

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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## TRANSPORTATION

Our transportation systems are the foundation for the efficient movement of goods and people, and this infrastructure is crucial for economic development, business retention/expansion, and job growth. It is imperative that KDOT and other government entities be financially committed to the improvement of roads and bridges in an effort to meet the ever-increasing demands being placed on our aging structures. This includes continuing efforts to streamline the process required for obtaining over-dimensional and overweight permits.

Lyon County has 301 bridges, ranking 2nd in the state. Current major transportation projects include major improvements at the Emporia Regional airport and construction of transcontinental double tracks by BNSF.

Six significant highway systems drive the economy of Lyon County, with Emporia being at the crossroads of four of them:

- Kansas Turnpike
- US Highway 50
- I-35
- I-335
- K-99 is Lyon County's direct route to I-70, Manhattan and Southeast Kansas.
- US 56 is a regional link across north Lyon County and accesses the KTA near Admire, that ties Morris, Lyon, Osage and Franklin counties.
- K-170 is a critical economic link between Lyon and Osage Counties.

### We ask the Kansas Legislature to:

- Support funding to assist with economic development projects that include transportation improvements;
- Protect funds allocated to transportation from use in other budgetary areas; and
- Continue to support IKE with stakeholder input for projects such as:
  - Fund improvements for a corridor between Emporia and Manhattan to increase commerce and safety in the region;
  - Fund improvement of Highway 99 between Highway 54 on the south to I-70 on the north to accommodate truck traffic and to promote general safety;
  - Continue to provide KLINK funding to cities for infrastructure maintenance.

