

Funding awarded for 3 local bridge projects

(KNZA)--\$40.5 million is earmarked for 33 local and off-system bridge projects across Kansas.

Announcement of the funding, which includes three bridges in the local region, was made Tuesday in a joint release from Kansas Governor Laura Kelly and state Transportation Secretary Julie Lorenz.

The announcement is made as part of two local bridge improvement programs reshaped to take advantage of new revenue streams generated by the federally approved Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The amount awarded by the Kansas Department of Transportation to cities and counties more than doubles and triples local bridge improvement funds available in these programs as part of the existing Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program, known as IKE. The KDOT bridge improvement programs include about \$137.5 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds over the next five years. The Off-System Bridge Program has been expanded from \$8 million in annual funding to \$20.5 million.

\$20 million in funding was awarded for 11 bridge projects for federal fiscal year 2023—including more than a million dollars for a project in Atchison County. The project is located on 314th Road over Deer Creek about 3 ½ miles north of Atchison. Atchison County will provide a 15 percent local match, or just over \$127,000.

\$20.5 million in funding was awarded for 22 bridge projects for federal fiscal year 2004—including two local projects. In Brown County, \$570,000 was awarded for a bridge replacement project on 220th Road, west of U.S. 75 Highway, about one mile south of Fairview. Brown County will be responsible for 7.9 percent of the cost or just over \$49,000. In Pottawatomie County, nearly \$1.2 million in funding was awarded for a bridge project on Armstrong Road over Vermillion Creek about 3 miles northeast of Havensville. Pottawatomie will be responsible for 11.3 percent of the cost or just over \$147,000.

There are about 19,300 bridges on Kansas' local road systems. About 26% - or 5,000 - of those bridges are in poor condition or unable to meet today- weight and vehicle requirements.