

## 2023 Kansas Statutes

**68-2301. Express highways and freeways; establishment of system; location; construction; transfer of funds to state highway fund; financing; allocation and programming of funds, priorities; feasibility studies of designating portions of system as toll roads.** (a) In order to provide for the construction of modern express highways and freeways to link the principal population centers of the state with the major express highways and freeways in this and other states, facilitate vehicular traffic in the areas to be served, remove many of the present handicaps and hazards on the congested highways in the state and promote the agricultural and industrial development of the state, the secretary of transportation is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to establish and construct a state system of modern express highways and freeways. The express highways and freeways within said system shall be constructed pursuant to the criteria established in subsection (b) and shall be located by the secretary of transportation within the following corridors:

(1) Commencing in the vicinity of the intersection of U.S. highway 54 and the Kansas-Oklahoma border, thence proceeding in a northeasterly and easterly direction, within a corridor including and generally delineated by said U.S. highway 54, to the vicinity of the point in Butler county where said U.S. highway 54 and state highway 96 divide; thence proceeding in an easterly and southeasterly direction, generally described by said highway 96, to the vicinity of the juncture of state highway 96 and state highway 39; thence in a southeasterly direction, within a corridor including and generally delineated by state highway 96, U.S. highway 160 and state highway 57, to the Kansas-Missouri border;

(2) commencing in the vicinity of the intersection of interstate highway 70 and U.S. highway 183, near the city of Hays in Ellis county; thence in a southeasterly direction to the general vicinity of the intersection of the east city limits of the city of Great Bend in Barton county and state highway 96; thence in an easterly and southeasterly direction, within a corridor including and generally delineated by state highway 96, to the vicinity of the juncture of state highway 96 and U.S. highway 54 in Sedgwick county;

(3) commencing in the vicinity of the intersection of the north city limits of the city of Hutchinson in Reno county and state highway 61; thence in a northeasterly direction, within a corridor including and generally delineated by state highway 61, to a point near the south city limits of the city of McPherson in McPherson county;

(4) commencing in the vicinity of the intersection of U.S. highway 75 and the Kansas-Nebraska border; thence in a southerly direction, within a corridor including and generally delineated by U.S. highway 75, to a point near the intersection of said U.S. highway 75 and the proposed right-of-way for interstate highway 35, in the vicinity of the Osage-Coffey county line;

(5) commencing in the vicinity of the intersection of U.S. highway 36 and the Kansas-Missouri border; thence in a westerly direction, within a corridor including and generally delineated by U.S. highway 36, to a point near the intersection of U.S. highways 36 and 81; thence in a southerly direction to a point in the vicinity of the intersection of said U.S. highway 81 and interstate highway 70;

(6) commencing in the vicinity of the intersection of the city limits of the city of Atchison in Atchison county and state highway 7; thence in a southerly direction to the vicinity of the intersection of state highway 7 and interstate highway 35, near the city of Olathe in Johnson county;

(7) commencing in the vicinity of the intersection of U.S. highway 69 and interstate highway 435; thence in a southerly direction, within a corridor including and generally delineated by U.S. highway 69, to the Kansas-Oklahoma border;

(8) commencing in the vicinity of the city of Lawrence in Douglas county; thence in a southerly direction within a corridor which includes the areas between U.S. highways 75, 59 and 169, to the Kansas-Oklahoma border in the general vicinity of a point approximately between the cities of Caney and Coffeyville in Montgomery county; and

(9) commencing in the vicinity of the intersection of the city limits of the city of Lawrence in Douglas county and state highway 10; thence in an easterly direction, within a corridor including and generally delineated by state highway 10, to the

vicinity of the intersection of interstate highway 35 and U.S. highways 50 and 56 in the city of Merriam in Johnson county.

(b) All of the moneys deposited in the state freeway fund created in K.S.A. 79-3425, and amendments thereto, except moneys accruing to such fund as a result of the interest or earnings from the investment of moneys in the state freeway fund or in the state freeway construction fund, as provided in K.S.A. 68-2311(d), and amendments thereto, shall be subject to transfer to the state highway fund, as provided by K.S.A. 79-3425, and amendments thereto. After any such transfer, and subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 68-2311, and amendments thereto, the moneys remaining in the state freeway fund shall be expended by the secretary of transportation for: The construction, reconstruction, improvement and maintenance of the state system of express highways and freeways established in subsection (a) of this section; for the retirement of highway bonds and highway refunding bonds issued under the provisions of this act; and for the purpose of making payments to the Kansas turnpike authority pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 68-2096, and amendments thereto, except that such payments shall not be made from the interest or earnings from the investment of moneys in the state freeway construction fund, as provided in K.S.A. 68-2311, and amendments thereto. Moneys in the state freeway fund may be transferred to the state highway fund and may be expended from such fund for:

- (1) The construction of state highways within the corridors designated in subsection (a) and approved by the secretary of transportation prior to the effective date of this act;
- (2) the construction of bypass routes not exceeding five miles in length; and
- (3) the reconstruction, improvement and maintenance of state highways, whether or not such highways are within the corridors designated in subsection (a). Such reconstruction, improvement and maintenance shall be according to need as determined by priorities assigned to such state highways by the secretary of transportation in accordance with established standards and criteria.

The allocation and programming of funds within the state system in each fiscal year shall be according to need, as determined by a schedule of priorities assigned to segments of the existing highways which generally delineate the corridors of said state system of express highways and freeways. The secretary of transportation shall determine the length of each such segment in establishing said priorities, and the schedule of priorities shall be updated every four years on the basis of current criteria at that time. Immediately after the effective date of this act, the secretary of transportation shall evaluate the schedule of priorities and, where necessary, reestablish such schedule in accordance with the following standards and criteria:

Except where it is specifically provided by law that any of the highways to be constructed within the corridors designated in subsection (a) shall be constructed so as to include multiple lanes in each direction on roadways separated by a median, barrier or other center division, all highways constructed within the state system of modern express highways and freeways after the effective date of this act may be constructed either with multiple lanes in each direction on roadways separated by a median, barrier or other center division or may be constructed with two lanes on a single roadway. Whenever the secretary of transportation deems it necessary and appropriate for the safety of vehicular traffic, such highways shall be designed and constructed to include controlled access, passing lanes, expanded shoulder width, long-sight distances, grade separations at intersections with other roads and highways and railroads. Nothing herein shall be construed as abrogating, limiting or otherwise affecting the construction of any highway for which bids for the construction thereof have been solicited and received prior to the effective date of this act, nor shall the foregoing be construed as precluding the secretary of transportation, whenever the secretary deems it feasible and appropriate, from acquiring right-of-way sufficient to accommodate the eventual construction of multiple-lane divided highways within any corridor designated in subsection (a).

(c) In constructing or reconstructing the state system of modern express highways and freeways established in this section, the secretary shall evaluate from time to time the feasibility of designating new or added capacity portions of any of the modern express highways and freeways within the system as a toll road. If the secretary shall determine that the designation of any new or added capacity portion

as a toll road is feasible, based on the projected traffic, engineering, cost and financing of the proposed toll road and a determination that adequate public funds for construction of such toll road are not available and that the construction of such toll road can be financed partly through proceeds of the bonds issued pursuant to this act, the secretary may construct such toll road after meeting the requirements of K.S.A. 60-20,120, and amendments thereto. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as abrogating, limiting or otherwise affecting any obligations or duties imposed upon the secretary of transportation under this section with respect to the construction, reconstruction, improvement and maintenance of the state system of modern express highways and freeways, including without limitation location studies, engineering, right-of-way acquisition and public hearings, nor shall it affect in any way the allocation, programming or priority of funds therefor.

**History:** L. 1969, ch. 462, § 18; L. 1972, ch. 252, § 12; L. 1974, ch. 276, § 8; L. 1975, ch. 357, § 1; L. 1975, ch. 427, § 226; L. 1979, ch. 323, § 8; L. 1989, ch. 209, § 30; L. 2019, ch. 49, § 6; July 1.