

EN ROUTE TO FRIDAY

July 17,
2020

The road to staying connected

Program Manager Consultant to support KDOT

Over the past few months, you may have heard discussion of a PMC (Program Manager Consultant). We've received many questions about what a PMC is and how this group will operate within the framework of our agency. First, I want to assure everyone that this is not an effort to turn our responsibilities over to consultants.

The PMC is modeled on a similar program in Arkansas but incorporates more advanced processes and practices. We intend the PMC to serve as a support and extension of KDOT staff as we embark on the \$9.9 billion IKE Legacy Program. The PMC is not going to lead KDOT employees. Kris Norton and Pete Van Sickle will provide oversight of all the PMC's activities.

As you know, KDOT has experienced significant staff reductions over the past decade and is in a hiring freeze. The primary goal of the PMC is to provide backfill staffing when necessary to help deliver IKE projects. We are still pursuing filling vacant positions when possible and will do so in the future.

Among the services the PMC can provide, as needed:

- Project programming review and support
- Project planning, preparing and issuing industry requests for information
- Public involvement
- Preliminary design
- Environmental studies
- Right of way acquisition
- Final design
- Construction engineering
- Inspection



We'll adjust on this list along the way as the agency's needs change.

Once the consultant is on board, we will look at resources available to deliver projects over the next three to four years. For example, KDOT design teams will recommend what projects should be completed "in house" and which projects should will be assigned to the PMC to manage. It's a top priority for KDOT employees to have meaningful work

opportunities on the projects of their choosing, and still be able to deliver IKE in a timely way.

We anticipate the constant collaboration between the PMC and KDOT staff will result in a better understanding of available resources and generate new ideas for project planning and delivery. The three shortlisted teams bring a wealth of experience in delivering transportation projects. This gives us an opportunity to learn from other state DOT successes and shortfalls. We plan to review and re-negotiate the PMC contract every three years, taking overall performance into consideration.

We are all stretched thin, working during a worldwide pandemic to complete delayed T-WORKS projects and start preliminary engineering on proposed IKE improvements. The IKE PMC will help us deliver the program while developing and maintaining a core group of KDOT staff.

You, the employees of KDOT, are our first priority — and strengthening skill sets and creating an exciting and supportive work environment is the target — today and into the future.

As always, stay safe,

Burt Morey

Gov. Kelly and Secretary Lorenz announce Cost Share Program project recipients



Gov. Laura Kelly and Secretary Lorenz address Kansans on July 7 over Zoom and Facebook Live. They were joined by community officials in Newton and Eudora, respectively.

On location in Newton and Eudora, Gov. Kelly and Secretary Julie Lorenz joined community leaders and announced the 24 Cost Share Program award recipients on July 9.

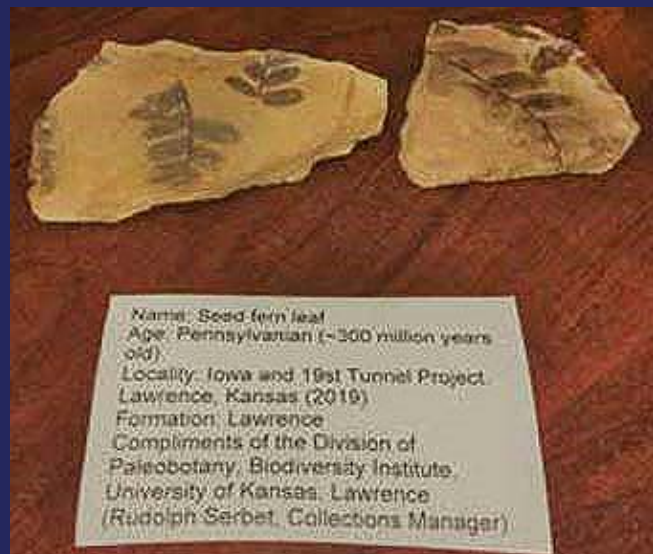
The Cost Share Program provides financial assistance to local entities for transportation projects that improve safety, support job retention and growth, improve access or mobility, relieve congestion and help areas across the state improve the transportation system.

“Transportation investments create short-term construction jobs, but they can also contribute to long-term economic development opportunities,” Governor Kelly said. “Investing in infrastructure helps drive down the cost of transporting goods, which benefits businesses.”

You can see the project locations and learn more about the program [here](#).

You can view the video [here](#).

Can ya dig it? Shale fossils found during Lawrence bicycle and pedestrian underpass project excavation



The City of Lawrence’s bicycle and pedestrian underpass constructed in 2019 was featured in the last edition of Translines for being recognized by the American Public Works Association Kansas Chapter. According to Matt Messina, Transportation Planning Manager, another interesting fact about this project is that plant fossils were found in the shale rock layer during excavation.

A University of Kansas student from the Biodiversity Institute was invited on-site to categorize and date the fossils. Some of the samples he took were sent to Antarctica for deep storage. Samples include a Seed Fern Leaf from the Pennsylvanian Age (~300 million years old).

KDOT CCLIP Program awards \$18.5 million in road improvements to 36 communities in Kansas

\$18.5 million in road improvements

36 projects in Kansas communities

The City Connecting Link Improvement Program funds improvements to state highways that extend through cities. This total includes \$8.9 million in state fiscal year 2022 and \$9.6 million in state fiscal year 2023.

You can see the full list of communities who will receive funds [here](#):

Did you know heroes wear masks to protect their loved ones?

You too can be a hero!
Wear your mask to protect others from harm.
Spread love, not germs.