



Department of Transportation  
*Division of Multimodal Transportation  
and Innovation*

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Laura Kelly, Governor

**PROPONENT TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**REGARDING HB 2647  
RELATING TO A STATEWIDE FIBER SYSTEM**

**February 12, 2026**

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

I am Cory Davis, Director of Multimodal Transportation and Innovation for the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). I am here today to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2647. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and to provide comments.

KDOT is committed to carrying out our 10-year IKE transportation program, which includes the advancement of transportation technologies and the expansion of broadband, along with improvements to our highways, bridges, and multimodal network. Our current transportation program includes \$185 million dedicated to the advancement of innovative transportation solutions, while also investing in more efficient expansion of broadband across the state.

House Bill 2647 establishes an opportunity for KDOT to partner with internet service providers to efficiently and effectively provide broadband internet services throughout the state while also planning for the future of the transportation network.

The transportation use cases that utilize fiber are numerous. We are currently installing fiber on our designated freight routes of significance. These routes generally have the highest level of traffic and freight movements (see attached map), meaning that these transportation technologies will be most useful along those routes. These technologies include remote weather information systems, dynamic message boards, truck turnover warnings, and oversize-overweight vehicle identification, among many other use cases. We are establishing a network that sets Kansas up for future connected vehicle technology and real-time network monitoring and incident management.

In addition to the aforementioned transportation use cases, KDOT will also use this fiber to provide connections to KDOT area and subarea offices, and potentially other state agencies or education institutions in the future.

The main intent of this bill is to establish the ability for KDOT to partner with internet service providers, allowing those entities to use already installed KDOT infrastructure to more efficiently install their fiber. After KDOT installs conduit, five of the seven microducts will be available for internet service providers to



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access for broadband expansion. The internet service provider will apply to KDOT for access, pay an upfront fee associated with the actual construction of the project, and pay an annual operating and maintenance fee. KDOT is not generating revenue with this project, but simply recuperating our costs for the initial installation.

The partnership benefits include:

- Lower cost for providers as they will only pay a pro-rated per mile fee that is based on the actual construction costs of the project.
- More rapid deployment of broadband instead of multiple trenches and/or conduit
- More efficient use of KDOT's utility corridor
  - o Currently, we have certain segments where our utility corridors are full
  - o This limits the number of parties accessing our right-of-way and reduces the potential of damaging utilities while in the right-of-way

We have engaged industry in this effort and established an Open Access Broadband Policy that outlines the process for gaining access to KDOT conduit. It is not KDOT's intent to compete with existing internet service providers. KDOT's intent is to identify partnerships through this program that mutually benefit all parties by sharing the cost of the project and the available conduit.

In summary, this bill will allow KDOT to form partnerships that more efficiently and effectively expand broadband throughout Kansas, while simultaneously advancing intelligent transportation solutions and preparing Kansas for the future of transportation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2647. I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.

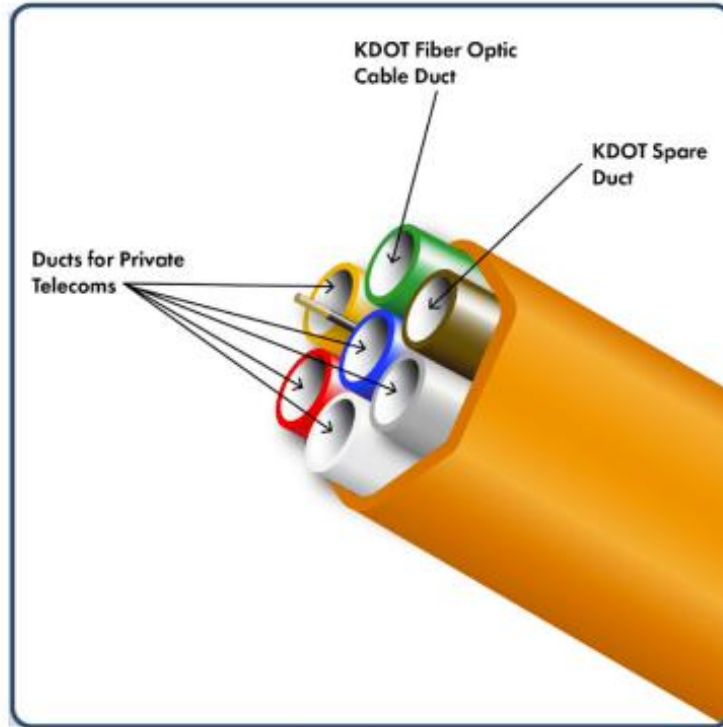


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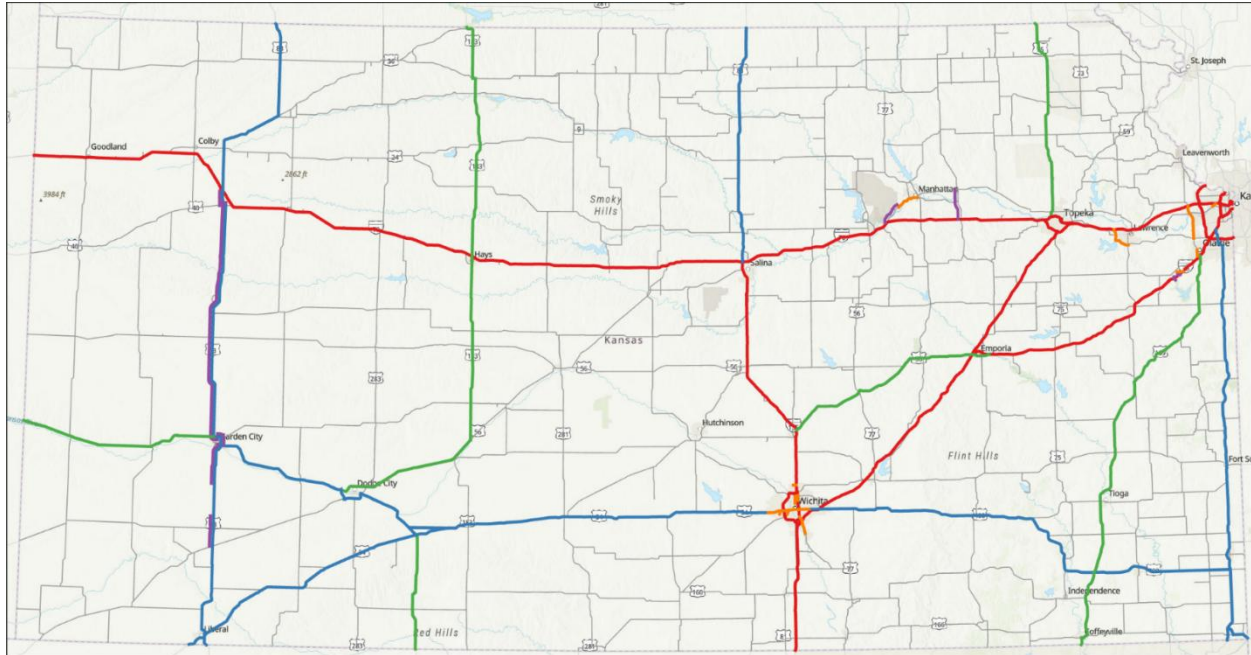


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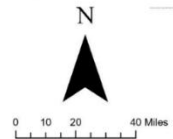


**Legend**

- PRIMARY INTERSTATE NETWORK
- PRIMARY NETWORK
- SECONDARY NETWORK
- CRITICAL RURAL FREIGHT CORRIDOR
- CRITICAL URBAN FREIGHT CORRIDOR

Date: 7/7/2025

PREPARED BY THE:  
**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**



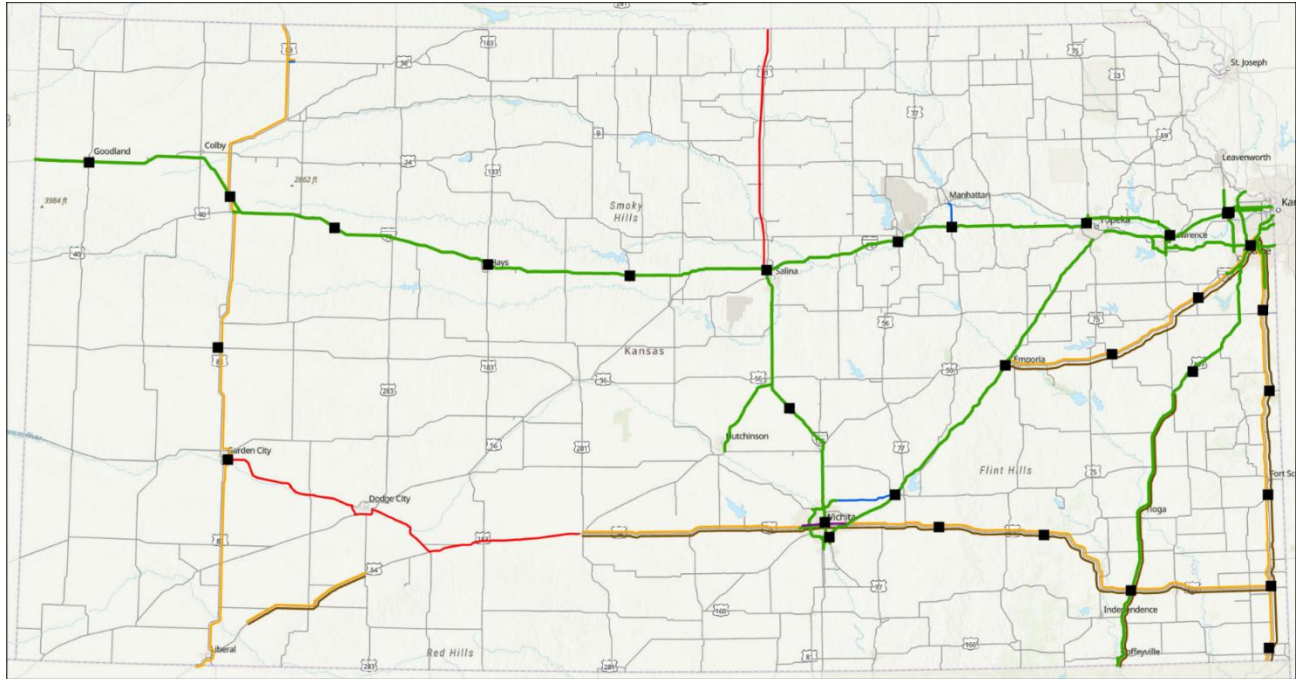


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**Legend**

- Middle Mile Project
- Planned Fiber Projects
- 7-Way Microduct (Completed)
- 7-Way Microduct (Under Construction)
- 7-Way Microduct Planned (Future)
- KDOT Single Conduit Route
- POP Building

Date: 7/7/2025

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