

**KDOT Local Programs & Rural Mobility Stakeholder Meeting**  
**October 24, 2018**  
**Meeting Summary**

In conjunction with the Joint Legislative Vision Task Force, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) held a stakeholder meeting to discuss local programs and rural mobility in Kansas. The meeting was held from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on October 24. More than 40 stakeholders participated in person and two participated via online webinar/conference call.

This was an opportunity for KDOT to hear directly from stakeholders about the current issues impacting the local transportation system and rural mobility in our state. Feedback from this meeting was shared with the Task Force during its meeting later in the day.

**Agenda** for stakeholder meeting:

8:00 a.m.	Welcome & Introductions - Group
8:10 a.m.	Local Programs Update – Norm Bowers, Kansas Association of Counties
8:25 a.m.	Open Discussion/Feedback – Group Discussion Facilitated by Ron Seitz, KDOT
9:30 a.m.	Adjourn

As part of the discussion during the meeting, the stakeholders were asked for input on the following:

- What are the major challenges in providing an adequate local road system?
- What are your most important transportation needs? (Where additional funds should be spent)
- What KDOT programs/policies are most beneficial for local agencies?
- What would you like to see added or changed in KDOT’s programs/policies for local agencies?
- What should funding for local transportation look like moving ahead?
- Suggestions for future revenue sources.

A bulleted summary of the discussion follows:

**What are the major challenges**

- Maintaining local bridges – the biggest thing to do with more money would be to address local bridges.
- Funding.
- Rural counties can’t construct their own bridges anymore which increases the cost.
- Quality aggregates for road projects are an issue – they are becoming harder to get.
- There is a disconnect between funding and control.
- The property tax lid is the problem – if it stays in place, locals will need more state and federal support.
- Counties lack control – they have no control over how much fuel tax they receive, and they have no control over how much property tax they receive.

**What are the most important transportation needs? Where should funding be spent?**

- The needs are around economic opportunities. We need to spend money where growth can occur.
- Transportation is needed to allow rural communities to retain residents. Transit has a positive impact on economic development.
- In cities, pavement maintenance is a big issue.
- The ability to make local match is difficult – decreasing the local share for public transit would be helpful.

**What KDOT programs/policies are most beneficial?**

- Being allowed to use our own local specifications has been very helpful – bids are coming in much lower.
- Kansas Local Bridge Improvement Program – would like to have this program back. Program gave locals some control on specifications which helped.
- Revolving Loan Fund – would like to see this program back.
- Special City/County Highways Fund
- Federal Fund Exchange
- Corridor Management Program
- Load Rating Program
- High Risk Rural Road Program
- Would like KDOT to bring back the specialized bridge inspection assistance.

**What should funding for local transportation look like moving ahead?**

- For the special city/county highway fund, make the distribution based on vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and factor in the number of heavy vehicles. The distribution should be based on the miles traveled, not the number of miles of roads.
- Pass-through traffic has wear and tear, but doesn't provide any revenue to counties.
- It will be difficult to get local support of fuel tax increase without a change in distribution.
- County valuations will bring in less money in the future – that will have an impact.
- The tax system we have doesn't fit the needs we have – we should transition to VMT.
- We need to have a comprehensive funding plan that includes the state and locals.
- State and locals need a combined message.