

# 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: Vanessa Lamoreaux, Kansas Department of Transportation

RE: Build Kansas Fund Application # 2024-014-NCRPC

Date: February 22, 2024

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

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 2-8. Page 8 provides the table of funding sources.
- Attachments –An Executive Summary, pages 9-10

## **Project Overview**

The City of Abilene seeks funding from the US Department of Transportation for funding available through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. The City's Infrastructure and Economic Development Project seeks to increase community connectivity, economic competitiveness, partnership, and collaboration by enhancing infrastructure around the I-70/ Exit 272 route.

This opportunity is a discretionary BIL program that has a local match requirement of 10%. Abilene is requesting \$1,100,000 from the Build Kansas Fund. This request has the potential to unlock \$9,900,000.00 in federal funds.

The deadline for RAISE applications is February 28, 2024. The Build Kansas Fund application was received on February 2, 2024.

## **Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee Recommendation**

The Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee reviewed this application on February 21, 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	2024-014-NCRPC
Project Name	Advancing Abilene: Infrastructure & Economic Development Project
Entity Type	Local Government
Economic Development District (EDD) Planning Commission	North Central Regional Planning Commission
Infrastructure Sector(s)	Transportation
BIL Program	Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program
BIL Program Type	Discretionary
BIL Application Deadline	02/28/2024
Build Kansas Fund Request	\$1,100,000
Technical Assistance Received	General: Yes
	BIL Application: No
	Build Kansas Fund Application: Yes
	Other (Brief Description): Provided support in BKF submission specific to eligibility
Application Notes	Build Kansas Fund contribution of \$1,100,000 may unlock \$9,900,000 in federal BIL funding.



**Steering Committee Funding Recommendation**      **February 21, 2024 | Recommend**

**Advisory Committee Target Review**      **DATE**

**Advisory Committee Funding Recommendation**      **DATE | Approve or Deny**

### Completeness Review Data

Date Build Kansas Application Received:	02/02/2024
Date Of Completeness Check:	02/08/2024
Date Forwarded to Steering Committee:	02/15/2024

Title **City of Abilene** 02/02/2024  
 by **Julie Roller Weeks** in **Build Kansas Fund Fiscal Year 2024 Application** id. 45423764  
 201 NW 2nd  
 Abilene, Kansas  
 67410  
 Kansas  
 United States  
 7852632231  
 julie@abilenecityhall.com

**Original Submission** 02/15/2024

Score n/a

Part 1: Applicant Information

The name of the entity applying for the Build Kansas Fund: City of Abilene

Project Name: Advancing Abilene: Infrastructure & Economic Development Project

Entity type: Local Government

Applicant Contact Name: Julie Roller Weeks

Applicant Contact Position/Title: Convention and Visitors Bureau, director

Applicant Contact Telephone Number: +17852632231

Applicant Contact Email Address: julie@abilenecityhall.com

Applicant Contact Address: 201 NW 2nd

Applicant Contact Address Line 2 (optional):

Applicant Contact City: Abilene

Applicant Contact State: Kansas

Applicant Contact Zip 67410  
Code:

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Is the Project Contact the same as the Applicant Contact? Yes

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Part 2: Build Kansas Fund - Eligibility Criteria

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

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

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

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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](#)

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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.

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Please enter the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity title that the entity is applying for: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program

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

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What is the Assistance Listing Number (ALN) for this Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity? 20.933

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What is the application due date for this Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity? 2/28/2024

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

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Enter the amount of funding being applied for, from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity: \$9,900,000.00

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Enter the required non-federal match percentage: 10.0

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#### Part 4: Build Kansas Fund - Match Application Information

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Enter the non-federal match amount being requested from the Build Kansas Fund: \$1,100,000.00

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

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If you are awarded \$1,100,000.00 less match than the amount requested, at what amount would your project NOT be able to move forward?

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](#)

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Part 5: Build Kansas Fund - Means Test

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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: The City of Abilene and Dickinson County applied for a Base 1.0 grant in February 2022, but it was denied. We then scaled the project down, and the City of Abilene applied independently for a Base 2.0 grant in January 2023. It was also denied. In addition, we met with the Witt O'Brien's on September 25, 2023, to identify funding opportunities. No viable programs were identified.

Now, two years and increasing costs later, we found the RAISE grant and are applying for funding.

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Part 6: Additional Information

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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:

[Advancing\\_Abilene\\_Executive\\_Summary\\_3.0.pdf](#)

Provide any additional information about this project (optional):

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Part 7: Terms and Conditions

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Understanding of Fund Release Requirements: checked

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Understanding of Use of Funds: checked

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Understanding of Reporting Requirements: checked

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Authority to Make Grant Application: checked

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Persons and Titles: Julie Roller Weeks  
The following persons are responsible for making this Build Kansas Fund application.

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Position/Title: Convention & Visitors Bureau, director

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Additional: Ron Marsh

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Position/Title: City Manager

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Additional:

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Position/Title:

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Additional:

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Position/Title:

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## Internal Form

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Score n/a

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Pre-Award Information:

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Eligible for Build  
Kansas Fund?

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ED District: North Central

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Project Primary Zip  
Code:

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Sector: Water

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Application ID: 2024-014-NCRPC

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Application Overview  
and  
Recommendation:

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Post-Award Information:

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Awarded BIL Grant?

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Total Awarded  
Federal Funding:

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Total Build Kansas  
Match Fund Award:

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Build Kansas Match  
Fund Award  
Deobligation:

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Source	Amount	Zip Code	% in project
BIL Federal Funds (applied for)	\$ 9,900,000.00	67410	100%
Build Kansas Funds (non-federal match)	\$ 1,100,000.00		
Additional Project Contribution (if applicable)			
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>\$ 11,000,000.00</b>		

## Advancing Abilene: Infrastructure & Economic Development Project Executive Summary

### Background:

In the early 1990s, the Abilene Economic Development Council identified the area along Kansas I-70/Exit 272 as ideal for industrial development. The City of Abilene procured 60 acres of farmland, leading to the successful recruitment of a \$30 million Russell Stover plant in 1993, a significant contributor to the city's employment landscape.

However, despite this success, subsequent development has been limited. With only Love's Travel Stop added in 2018, the Abilene Industrial Park faces stagnation and missed economic development opportunities due to inadequate infrastructure and connectivity, making it financially burdensome for businesses to establish operations.

### Current Status:

Traffic data from the Kansas Department of Transportation's 2022 Traffic Flow Map reveals substantial traffic along I-70/Exit 272, surpassing counts in other comparable communities. Abilene's 2024-2025 Comprehensive Plan underscores the need for further industrial development, particularly on the west side, near the Fair Road interchange.

The City's 2024-2025 Comprehensive Plan also highlights the concentration of industrial land use within Abilene, emphasizing the potential for growth and economic impact with strategic planning. The west side, including the Golden Belt Heights subdivision, is earmarked for residential and commercial expansion, making it a focal point for future development.

### Future Vision:

To facilitate this vision, the proposed project aims to enhance infrastructure and connectivity:



## **This application meets RAISE Grant Criteria:**

### **Water Infrastructure:**

- Raise Grant Eligibility: projects to replace or rehabilitate a culvert or prevent stormwater runoff for the purpose of improving habitat for aquatic species while advancing the goals of the RAISE program. Estimated Cost: \$3 million.

### **Surface Infrastructure & Connectivity:**

- Raise Grant Eligibility: highway or bridge projects eligible under title 23, United States Code. public transportation projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code. Estimated Cost: \$8 million.

Additional criteria: Any other surface transportation infrastructure project that the Secretary considers to be necessary to advance the goals of the program. For example) RAISE projects are rigorously reviewed and evaluated on statutory criteria of safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility and community connectivity, economic competitiveness and opportunity including tourism, state of good repair, partnership and collaboration, and innovation.

**This project will increase community connectivity, economic competitiveness, partnership and collaboration.**

### **Residential Development Statistics:**

The city-owned Golden Belt Heights housing development on the east and west sides shows promising growth with new homes constructed and lots sold. Since 2022, 48 out of 116 lots have been sold, reserved, or built on. This, coupled with the proposed infrastructure improvements, positions Abilene, Dickinson County, and the State of Kansas to leverage economic development opportunities for the foreseeable future.

In conclusion, the "Advancing Abilene: Infrastructure & Economic Development Project" represents a crucial initiative to bolster Abilene's economic prospects, fostering growth and connectivity for years to come.