



A strong transportation infrastructure is critical to developing and expanding commerce. The Wichita Chamber, in conjunction with the Regional Economic Area Partnership and the Greater Wichita Partnership, has convened key private sector business members of the Chamber and local governments in the region to form the South Central Kansas Transportation Coalition. The Coalition will champion transportation projects that have a positive impact on communities and businesses in the region.

**ADVOCACY**



The Coalition advocates for funding and policies to address regionally significant transportation infrastructure needs (like the North Junction - where I-135, I-235, K-254 and K-96 meet in North Wichita). This effort brings industry and government together to educate the Kansas Legislature, Kansas Dept. of Transportation (KDOT), the Kansas Congressional Delegation, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the business community and members of the public about transportation issues that impact the region's growth.

The coalition successfully advocated for KDOT's next comprehensive transportation plan in 2020. The Kansas Legislature passed and the Governor signed a 10-year rolling program into law called the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program (IKE). Additionally, the Coalition was pleased to support the \$21M BUILD Grant awarded by the USDOT for the North Junction Interchange. This funding will be matched by more than \$60M in state and local funding to complete the gold phase of the project.

**NEXT STEPS**

In 2021, The Coalition will continue to focus on prioritizing regionally significant infrastructure projects for the Wichita region and will actively advocate for these projects during the upcoming round of local consult meetings.

As traditional sources of transportation funding decline or are transferred to fund other priorities, we need your help to ensure transportation funding streams are used for the transportation program. We will continue to raise our voice for equitable taxing and distribution of funding to address critical needs in South Central Kansas and transportation policies that grow the Wichita regional economy.

*"The South Central Kansas Transportation Coalition is an outstanding leader in regional collaboration. At KDOT, we rely on regional collaboration to identify transportation priorities that will make our transportation system safer and work better for our economy—today and into the future. I truly appreciate the collaborative spirit and great energy the Coalition brings to the process. We're all better when we work together!"*  
 – Julie Lorenz, KDOT Secretary

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