

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KDOT joins with Board of Regents to support transportation scholarships for Kansas students

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has named the Turner Diagonal project in Kansas City, Kansas, as one of 12 finalists for its 2021 America's Transportation Awards competition. The project now competes for the People Choice award and an opportunity to bring \$10,000 in award money home to a Kansas charity.

Should it win the award, KDOT is partnering with the Kansas Board of Regents to distribute scholarships to students interested in the field of transportation.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to recognize a project that exemplifies partnerships and problem solving," said Julie Lorenz, Kansas Secretary of Transportation. "When we win, I can think of no better investment than in Kansas students who will build the projects of the future. Let's win this for Kansas."

Dr. Blake Flanders, CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents, said the Board welcomes the opportunity to partner with KDOT to bring this award home.

"Kansas colleges and universities are uniquely positioned to partner with the transportation sector to provide a talented workforce and grow the economy," said Dr. Flanders. "I'm excited KDOT plans to use this award to help Kansans pursue their educational goals. These scholarships will help students build great careers and contribute to our state's growth."

KDOT leveraged a \$13.5 million grant from the Federal Highway Administration to rebuild the Turner Diagonal crossing over I-70. The \$30-million effort improved safety, opened up development, increased job opportunities, provided access to public transit,

reduced maintenance costs and reduced congestion. KDOT worked with public and private partners in Kansas City – including the United Government of Wyandotte County, the Kansas Turnpike Authority and NorthPoint Development – to re-imagine the interchange. Access to nearby businesses was maximized and new paths and better connections to the existing sidewalk networks were created. The new Turner Diagonal Interchange delivered immediate economic benefits, bringing thousands of new jobs the area. It was completed in less than 20 months from ground-breaking to ribbon-cutting.

Kansans are encouraged to vote for the Turner Diagonal Project at:

<https://americatransportationawards.org/kansas-department-of-transportation-turner-diagonal-partnering-for-growth/>. Voting is open through Oct. 25. Kansans can vote every 24-hours for the project.

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