

Build Kansas Fund | Fiscal Year 2026 Application Package | Memo



To: Senator Rick Billinger, Chair, Build Kansas Advisory
Committee
Chardae Caine, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Shauna Wake, Office of the Kansas State Treasurer

From: Shawn Wesner, Executive Director, Kansas Infrastructure Hub

RE: Build Kansas Fund Application #2026-165-NoEDD

Date: September 24, 2025

Attached, please find an application made to the Build Kansas Fund by Franklin County. The application packet includes the following items:

- Coversheet – provides a high-level overview of the application including a unique identification number, page 1 of 11 of the Build Kansas Fund Application Package.
- Build Kansas Fund Application – includes information submitted with the Build Kansas Fund Application, pages 2-7. Page 8 provides the table of funding sources and zip codes served by the project.
- Attachments – Projective narrative pages 9-11.

Project Overview

Franklin County seeks funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation for funding available through the Bridge Investment program (BIP) for their Bridges for Growth: Supporting Rural Commerce and Community project which includes the development of planning, design, and engineering needed for future bridge construction.

This opportunity is a discretionary IIJA program with a local match requirement of 20% of the total project cost. The entity is requesting \$37,525.95 from the Build Kansas Fund, and is providing a local cash match of \$1,975.05. This request has the potential to unlock \$158,004.00 in federal funds, for a total project cost of \$197,505.00.

This program is currently on hold and under review. This Build Kansas Fund application was received on September 2, 2025.

Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee Recommendation

The Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee reviewed this application on September 10, 2025 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 2026 Application Package | Coversheet



Build Kansas Fund Application Number	2026-165-NoEDD
Applicant Name	Franklin County
Application Date Received	9/2/2025
Project Name	Bridges for Growth: Supporting Rural Commerce and Community
Project Description	This project will allow for the development of planning, design, and engineering needed for future bridge construction.
Entity Type	Local Government
Economic Development District (EDD) Planning Commission	NO EDD/RPC
Infrastructure Sector(s)	Transportation
IIJA Program	Bridge Investment Program
IIJA Program Type	Discretionary
Application Type	Planning
IIJA Application Deadline	10/1/2025
Build Kansas Fund Request	\$37,525.95
Technical Assistance Received	General Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	IIJA Application Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Build Kansas Fund Application Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (Brief Description): Provided General and IIJA application TA, and BKF Application Support.
Application Notes	Build Kansas Fund contribution of \$37,525.95 will unlock \$158,004.00 in federal BIL funding, with a local cash match of \$1,975.05, for a total project cost of \$197,505.00.
Steering Committee Funding Recommendation	9/10/2025 Recommend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/>
Advisory Committee Funding Recommendation	9/24/2025 Recommend <input type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/>

Title	Franklin County	09/02/2025
	by Paul Bean in Build Kansas Fund Application	id. 51529652
	1428 S Main Suite 2 Ottawa, KS, Kansas 66067 KS United States 7852293496 paul.bean@fcdckansas.org	

Original Submission	09/05/2025
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Score	n/a
Part 1: Applicant Information	
The name of the entity applying for the Build Kansas Fund:	Franklin County
Project Name:	Bridges for Growth: Supporting Rural Commerce and Community
Entity type:	County Government
Entity Population:	26125
Applicant Contact Name:	Paul Bean
Applicant Contact Position/Title:	Executive Director, Franklin County Development Council
Applicant Contact Telephone Number:	+17852293496
Applicant Contact Email Address:	paul.bean@fcdckansas.org
Applicant Contact Address:	1428 S Main
Applicant Contact Address Line 2 (optional):	Suite 2
Applicant Contact City:	Ottawa, KS

Applicant Contact State: Kansas

Applicant Contact Zip Code: 66067

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

Part 2: Build Kansas Fund - Eligibility Criteria

Certify that you are pursuing an Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity for which your entity is eligible: Yes

Certify that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity you are pursuing has a required non-federal match component: Yes

What is the primary county that the project will occur in? Franklin 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: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) - Grant Application Information Please Note: This information is related to the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity to which you will apply. This is NOT information for the Build Kansas Match Fund.

Please enter the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity title that the entity is applying for: Bridge Investment Program: Part A - Planning

What is the funding agency for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity? U.S. Department of Transportation

What is the Assistance Listing Number (ALN) for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity? 20.264

What is the federal application due date for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity? 10/1/2025

Application Type: Planning

What is the federal fiscal year for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity? 2026

Enter the amount of funding being applied for, from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity: \$158,004.00

Enter the total project cost: \$197,505.00

Enter the required non-federal match percentage: 20%

Part 4: Build Kansas Fund - Match Application Information Beginning in July 2024 and moving forward, eligible applicants are expected to contribute a portion of the non-Federal match requirement. This contribution can be in the form of cash and/or in-kind contributions. The goal is to demonstrate the applicant's commitment to the project. The contribution should be significant enough relative to the Build Kansas Fund request. For a local public entity, 5% of the non-federal match is a good guideline, but not a requirement. See Build Kansas Fund Program Guidance for exceptions and more information.

Enter the non-federal cash match amount being requested from the Build Kansas Fund: \$37,525.95

Enter the non-federal cash match amount being provided by the eligible applicant, if applicable: \$1,975.05

Enter the estimated value of the non-federal in-kind match amount being provided by the eligible applicant, if applicable: 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_V2.xlsx](#)

Part 5: Build Kansas Fund - Means Test and Eligible Applicant Match

What other available funding sources that are currently planned to go unused by your entity will be leveraged for this project? N/A

Will any American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) or Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund monies will be used for the non-federal match?	N/A
What other sources of in-kind match will be leveraged for this project? Please list and include the actual or estimated value of each.	N/A
What other funding sources (local, federal, or non-federal) will be used for this match?	Franklin County is committed to providing 5% of the match requirement. The Franklin County Commission voted unanimously on August 27, 2025 at their weekly meeting to agree to provide these funds toward this bridge project.
Describe your efforts to find other available funding sources for this project:	The County has explored multiple funding avenues to support this project but has faced significant constraints. Local public works funding is primarily dedicated to essential maintenance and staffing, leaving little capacity for large-scale infrastructure replacement or reconstruction efforts of this magnitude. The County has also applied for state-level funding through KDOT for bridge and road improvements; however, these efforts were unsuccessful, as current KDOT opportunities either do not align with the unique characteristics of this project—two closely located bridges requiring coordinated work and carrying a historic register designation—or do not provide sufficient funding to meet the project’s scale. These challenges underscore both the County’s commitment to pursuing all available funding and the critical role that the Bridge Improvement Program could play in addressing an otherwise unmet infrastructure need.

Part 6: Additional Information

Please upload a draft or final version of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) program grant application associated with this request OR an executive summary providing an overview of the project:

[BIP_BKF_ExecutiveSummary_Franklin_2025.docx](#)

Provide any additional information about this project not covered in previous sections of this application (optional):

Part 7: Terms and Conditions

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: The following persons are responsible for making this Build Kansas Fund application.	Paul Bean
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Position/Title:	Executive Director, Economic Development
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Additional:	Janet Paddock
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Position/Title:	County Clerk, Franklin
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Additional:	Jeff Welton
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Position/Title:	Franklin County Public Works Director
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Additional:	
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Position/Title:	
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Source	Amount	% of Project
Build Kansas Funds (non-federal match)	\$37,525.95	19.00%
Eligible Applicant Cash Match	\$1,975.05	1.00%
Eligible Applicant In-Kind Match (estimated value)	\$0.00	0.00%
IIJA Federal Funds (applied for)	\$158,004.00	80.00%
Additional Project Contribution (if applicable)	\$0.00	0.00%
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$197,505.00	100.00%

***Applicant match contribution is 5% of total match requirement**

Zip Code	% of project in zip code
66095	100%
	100% In Kansas

Bridges for Growth: Supporting Rural Commerce and Community
US Department of Transportation, FHWA - Bridge Investment Program
Executive Summary for Build Kansas Fund Application
Franklin County, Kansas

Community

Franklin County is a small, rural community in Eastern Kansas at 38.56632843°(N), -95.31972013°(W) and the jurisdiction area is 571.77 square miles. The population density is estimated at 45 persons per square mile which is less than the national average population density of 94 persons per square mile. The County includes Ottawa, Wellsville, Pomona, Princeton, Richmond, Lane, Williamsburg.

The County is growing quickly; new building permits exceed the average rate for the State of Kansas at 85.21 compared with 72.96 per 10,000 housing units. A recent housing study completed in March 2025, by a national economic development firm, found that Franklin County will require 893 new houses, consisting of 647 new homes for sale and 246 units for rent.

Commerce

As the community grows, commerce is also growing. Franklin County has 24 agriculture, food and food processing sectors within the community. With over 1,000 farms and over 355,000 acres, the community relies on the sector for jobs and economic growth. The State of Kansas, Department of Agriculture's 2024 Economic Contribution Report confirms this for Franklin County, "For the estimated current year (2024), 25 agriculture and agriculture-related sectors directly contribute \$358 million in output and 1,382 jobs to the Franklin County, Kansas, economy. Including indirect and induced effects, agriculture and agriculture-related sectors have a total impact of \$431 million in output, 1,794 jobs and 11% of the total Gross Regional Product (GRP)."

Bridges

To continue population growth and ensure success with the agricultural sector, Franklin County is turning focus and attention to infrastructure. Franklin has 276 bridges, most of which are off-route but 35 are on the Federal-Aid Secondary Highway System (FAS) meaning they are principal secondary and feeder routes for traffic approved by the Bureau of Public Roads. Of these 35 bridges, two bridges amongst this group are in the worst condition.

Bridges 7.0-7.1 and 8.5-6.8 provide vital access to approximately 422 acres of agricultural land. Located within two miles of each other, they serve as critical connectors for local commerce and community members, as well as essential routes for emergency services, including the sheriff's office, fire trucks, and ambulances. A summary of both bridges and their condition in the latest inspection reports are below:

1. Bridge 7.0-7.1 is a stone masonry arch bridge that was built in 1930 and is on the National Historic Registry: Bridge condition is rated as **Poor (3)** as of July 2, 2025, as

Bridges for Growth: Supporting Rural Commerce and Community
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there is deterioration at the flow line of both North and South sides, heavy stone and mortar deterioration, and channel erosion.

2. Bridge 8.5-6.8 is a 3-box concrete bridge that was built in 1928: Bridge condition is rated as **Poor (3)** as of July 1, 2025, as large spalls and cracking are visible in culvert and there is a 30" scour at outlet with possible undermining.

Request

Due to their proximity and routes, both bridges are being bundled for a Bridge Investment Program Planning Grant from US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. Significant preparation work is needed to assess the feasibility, preliminary environmental and community impact. In addition to, the projects will need to be carefully planned as historical requirements will need to be evaluated and factored into the process and timeline. One potential scenario is that the historical bridge will need to be left as is and repurposed for bike/pedestrian traffic while another bridge is constructed in the vicinity for large equipment, trucks, and car use. In this scenario, Right-of-Way will need to be factored into the planning process. Additionally, alternative route planning will need to be considered as both bridges serve as a backup route for one another.

Securing a Bridge Investment Program Grant for planning activities will enable this community to take the critical first step toward preserving vital routes and services that support commercial activity. Securing funding from the Build Kansas Fund will provide critical matching support needed to help fund this project as the community does not have funding nor staffing capacity for a project of this complexity, size, and scope. The County Commissioners unanimously approved funding the 5% local match for the planning grant.

The outcomes of this planning phase will directly inform and strengthen a future application for a Bridge Investment Program construction grant, ensuring full alignment with the intent and objectives of the FHWA program. To complete both planning and construction phases on this project, the estimate is that the project will be more than \$3,200,000.

Budget

Preliminary cost estimates for planning activities have been calculated at \$197,505. If awarded funding, a full RFP will be created for consulting firm(s) to complete analysis, research, cost estimation and produce an implementation roadmap. Personnel support from the County will include project management (including contractor(s) oversight) and community outreach deliverables to ensure the goals of the grant are met. It is important to note that a specialized firm may need to be engaged as Bridge 7.0-7.1 is listed on the National Historic Register so more than one firm may need to produce deliverables and coordinate grant activities.

Bridges for Growth: Supporting Rural Commerce and Community
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Activity	Activities	Ask Amount
Analysis/Engineering	Feasibility assessment, planning-level development, travel demand and revenue forecasting, financial planning and overall cost estimation, implementation roadmap	\$ 143,850.00
Historic/Land/Environmental Research	Planning-level data needed to complete analysis and planning documentation from National Historic Registry, potential ROW opportunities, and other environmental considerations as needed	\$ 26,250.00
Personnel/Fringe Benefits	Project management and coordination, securing contractors, contractor management, on-site analysis or information gathering, community impact and outreach	\$ 9,450.00
Total - Direct		\$ 179,550
<i>Administration – 10% de minimis</i>	<i>Grant management and administration, financial reporting, reimbursement</i>	<i>\$ 17,955.00</i>
Total		\$ 197,505

Franklin County is committed to the critical movement of goods and people in our community, but funding is needed to support the full federal cost share that is required. **With help from The Build Kansas Fund, a planning grant application will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration for the Bridge Investment Program on or before October 1, 2025.**

Funding Source	Total Cost
IIJA Federal	\$ 158,004
Build Kansas Fund	\$ 37,525.95
Franklin County	\$ 1,975.05
Total	\$ 197,505