FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 14, 2012
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KDOT program honored for excellence

An innovative Kansas Department of Transportation program received the Excellence in Program Operations award recently at the 2012 American Public Works Association and Kansas County Highway Association joint conference in Newton.

The Federal Funds Exchange Program, developed by the Bureau of Local Projects, was the award recipient. The second-year program allows local governments to swap their federal funds at a discount for state funds that have fewer requirements.

"The Federal Fund Exchange Program has definitely benefitted city and county agencies that are members of the Kansas Chapter of APWA by giving them flexibility in local project management," said Suzanne Loomis, conference co-chair. "We're pleased KDOT is working to make an even stronger partnership with Kansas cities and counties."

Because federal funding comes with specific standards and requirements, projects built with federal funds cost more than projects built with state money. KDOT created the fund exchange program in response to those concerns, giving locals the flexibility to design and build projects.

Local public agencies can exchange a dollar of local federal funds for 90 cents of state funds. The swap is not dollar for dollar because KDOT bears the costs of using the more restrictive federal funds.

Approximately $35-40 million dollars are available yearly for exchange to local units of government.

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