

Build Kansas Fund | Fiscal Year 2024 Application Package | Memo



To: Senator Ty Masterson, Chair, Build Kansas Advisory Committee
Murl Riedel, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Shauna Wake, Office of the Kansas State Treasurer

From: Matthew A. Volz, P.E., Executive Director, Kansas Infrastructure Hub

RE: Build Kansas Fund Application # 2024-026-NoEDD

Date: April 17, 2024

Attached, please find an application made to the Build Kansas Fund by the City of Topeka.

The application packet includes the following items:

- Coversheet – provides a high-level overview of the application including a unique identification number, page 1 of 10 of the Build Kansas Fund Application Package.
- Build Kansas Fund Application – includes information submitted with the Build Kansas Fund Application, pages 2-7. Page 7 provides the table of funding sources.
- Attachments – executive summary, pages 8-10.

Project Overview

The City of Topeka seeks funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for funding available through the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) for development of their first Comprehensive Safety Action Plan and demonstration to improve traffic safety.

SS4A is a discretionary BIL program that has a local match requirement of 20%. The City of Topeka is requesting \$2,000,000 from the Build Kansas Fund. This request has the potential to unlock \$8,000,000 in federal funds.

The next deadline for SS4A applications is May 16, 2024. The Build Kansas Fund application was received on March 12, 2024.

Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee Recommendation

The Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee reviewed this application on April 17, 2024, following a successful completeness check. The Steering Committee **RECOMMENDS APPROVAL** of Build Kansas Funding to the Build Kansas Advisory Committee for final advice.

Build Kansas Fund | Fiscal Year 2024 Application Package | Coversheet



Build Kansas Fund Application Number	2024-026-NoEDD
Project Name	Safe Streets and Roads for All (Demonstration and Planning)
Entity Type	Local Government
Economic Development District (EDD) Planning Commission	No-EDD
Infrastructure Sector(s)	Transportation
BIL Program	Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)
BIL Program Type	Discretionary
BIL Application Deadline	4/4/2024
Build Kansas Fund Request	\$2,000,000
Technical Assistance Received	General Yes
	BIL Application No
	Build Kansas Fund Application No
	Other (Brief Description): CET is in regular communication with the City and supports them on a number of TA requests
Application Notes	Build Kansas Fund contribution of \$2,000,000 will unlock \$8,000,000 in federal BIL funding.



Steering Committee Funding Recommendation	April 17, 2024 Recommend
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Advisory Committee Target Review	DATE
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Advisory Committee Funding Recommendation	DATE Approve or Deny
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Completeness Review Data

Date Build Kansas Application Received:	3/12/2024
Date Of Completeness Check:	3/12/2024, 3/14/2024 (rev.)
Date Forwarded to Steering Committee:	3/14/2024

Title	City of Topeka, Kansas	03/12/2024
	by Alleigh Weems in Build Kansas Fund Fiscal Year 2024 Application	id. 45873226
	apweems@topeka.org	

Original Submission	03/12/2024
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Score	n/a
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Part 1: Applicant Information

The name of the entity applying for the Build Kansas Fund:	City of Topeka, Kansas
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Project Name:	Safe Streets and Roads for All (Demonstration and Planning)
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Entity type:	Local Government
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Applicant Contact Name:	Alleigh Weems
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Applicant Contact Position/Title:	Management Analyst
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Applicant Contact Telephone Number:	+17853683036
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Applicant Contact Email Address:	apweems@topeka.org
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Applicant Contact Address:	620 SE Madison St
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Applicant Contact Address Line 2 (optional):	2nd Floor - Engineering
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Applicant Contact City:	Topeka
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Applicant Contact State:	Kansas
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Applicant Contact Zip Code:	66607
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Is the Project Contact the same as the Applicant Contact? Yes

Part 2: Build Kansas Fund - Eligibility Criteria

Certify that you are pursuing a viable Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity for which your entity is eligible: Yes

Certify that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity you are pursuing has a required non-federal match component: Yes

What is the primary county that the project will occur in? Shawnee County

The Build Kansas Fund is intended to support Kansas-based infrastructure projects. Please provide a list of all the zip codes this project will be located in, along with an estimated percent [%] of the project located in that zip code. For example, if seeking funding for road infrastructure, provide a rough percent of the roads expected in each zip code:

[Zip Code Percentage.xlsx](#)

Part 3: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) - Grant Application Information
Please Note: This information is related to the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity to which you will apply. This is NOT information for the Build Kansas Match Fund.

Please enter the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity title that the entity is applying for: Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program

What is the funding agency for this Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity? U.S. Department of Transportation

What is the Assistance Listing Number (ALN) for this Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity? 20.939 -- Safe Streets and Roads for All

What is the application due date for this Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity? 4/4/2024

What is the federal fiscal year for this Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity? 2024

Enter the amount of funding being applied for, from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity: \$8,000,000.00

Enter the required non-federal match percentage: 20.0

Part 4: Build Kansas Fund - Match Application Information

Enter the non-federal match amount being requested from the Build Kansas Fund: \$2,000,000.00

Is the project able to move forward with a lesser match amount than requested? No

If you are awarded less match than the amount requested, at what amount would your project NOT be able to move forward? 0.0

Expected breakdown of funding sources to support the project: Enter the funding source and projected amount from each source to support this project:

[Kansas+DOT+table.xlsx](#)

Part 5: Build Kansas Fund - Means Test

Confirm that there are no available funding sources currently planned to go unused by your entity that could be leveraged for this project: Yes

Confirm there are no available American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) or Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund monies that could be used for this match: Yes

Confirm that you have explored other readily available funding sources (federal or non-federal) to be used for this match: Yes

Briefly describe your efforts to find other available funding sources for this project: We have an annual Traffic Safety Program financed through our CIP that has been exhausted of available funds. So we are seeking SS4A to accommodate for existing traffic engineering studies that have been conducted and are unable to be funded for implementation (demonstration activities), in addition to developing the City's first Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

Part 6: Additional Information

Please upload a copy of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) program application associated with this request OR a 2-page executive summary providing an overview of the project:

[SS4A_Draft_Application_City_of_Topeka.pdf](#)

Provide any additional information about this project (optional):

Part 7: Terms and Conditions

Understanding of Fund Release Requirements: checked

Understanding of Use of Funds: checked

Understanding of Reporting Requirements: checked

Authority to Make Grant Application: checked

Persons and Titles: Alleigh Weems
The following persons are responsible for making this Build Kansas Fund application.

Position/Title: Management Analyst

Additional:

Position/Title:

Additional:

Position/Title:

Additional:

Position/Title:

Internal Form

Score n/a

Pre-Award Information:

Post-Award Information:

Source	Amount	Zip Code	% of project in zip code
BIL Federal Funds (applied for)	\$ 8,000,000.00	66614	100% in Kansas
Build Kansas Funds (non-federal match)	\$ 2,000,000.00		
Additional Project Contribution (if applicable)			
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ 10,000,000.00		

Planning and Demonstration: Safe Streets and Roads for All 2024

City of Topeka, Kansas

Background

Founded in 1854, the City of Topeka (39° 02' 05" N x 95° 41' 44" W) is one of 25 designated First-Class Kansas cities. Located in Shawnee County, Topeka is the Kansas State Capital, is 62 miles west of Kansas City, 137 miles northeast of Wichita, and is bisected by Interstate 70. It covers 62.76 square miles, with a population density of 2,017 people per square mile. The Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant presents an opportunity for the City of Topeka to develop its first Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) through extensive community engagement, in coordination with ongoing efforts by Shawnee County, Kansas following their award of SS4A in last year's funding round.

The City has recorded 96 fatal crashes from 2017 to 2021. Annual crash numbers have shown an upward trend, with the largest increase being a 28.6% percent change from 2020's 21 fatalities to 27 in 2021. This is reflected as a 15.2 average annual fatality rate for Topeka.

According to the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), in 2022, the City of Topeka recorded 3,174 crashes. Of these, 66 were pedestrian-related. (Pedestrians defined as: pedestrians, pedalcyclists, rider of animal; occupant of a legally parked vehicle, an animal-drawn carriage, or a machine operating for its intended purpose.) In the same year, the state total pedestrian-related crashes was 977, making Topeka's share of the yearly total 6.6%, higher than per capita share of pedestrian-related deaths.

In 2023, KDOT published the Kansas Vulnerable Road User (VRU) Safety Assessment. Topeka is noted to have a particularly high rate of pedestrian fatalities and pedestrian related crashes. The Metropolitan Topeka Planning Organization (MTPO), City of Topeka, and Shawnee County initiated the development of a Regional Transportation Safety Plan to improve the health and well-being of residents and visitors who travel on the local transportation system. This includes travelers on city streets, county roads, sidewalks, bikeways, and transit. According to the report, between 2010 and 2016, there were a total of 23,591 crashes in the Topeka / Shawnee County region including 5,545 injury crashes and 68 fatal crashes.

Given these challenges, the City of Topeka aims to leverage SS4A funds to enhance traffic safety through the implementation of a CSAP. By emphasizing safety impact, equity considerations, and collaborating with stakeholders, we are committed to creating a safer and more inclusive environment for all members of our community.

Safety Impact

The allocation of funds will be utilized for demonstration activities involving the replacement and new implementation of traffic safety infrastructure based on community complaints and existing feasibility studies. This includes the installation of new plastic Type II crosswalk striping, solar rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs) at crossings, and flexible delineators over a four-year timeline from 2024-2027 to account for the bid process, procurement, and labor availability. These improvements would be analyzed for effectiveness through the measurement of crash statistics, vehicular speeds, and public perception. These temporary installations may inform the City leaders on decisions for more permanent solutions in the future.

Topeka Population (2020): 126,587 ([Topeka city, Kansas - Census Bureau Profile](#))

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Motor Vehicle Crash Data Querying and Reporting													
Persons Killed in Fatal Crashes													
Filter Selected: Person Injury Type: <i>Fatal</i>													
State: <i>Kansas</i> and County: <i>Shawnee</i>													
Years: 2017-2021													
Persons Killed in Fatal Crashes ¹													
Note: Click the link within a table cell to view those records on a web map													
Crash Date (Year)	Crash Date (Month)												Total
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
2017	1	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	2	2	3	2	15
2018	2	0	0	4	3	2	1	1	1	2	0	2	18
2019	2	1	2	0	4	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	15
2020	2	2	1	0	1	3	2	2	1	0	5	2	21
2021	2	5	4	3	0	1	3	0	4	0	2	3	27
Total	9	8	9	8	8	10	8	3	8	5	11	9	96

Data Sources:

¹Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS): 2017-2020 Final File and 2021 Annual Report File (ARF)

Average Annual Fatality Rate (per 100,000 population)

$$\left(\frac{\frac{96}{5}}{126,587} \right) * 100,000 \approx 15.2$$

Equity

Priority will be given to locations within school zones and Historically Disadvantaged and Persistent Poverty census tracts. The City of Topeka highly encourages community use of the SeeClickFix mobile app, where residents can submit concerns regarding traffic safety. This input and requests for traffic impact studies are direct factors in the decision-making process. The community's active involvement is crucial in identifying and addressing road safety issues.

Additional Safety Context

Shawnee County was awarded monies in last year’s SS4A round of funding for the development of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. In February 2024, the Shawnee County Commission voted to approve the issuance of an RFQ for third-party services to develop a CSAP upon the issuance of Notice(s) to Proceed by FHWA and KDOT. Therefore, it is strategic for the City of Topeka to align efforts and coordinate on addressing roadway hazards within the combined road network. We will establish a system of prioritization based on location and economies of scale to maximize the impact of the funding received. This will allow us to identify cost-saving opportunities, streamline project delivery, and optimize the overall effectiveness of the grant. It is our intent to allocate resources in a manner that reflects the needs and desires expressed by members of our community, and we are committed to navigating these challenges throughout the duration of the project. Feasibility studies will be conducted to ensure effective solutions that reduce hazards for all road users. Post-implementation reporting will evaluate the success of implemented measures.

Project Schedule

The table below displays an anticipated activity schedule broken down into phased bid solicitation and construction cycles. It is intended to accommodate a realistic timeline to conduct feasibility studies, design, and implementation of proposed solutions. It includes preparation of NEPA documents, internal reviews, RFP selection and approval, and applicable permitting requirements. Public engagement regarding the project will begin at the announcement of award and will continue throughout the duration of the project lifecycle. All necessary activities will be complete to allow SS4A grant funds to be obligated sufficiently in advance of the administrative deadline. Activities can begin upon obligation of grant funds with all funds expended by 2028.

Projected Demonstration Activity Schedule [DRAFT]

Project Task	2024				2025				2026				2027			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Environmental																
NEPA																
Impact Study/Design																
Contract/Procurement																
Bid/Award																
ROW/Permits																
Construction																
Start Work Order																
Inspection/Closeout																
After-Action Analysis																