

**PRELIMINARY
MINUTES**

BUILD KANSAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 16, 2025
Room 112-N—Statehouse

Members Present

Representative Troy Waymaster, Chairperson
Senator Rick Billinger, Vice-chairperson
Senator Tim Shallenburger
Representative Shannon Francis
Representative Henry Helgerson
Representative Kyle Hoffman
Representative Lindsay Vaughn

Members Absent

Senator J. R. Claeys
Senator Pat Pettey

Staff Present

Chardae Caine, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Susan McClacherty, Committee Assistant

Conferees

Matthew Volz, Executive Director, Kansas Infrastructure Hub

**Tuesday, April 16
Afternoon Session**

Call to Order

Chairperson Waymaster called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Presentation on Applications to the Build Kansas Matching Grant Fund

Matthew Volz, Executive Director, Kansas Infrastructure Hub, on behalf of the Build Kansas Steering Committee, presented the applications for the Build Kansas Matching Grant Fund. ([Attachment 1](#))

The following new applications were reviewed:

1. #2025-082-SEKEDD is from the Wichita Airport Authority for land acquisition next to the Jabara Airport and future development and investment by the tenant for aeronautical development and infrastructure access. The entity is requesting \$51,750 and contributing a local match of \$5,750 in cash with an additional project contribution of \$450,000. The request has the potential to unlock \$1.1 million of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$1.6 million. ([Attachment 2](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

2. #2025-089-SEKRPC is from the Great Plains Development Authority to install eight miles of water pipeline, rehabilitate a water tower, enhance fire suppression to improve system integration, increase storage capacity, and strengthen regional water resilience. The entity is requesting \$1.4 million and contributing a local match of \$74,382. This request has potential to unlock \$4.5 million of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$6.0 million. ([Attachment 3](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

3. #2025-095-NCRPC is from the Nemaha-Marshall Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., to install oil-free automatic reclosers on existing utility poles to enhance wildfire hazard mitigation efforts and reduce the risk of electrical system-related fire ignitions. The entity is requesting \$427,500 and contributing a local match of \$22,500. This request has potential to unlock \$1.4 million of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$1.8 million. ([Attachment 4](#))

Mr. Volz provided information about the impacts of the federal government issuing an advisory opinion of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. Essentially, the program is paused. The same day the program was defunded, a court order was issued by the U.S. District Court stating the administration could not pause funding of the Federal Emergency Management Agency programs. The Kansas Infrastructure Hub plans to continue processing Build Kansas Fund applications for the Committee's review. When the programs restart, there will not be a deluge of applications for the Committee to have to review in a short time frame.

There was consensus to approve this application.

4. #2025-096-SEKRPC is from the City of Garnett for a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Infrastructure Grant (AIG) in support of funding a project to expand and improve the Runway 1-19 at the Garnett Municipal Airport. The entity is requesting \$15,331 and contributing a local match of \$15,332. This request has potential to unlock \$275,960 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$306,623. ([Attachment 5](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

5. #2025-098-NCRPC is from the Nemaha-Marshall Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., for a project to install steel and concrete poles to strengthen transmission lines against high wind events and replace aging infrastructure with modern load centers for improved reliability. The entity is requesting \$950,000 and contributing a local match of \$50,000.00. This request has potential to unlock \$3.0 million of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$4.0 million. ([Attachment 6](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

6. #2025-099-SCKEDD is from the City of Newton for a FAA AIG project to make improvements to the EWK Runway 8-26 consisting of repairing the longitudinal, edge, and transverse thermal cracking and patch failures. The entity is requesting \$73,150 and contributing a local match of \$3,850. This request has the potential to unlock \$1.5 million of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$1.5 million. ([Attachment 7](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

Presentation on an Application Adjustment Request

7. #2025-092-GP is from the Hugoton Municipal Airport for a FAA AIG to improve the runway, taxiway, lighting, signage, and electrical infrastructure. The entity is requesting a reduction of the local match contribution from \$18,249 to \$1,825 and an increase of the Build Kansas Fund request from \$18,249 to \$34,673, due to a calculation error. This request has the potential to unlock \$328,482 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$364,980. ([Attachment 8](#))

There was consensus to accept the application revision.

Presentation on the Kansas Infrastructure Hub

Executive Director Volz provided an overview of the grant assistance program that started this past February. He provided information about the two applications received through the grant assistance program.

The Executive Director provided an update on the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grants that were published in March 2025. Kansas received 49 awards across the state from the SS4A program. The program requires a 20.0 percent match from the local funds and the Build Kansas Fund is used for the match.

The Executive Director also stated 200 people have signed up to attend the third Kansas Infrastructure Summit in Lindsborg on April 23, 2025.

Presentation on Hub Dashboards

Executive Director Volz discussed the Hub dashboard, stating the dashboard shows projects awarded a federal grant and projects pending awards in a map format, and a chart indicates where the Build Kansas Fund is in relation to the \$10 million legislatively required to be given to each Kansas economic development district. The dashboard provides the update on the total number of Build Kansas Fund applications approved and the total dollar amounts approved, the number of projects awarded federal grants and the associated dollar amounts, the number of projects awaiting federal grant awards and the associated Build Kansas Funds, and the number of projects not awarded federal grants and the associated Build Kansas Funds of those projects.

The Executive Director reminded the Committee members that the Build Kansas Fund dollars associated with projects not awarded federal grants are recycled back into the Build Kansas Fund for redistribution later. The total value of awarded projects consists of the committed Build Kansas Funds, applicant contribution, and the unlocked federal funds. He reported the return on investment is 219.0 percent and is comprised of \$34.6 million Build Kansas Fund unlocking \$75.9 million federal funds.

The Executive Director provided an overview of the service support the team of technical assistants provide to their customers. He provided a list of accomplishments since the Spring of 2024 and acknowledged the appreciation they receive from their customers being the greatest reward.

The Executive Director thanked the Committee for the support they showed him over the past year and informed the Committee that the presentation would be his last as the executive director of the infrastructure hub.

Committee Discussion, Advice, and Recommendations

Chairperson Waymaster thanked the Executive Director for his service and the great results achieved in one year in his role.

The Executive Director confirmed that grants having a status of pause and the Build Kansas Fund awards that were approved for infrastructure project will continue to be included in the Total Build Kansas Fund application approved numbers and committed funding amounts.

The Committee discussed some legislators are unaware of entities applying for project funding within their district and not being informed of the Build Kansas Fund process, and the need to inform them. Chairperson Waymaster informed the Committee that it would be good for legislators to be aware of projects that are pending federal grant awards and the outcomes of the federal award process.

The Committee also discussed the need for smaller communities to become aware of the technical assistance that is available to help secure funding for infrastructure projects and perform grant administrative services.

The Executive Director informed the Committee there is a need to continue to market the program due to staffing turnover in smaller communities. He also said that when federal grants are awarded in Kansas, the Hub pushes out press releases to media facilities.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Prepared by Susan McClacherty
Edited by Chardae Caine

Approved by the Committee on:

(Date)

draft