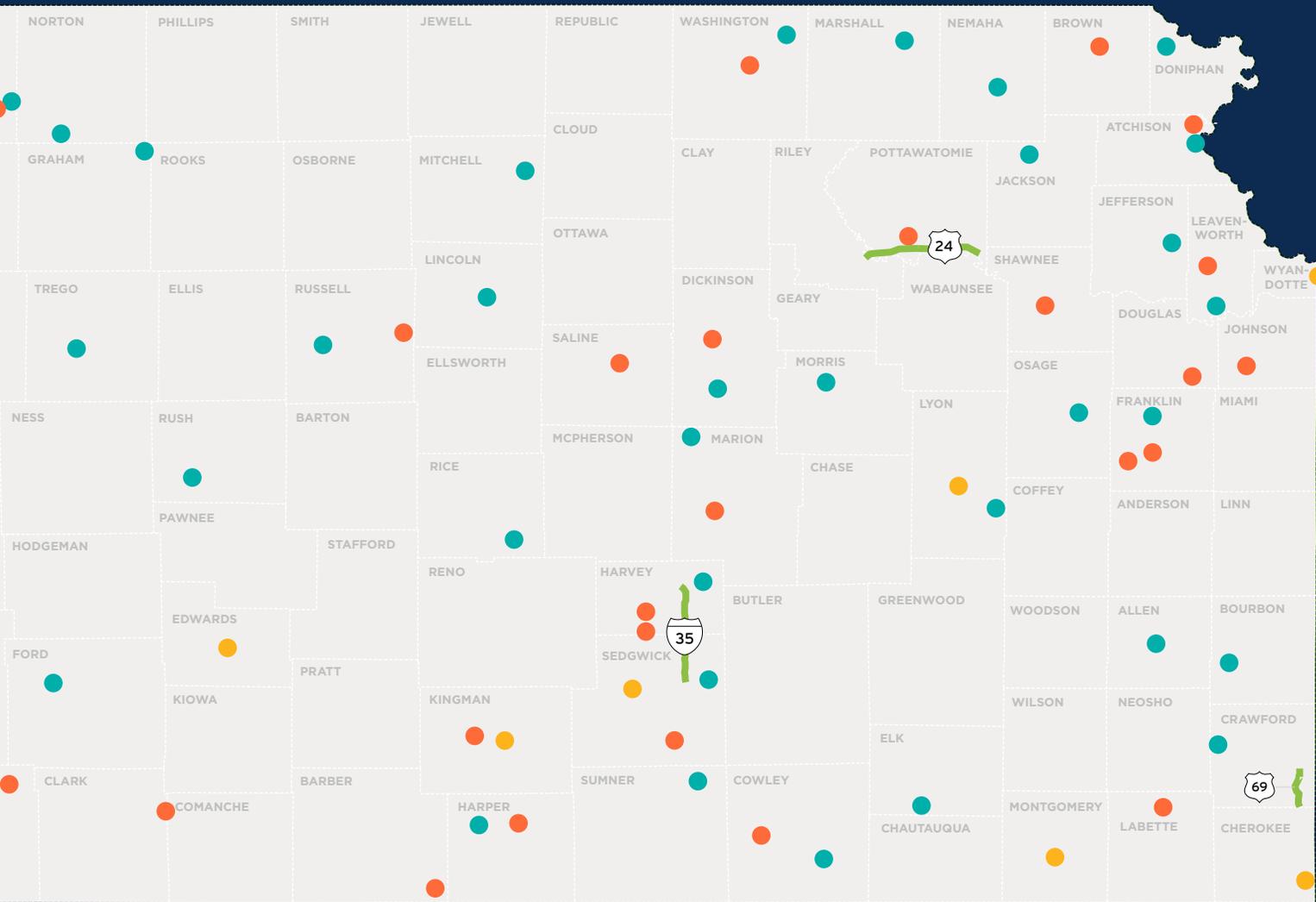
- Four stretches of highway across Kansas will now have increased traffic safety messaging and new signage as part of KDOT's Safety Corridor Pilot Program.
- Five-year initiative to reduce fatalities and serious injuries.
- Increased law enforcement, traffic safety education campaigns, low-cost engineering improvements and a review of emergency response issues.
- Safety corridors selected based on history of fatal and serious injury crashes, availability of additional law enforcement and input from local transportation safety partners.
- Program a strategic initiative of the Drive to Zero (DTZ) Coalition, which has the objective is to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes on Kansas roadways.



LEGEND



Cost Share Announcement – spring 2022



● Cost Share recipients* ● Local Bridge recipients* ● Economic Development recipients* — Safety Corridors

*Both city and county awardees listed



Local Bridge Announcement – summer 2023



Cost Share Announcement – fall 2023



LOCAL CONSULT 2023

Local Consult is one of the ways KDOT engages the public. Every two years, meetings take place to ask Kansans to weigh in on modernization and expansion transportation priorities in each region of the state. It's also an opportunity to strengthen local partnerships, to better understand which KDOT programs matter most to communities and to get feedback on how delivery can be improved.

During the 2023 Local Consult process, KDOT engaged Kansans in a statewide survey and meetings throughout each region. Kansans who participate in the Local Consult process bring unique perspectives and ideas to the table as well as provide input on why certain highway modernization and expansion projects are priorities. KDOT uses project scores and local feedback in the selection process for the IKE Development Pipeline. Since regional conditions and priorities change over time, KDOT comes back every two years to make sure projects fit the needs of communities today and into the future.

The Local Consult process starts with a list of potential projects—some recommended by communities and others by KDOT. Projects are evaluated based on crash history, current and projected congestion, economic impact, engineering need and other factors.

In 2023, KDOT held nine meetings statewide, eight in-person sessions and one virtual session. During each meeting, KDOT presented on the Kansas transportation system, ongoing initiatives and IKE progress. Participants were then divided into breakout groups to discuss and determine high and medium priorities for each district.



2023 Local Consult – Recap



1,400+

participants at in-person and virtual meetings



1,000+

pre-event survey responses



134

projects evaluated and shared



\$8.9 Billion

value of projects evaluated and shared



Find Local Consult 2023 summary and materials at ike.ksdot.gov/projects/2023-local-consult-process-meeting-materials.



KANSAS TURNPIKE AUTHORITY UPDATE

KDOT and the Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) work together to serve the transportation needs of Kansas. KDOT's Secretary also serves as the Director of the KTA.

In Fiscal Year 2023 (ending June 30, 2023), KTA highlights include:

- Used by 36.9 million vehicles, with 97% of customers satisfied with the K-TAG program.
- Increased assets by \$56.5 million and capital assets increased to \$781.6 million.
- Completed construction of 25 cashless toll zones and began work on the remaining 11 sites.
- Exceeded condition targets for both roadway and bridge systems.
- Invested \$32.7 million in ongoing roadway (\$16.2 million) and bridge (\$16.5 million) preservation efforts.
- Increased electronic toll collection to 68% of collected tolls.
- Continued to elevate bridges and aid freight movement. Since 2016, a total of 69 bridges have been elevated.
- Opened new Topeka Administration Building in support of cashless tolling and to better serve customers in northeast Kansas.
- Introduced a new K-TAG mobile app to enhance on-the-go account management.
- Installed electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at the Belle Plaine and Matfield Green service areas. Five of six service areas now have EV chargers.
- Brought new concessionaire vendors to four of six service areas.
- Increased transponder compatibility through partnership with the Southeastern U.S. hub. K-TAG is now accepted in most of Florida.



APPENDIX

The 2024 appendix contains additional transportation information including:

- Financial Compliance
- Project Selection Criteria
- Transportation Revolving Fund
- Innovative Technology Program
- Broadband
- Modal Information
- Federal Fund Exchange Program
- Project list detailing projects currently scheduled for improvement, projects completed in FY 2023 and projects under construction.
- Projects in the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program, with construction bid award of \$5 million or greater.
- Lists of aviation, rail and public transit projects.

The 2024 Annual Report and the appendix are available at ksdot.gov/publications.asp under Reports and Studies.

NOTE: This information is available in alternative accessible formats.

To obtain an alternative format, contact the Communications Division, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, Kan., 66603-3745, or 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired - 711.

