Gov. Laura Kelly and Secretary Julie Lorenz announced 27 counties and three cities will receive a combined total of $5.1 million as part of the Kansas Local Bridge Improvement Program.

KDOT reinstated this program in 2019 to assist cities and counties by providing up to $150,000 toward the replacement or rehabilitation of a bridge on the local roadway system.

For this recent round, 68 applications from 61 local public agencies were received with requests for $11.4 million in funds. The total value of the individual bridge replacement costs ranged from $150,000 to $2.4 million.

“We welcome opportunities to partner with Kansas cities and counties to replace or rehabilitate deteriorating bridges,” said Secretary Lorenz.

“This program allows KDOT to help communities move forward with projects that keep critical local roadways open and viable.”
The American Public Works Association (APWA) Kansas Chapter named the I-235 & U.S. 54 interchange Project of the year in the greater than $75 million category. It was the first of four phases of reconstruction of the interchange at I-235 & U.S. 54. This phase eliminated many of the issues with the original cloverleaf. Improvements included flyover ramps, the removal of two loop ramps that created weaving conflicts, plus additional lanes that help traffic flow. Seven new bridges were constructed, six existing bridges were widened, while three others were repaired. A SPUI (single-point urban interchange) was added at nearby West Street under U.S. 54. The project began in late 2015 and was constructed as part of the $105 million Red Project and was completed in June 2019.

Public input needed: Kansas Active Transportation Plan serves the public

KDOT is developing the state’s first Active Transportation Plan (ATP) in 25 years to provide more choices on how to get around. Active transportation refers to human-powered modes of transportation such as walking or cycling. The Kansas ATP will serve as a guide on how to include active transportation infrastructure when planning roads, bridges and various improvement projects. Funding for active transportation projects is included in ILE Program.

“We know that over the last several months many people have discovered walking, cycling, rolling and other forms of active transportation are fun and healthy ways to get around,” said Secretary Julie Lorenz. “For others, active transportation has long provided an essential need, an affordable way to get to work, school, transit, the store and other destinations.

At KDOT, we are committed to providing transportation options that help people travel safely and conveniently – and to do that well, we need to hear from Kansans.”


Moving Kansas into the future: KDOT updates mission and vision statements

After nearly 20 years, KDOT’s mission and vision statements are getting an update. The new statements make clear that we all must work together to best serve Kansans. As we look to the future, these statements will help communities know that working together is the best way to achieve a great transportation system for the state. If you missed out on the presentation announcing these exciting new changes, you can view it here.

Tech tip: Teams will replace Skype for Business

Skype for Business will not be accessible to state employees as of Dec. 28. Employees who are currently using Skype for Business will need to start using Microsoft Teams. Any meetings currently created in Skype that are scheduled to take place after Dec. 28 will not work and will need to be recreated in Microsoft Teams.

If you are new to Microsoft Teams, there are resources available. Go to the EBIT Teams Migration SharePoint site. You will need to be signed into the VPN. There you will find:
- Intro to Microsoft Teams Training
- Frequently Asked Questions
- How-To Documentation
- How-To Videos

If you have any questions, contact the EBIT Service Desk at (785) 296-4999 or EBITSM@ks.gov.

There will be no En Route to Friday next week. Have a safe and Merry Christmas!
Avoiding trips, slips and falls: Take steps to a safer workplace

KDOT’s new incident scorecard has tracked injury incidents that have happened over the past year and will continue to track information for the agency in the future.

Director of Safety Troy Whitworth believes this tracking tool can help KDOT focus training efforts, which will help employees increase situational awareness. Over the past year, the incident category that tops the chart is slips, trips and falls.

“We have had 46 slips, trips and falls out of 144 total statewide injury incidents - meaning 32% of our injuries are in this one category,” Whitworth said.

Slips, trips and falls can have severe consequences such as lacerations, broken bones and possible concussions.

These incidents can be prevented if employees slow down, pay attention to their surroundings and wear proper footwear.

When working SNICE operations, employees should always tell others if they step outside their vehicle. That way, if an employee slips and falls or somehow become incapacitated, someone might know to check on them.

Here is a video on how to prevent slips, trips and falls.

Covid-19 guidelines from KDHE regarding employees

A note from Director of Administration Maribel Manos - COVID-19 has brought a lot of uncertainty and confusion regarding how to handle questions and situations.

Below is some helpful guidance that KDHE has recently updated regarding COVID-19 cases in general and the rules regarding cases involving children.

1. If an employee is symptomatic but has no known exposure and receives a negative result, the employee may return to work once symptoms resolve. If an employee is under quarantine for an exposure (either exposure to a case or travel-related exposure) and receives a negative result during their quarantine period, the employee must still complete their quarantine period before returning to work.
   - A case is defined as a person who tested positive for COVID-19.
   - A household contact is defined as a person that lives in the same household as a positive case.
   - A non-household contact is defined as a person that has close contact with a case.
   - A contact of a contact of a case is not required to be in quarantine
   - PUI is defined as Person “Under Investigation”, who is suspected of having COVID-19 disease

2. If an employee’s child is deemed as a close contact of a positive case (not in the home) and is tested but their test comes back negative the employee can come back to work if they are not showing any symptoms or have not had a fever in the last 72 hours. There is no reason for the employee to quarantine if the child’s test comes back negative. However, the child must complete their quarantine period.

3. If a child is a case, then that case is in isolation for 10 days or 72 hours fever free without the use of fever reducing medication. Meaning that child which is a case is in isolation for a minimum of 10 days. The employee’s 14-day quarantine period doesn’t start until the child is released from isolation.