

**PRELIMINARY  
MINUTES**

**BUILD KANSAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

December 17, 2025  
Room 112-N—Statehouse

**Members Present**

Senator Rick Billinger – Chairperson  
Representative Troy Waymaster – Vice-chairperson  
Senator Michael Fagg  
Senator Pat Pettey  
Senator Tim Shallenburger  
Representative Shannon Francis  
Representative Henry Helgerson  
Representative Kyle Hoffman

**Members Absent**

Representative Lindsay Vaughn

**Staff Present**

Chardae Caine, Kansas Legislative Research Department (KLRD)  
Walt Nelson, KLRD  
Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Chris Waggoner, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Susan McClacherty, Committee Assistant

**Conferees**

Shawn Wesner, Executive Director, Kansas Infrastructure Hub

**Wednesday, December 17**  
**Afternoon Session**

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Billinger called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

**Presentation on Kansas Infrastructure Hub and Build Kansas Fund Updates**

Shawn Wesner, Executive Director, Kansas Infrastructure Hub, on behalf of the Build Kansas Steering Committee, provided a review of the Build Kansas Fund budget, including the authorizations, allocations, and commitments. The \$200 million authorization was reduced to \$150 million. Of the \$150 million, \$100 million was allocated to the Build Kansas Fund, leaving an outstanding allocation of \$50 million. A sum of \$36.6 million was encumbered for 54 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act applications, which received their federal award notification, leaving a balance of \$63.3 million. The sum of \$54.9 million was committed for 67 applications that are pending federal award notification, leaving a remaining unencumbered balance of \$8.3 million.

Ms. Wesner highlighted the 11 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) applications that were approved by the Committee for \$51.4 million in funding but did not go forward because of the BRIC program being canceled. Once the program was canceled, the \$51.4 million was repurposed back into the Build Kansas Fund for other projects. On December 11, notification was received by the Kansas Infrastructure Hub that the U.S. District Court for the State of Massachusetts ruled that the Federal Emergency Management Agency had to restore funding it had cancelled for the BRIC program. She clarified that if the BRIC program does move forward, there would be \$51 million plus the \$54 million obligated. Ms. Wesner reminded the Committee that three BRIC applications did receive their federal notification and are part of the 54 approved applications previously discussed.

Ms. Wesner summarized the 2025 technical assistance provided by population size, due to Committee members previously expressing a preference for the Kansas Infrastructure Hub to focus direct support on small and rural communities. On average, 51 percent of all points of contact from the technical assistance providers in 2025 went directly to communities with population less than 5,000.

Ms. Wesner provided updates to information found on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Dashboard. She also provided updates on the status of grants submitted to support airport infrastructure and terminals, the application win rate, funding by economic development district listing of Notice for Funding Opportunities between mid-December 2025 and February 2026, and the anticipated BUILD program submissions for surface transportation projects. (Attachment 1)

Ms. Wesner answered questions from Committee members.

**Presentation on Bridge Investment Program Applications to the Build Kansas Fund**

Ms. Wesner, on behalf of the Build Kansas Steering Committee, informed Committee members that the Bridge Investment Program (BIP) has not reopened but is anticipated to be available in early 2026. She provided an overview of three bridge-related grant programs: U.S. Department of Transportation BIP, Kansas Local BIP, and Kansas Department of Transportation Off-System Bridge Program.

Ms. Wesner presented the applications for the Build Kansas Fund.

The following applications were reviewed:

1. #2026-165-NoEDD is from Franklin County to allow for development of planning, design, and engineering needed for future bridge construction. The entity is requesting \$37,526 and contributing a local match of \$1,975. The request has the potential to unlock \$158,004 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$197,505. This application was previously reviewed during the September Committee meeting and was put on hold until follow-up questions were answered. The response to the questions was submitted to the Committee in November. (Attachment 2)

There was consensus to approve this application.

2. #2026-166-NWKPDC is from Ellis County Public Works for replacement of three aging structurally deficient bridges that are vital to the county's transportation network. The entity is requesting \$1.7 million and providing a local match contribution of \$89,686. This request has the potential to unlock \$7.1 million of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$8.9 million. (Attachment 3)

There was consensus to approve this application.

3. #2026-167-NWKPDC is from Smith County to replace nine structurally deficient rural bridges with new single-span steel girder structures to improve safety, restore full load capacity, and extend the service life of the county's transportation network. The entity is requesting \$1.1 million and contributing a local match of \$58,740. This request has potential to unlock \$4.6 million of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$5.8 million. (Attachment 4)

There was consensus to approve this application.

4. #2026-168-NoEDD is from Osage County and Chase County, with Osage County being the lead applicant, to replace a total of 17 bridges that are critical to local mobility, safety, and economic activities in rural Kansas. The entity is requesting \$9.4 million and contributing a local match of \$3.1 million. The request has the potential to unlock \$50.1 million of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$62.6 million. (Attachment 5)

There was consensus to approve this application.

The award list of Build Kansas Fund applications as of October 3, 2025, was distributed to the Committee by email prior to the meeting. (Attachment 6)

### **Committee Discussion, Advice, and Recommendations**

The Committee discussed its anticipated actions based on the court ruling regarding BRIC funding.

The Committee expressed concerns about the City of Hays having two applications for the same R9 Ranch project and the City of Nemaha having two applications for similar projects, and the potential outcome should the BIP reopen.

*Representative Waymaster moved, and Representative Helgerson seconded, that funding for any applications approved at this meeting cannot be extracted out of the balance of the Build Kansas Fund until the program reopens by the federal government, due to the program being under review. The motion carried.*

The Committee discussed the transition for approving funding for projects prior to the grant opportunities being open for a program. Ms. Wesner informed the Committee that when the funding opportunity presents itself, it is seen favorably when the applicant can inform in their federal grant application that they have already secured their 20 percent match.

The Committee discussed concerns for funding the planning of projects without a plan in place as to how the bridges are to be replaced. Ms. Wesner informed the Committee that the BIP encompasses both planning and construction grants; however, one criteria to apply for the construction grant is a completed planning project. The Committee expressed concern about committing to a few projects for a program that may reopen when there are many bridges in poor condition that may not get funded after the federal program reopens. The Committee also expressed concern that some communities were not aware that the BIP may reopen in January.

A question was raised about whether there was a maturity date or timetable to the Committee's commitments. Ms. Wesner informed the Committee that she is not aware of any and that it takes an average of 15 months before applicants receive approval or disapproval.

The Committee discussed the possibility of not putting a hold on applications completing their due diligence and granting tentative approval; and if the program is resumed in 2026, the Kansas Infrastructure Hub would not have to come back to the Committee. Communities having bridges in poor conditions were encouraged to submit applications.

Ms. Wesner advised the Committee that over 1,000 bridges of the local system are in poor condition.

*Representative Waymaster moved a substitute motion, and Representative Helgerson seconded, that any Bridge Investment Program applications approved at this meeting will have approval of the Build Kansas Advisory Committee, but the funds will show as uncommitted until they are actually submitted to the federal government, if it is resumed within the first quarter of calendar year 2026; and if it is not resumed within the first quarter of calendar year 2026, then the applications are negated. The motion carried.*

The Committee requested the Kansas Infrastructure Hub report back at the next meeting on whether the federal government started the BIP or if it is still in limbo.

The Committee discussed what happens if Chase County does not get awarded the Rural and Tribal Assistance (RTA) support. Ms. Wesner informed the Committee that the county will use a combination of discretionary funds, low-interest loans, and finance credit programs to cover those costs.

### **Approval of September 24, 2025, Minutes**

*Representative Waymaster moved, and Representative Helgerson seconded, to adopt the minutes from September 24, 2025, meeting. The motion carried.*

### **Adjourn**

Chairperson Billinger adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

Prepared by Susan McClacherty  
Edited by Chardae Caine

Approved by the Committee on:

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(Date)