

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Two Kansas projects take home regional America's Transportation Awards

Two Kansas projects – the Turner Diagonal project in Kansas City and the Kidron Loop Trail project in North Newton – earned regional recognition in America's Transportation Awards, a national competition that recognizes state DOTs and highlights projects they deliver that make their communities a better place to live, work and play.

“To have two uniquely different Kansas transportation projects receive recognition is testament to the good things that can be accomplished when state and local governments and the private sector work together,” said Julie Lorenz, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Transportation. “It’s an honor for America’s Transportation Awards to highlight projects that had a positive impact on our state’s economy and Kansans’ quality of life.”

Secretary Lorenz joined in the acceptance of the awards in her capacity as the 2021-22 President of the Mid-America Association of State Transportation Officials (MAASTO). Member state DOT secretaries unanimously elected Secretary Lorenz to the leadership role with MAASTO during the region’s 2021 Annual Meeting held this week in Chicago.

The **Turner Diagonal** project in Kansas City reconfigured the interchange, allowing the release of nearly 50 acres of right-of-way and opened 300 acres of land for economic development and job creation. Using alternative delivery methods, the project was completed ahead of schedule, opening in less than a year from ground-breaking. The project involved a public/private partnership with funding coming from federal, state, local and private sources. It is a regional winner in the Operations Excellence (medium) category.

The **Kidron Loop Trail** project is an extension of the “Trail of Two Cities,” a collaboration between Newton and North Newton and connecting the adjoining towns. It’s home to scenic and historic sites such as 150-year-old Chisholm Trail ruts. The City of North Newton received KDOT Transportation Alternatives funding to continue the existing trail system along Kidron Creek and provide an unobstructed 1.2 miles of pedestrian/bicycle

trails and other amenities. It is a regional winner in the Quality of Life/Community Development (small) category.

The Mid America region consists of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin, which had a total of eight regional America's Transportation Awards winning projects.

Finalists from the four regions nationwide will be announced and online voting for the People's Choice Award will begin later this month. Visit <https://americatransportationawards.org/> to learn more about this year's nominees and to view the awards presentation.

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