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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FHWA announces \$5.45 million in funding for five Kansas projects

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has announced \$5.45 million in 2012 discretionary funding grants for five projects in Kansas.

The project to receive the largest funding is in Wyandotte County for the reconstruction of the I-70 and K-7 interchange – a project necessary to reduce traffic congestion, improve access and support future economic development. Grant funding of \$3.34 million will go toward preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation and construction of the west half of the interchange.

Two projects will go toward supporting the national scenic byways program in the state. Also included is improvements at the Fort Larned National Historic Site and a fitness and school trail in the city of Hiawatha.

The national discretionary program represents special funding categories where the FHWA solicits for candidates and selects projects for funding based on applications received. Nationwide, more than \$363 million in grants funding will be allocated for all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Below is a description of the Kansas projects and their funding amounts.

KS	I-70 at K-7 Interchange Project in Wyandotte County	This project will reconstruct the K-7 Interchange at I-70 to reduce traffic congestion, improve access and support future economic development. Grant funding will go towards preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition, utility	\$3,341,000	Interstate Maintenance Discretionary Program
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		relocation, and construction of the west half of the proposed interchange.		
KS	Western Vistas Historic Byway Wayside and Interpretive Signs	This project will design and construct a wayside and parking area along the Western Vistas Historic Byway with informational signs showing historic and scenic sites, museums, recreational sites, byway activities, and other points of interest.	\$70,400	National Scenic Byways Program
KS	Kansas Byways Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan	This project will develop a strategic plan to better accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians with safe facilities while traveling the State's byways, determine locations where bicycle and pedestrian facilities would be feasible, explore the associated costs, and prioritize next steps.	\$260,000	National Scenic Byways Program
KS	Fort Larned National Historic Site	This project will construct a new bridge to improve public safety, a new parking area to accommodate the new bridge location, and a new main entrance road to the park.	\$1,000,000	Public Lands Highway Discretionary Program
KS	Hiawatha Fitness and School Trail	TCSP funds will be used to fund construction of a trail in the city of Hiawatha.	\$782,967	Transportation, Community and System Preservation Program

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