

**PRELIMINARY
MINUTES**

BUILD KANSAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 22, 2025
Room 112-N—Statehouse

Members Present

Representative Troy Waymaster, Chairperson
Senator Pat Pettey
Representative Stephanie Sawyer Clayton, substituting for Representative Henry Helgerson
Representative Shannon Francis
Representative Kyle Hoffman
Representative Lindsay Vaughn

Members Absent

Senator Rick Billinger, Vice Chairperson
Senator J. R. Claeys
Senator Tim Shallenburger
Representative Henry Helgerson

Staff Present

Chardae Caine, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Chris Waggoner, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Susan McClacherty, Committee Assistant

Conferees

Jason Fizell, Interim Executive Director, Kansas Infrastructure Hub
Lynn M. Retz, Director of Government Relations, Kansas Corporation Commission

**Thursday, May 22
Afternoon Session**

Call to Order

Chairperson Waymaster called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

**Presentation on 4010(d) Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid
Applications to the Build Kansas Matching Grant Fund**

Jason Fizell, Interim Executive Director, Kansas Infrastructure Hub, thanked Secretary of Transportation Calvin Reed and the rest of the steering committee members for their oversight and advice. Mr. Fizell informed the Committee that all applications met the requirements in terms of the match and deadline, and were approved at the May 14th steering committee meeting. He highlighted the summary and purpose of all the Section 4010(d), Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, (4010(d)) projects and Airport Infrastructure Grant projects and the geographic distribution for the recommended projects across the economic districts within Kansas. ([Attachment 1](#))

Lynn M. Retz, Director of Government Relations, Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC), provided an update on the previous 11 4010(d)-project applications that the Department of Energy approved. She provided a brief introduction of the grant applications for the 4010(d) program the Build Kansas Advisory Committee would be considering during the meeting and the role the KCC plays in the process. Ms. Retz informed the Committee the Department of Energy communicated that it anticipated additional funding for two more rounds but that is subject to change. The Department of Energy also communicated to the KCC that the review of the applications would be expedited from last year's process.

Mr. Fizell, on behalf of the Build Kansas Steering Committee, presented the applications for the Build Kansas Matching Grant Fund.

The following new thirteen applications were reviewed:

1. #2025-101-NCRPC is from the City of Cawker City for replacing and upgrading all aging utility poles that power the city to prevent outages, improve safety, and strengthen community resilience. The entity is requesting \$37,935 and contributing a local match of \$1,997. The request has the potential to unlock \$82,618 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$122,550. ([Attachment 2](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

2. #2025-102-SCKEDD is from the Sumner Cowley Electric Cooperative, Inc., for replacing deteriorating transmission poles to improve grid reliability, enhance safety, and protect against outages related to severe weather. The entity is requesting \$260,998 and contributing a local match of \$13,737. The request has the potential to unlock \$568,416 of federal funds, for a total project of \$843,150. ([Attachment 3](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

3. #2025-103-GP is from the Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., for undergrounding power lines, upgrading conductors, and replacing wooden poles with durable iron poles to strengthen system resilience. The entity is requesting \$417,556 and contributing a local match of \$21,977. This request has potential to unlock \$909,378 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$1.3 million. ([Attachment 4](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

4. #2025-104-NCRPC is from the City of Beloit for replacing utility poles, upgrading key circuits and switches, and moving lines underground to improve grid reliability, enhance safety, and protect the community against severe weather-related damages. The entity is requesting \$209,070 and contributing a local match of \$11,004. This request has potential to unlock \$455,326 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$675,400. ([Attachment 5](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

5. #2025-105-NCRPC is from the City of Glen Elder for replacing outdated electric meters with radio-read technology to improve reliability and speed up outage response. The entity is requesting \$10,818 and contributing \$569. The request has the potential to unlock \$23,560 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$34,948. ([Attachment 6](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

6. #2025-106-SEKRPC is from the City of Bronson for replacing outdated wiring, transformers, insulators, and poles to improve power reliability and modernize the city's electrical system. The entity is requesting \$125,523 and contributing a local match of \$6,607. This request has potential to unlock \$273,371 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$405,500. ([Attachment 7](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

7. #2025-107-GP is from the City of Jetmore for replacing failing utility poles to enhance reliability and strengthen resilience against severe weather throughout the community. The entity is requesting \$169,268 and contributing a local match of \$8,909. This request has potential to unlock \$368,643 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$546,820. ([Attachment 8](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

8. #2025-108-NoEDD is from the Brown Atchison Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., for replacing and upgrading aging transmission and distribution infrastructure to reduce voltage drops. The entity is requesting \$395,106 and contributing a local match of \$20,795. This request has potential to unlock \$860,484 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$1.3 million. ([Attachment 9](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

9. #2025-109-NCRPC is from the Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc., for replacing aging overhead and underground power lines to improve reliability and prevent outages. The entity is requesting \$383,216 and contributing \$20,169. The request has the potential to unlock \$834,590 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$1.2 million. ([Attachment 10](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

10. #2025-110-MO-KAN is from the Doniphan Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., for rebuilding the aging Blair Substation to maintain power continuity and improve system resiliency. The entity is requesting \$541,713 and contributing \$28,511. The request has the potential to unlock \$1.2 million of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$1.8 million. ([Attachment 11](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

11. #2025-111-FHRC is from the Flint Hills Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., for replacing aging copper weld lines, poles, and spans to improve the Geary County Infrastructure's system reliability, energy efficiency, and workforce sustainability. The entity is requesting \$459,167 and contributing \$24,167. The request has the potential to unlock \$1.0 million of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$1.5 million. ([Attachment 12](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

12. #2025-112-NWKPDC is from the City of Luray for replacing an aging overloaded interconnection substation with a modern, higher-capacity transformer to improve system reliability. The entity is requesting \$258,067 and is requesting an exemption from the local cash contribution. The request has the potential to unlock \$533,933 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$792,000. ([Attachment 13](#))

There was consensus to approve this application with an exemption for the local match contribution.

13. #2025-114-SEKRPC is from the City of Savonburg for replacing the city's outdated electric grid with a modern, more efficient system to improve service reliability and reduce outage durations. The entity is requesting \$227,601 and is requesting an exemption from the local cash contribution. This request has potential to unlock \$470,899 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$698,500. ([Attachment 14](#))

There was consensus to approve this application with an exemption for the local match contribution.

Presentation on Airport Infrastructure Grant Applications to the Build Kansas Matching Grant Fund

14. #2025-100-SCKEDD is from the City of Wellington for replacement of the Medium Intensity Taxiway Lights System and guidance signs at the Wellington Municipal Airport. The entity is requesting \$12,838 and providing a local cash contribution of \$676. This request has potential to unlock \$256,750 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$270,264. ([Attachment 15](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

15. #2025-113-SCKEDD is from the City of Kingman for funding the construction of runway 18-36 parallel taxiway extension from runway 11-29 to the runway 18 turnaround to improve the airfield geometry and safety at Kingman Airport – Clyde Cessna Field (9K8). The entity is requesting \$9,263 and providing a local match contribution of \$488. This request has potential to unlock \$185,250 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$195,000. ([Attachment 16](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

16. #2025-116-NWKPDC is from the City of Oberlin for funding construction of an access road and parking lot at the Oberlin Municipal Airport. The entity is requesting \$25,037 and contributing a local match of \$1,318. This request has potential to unlock \$500,745 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$527,100. ([Attachment 17](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

17. #2025-117-GP is from the Unified Board of Supervisors for Greeley County for acquisition of Easement 5 consisting of 27.78 acres of land at the Tribune Municipal Airport to provide control of the Automated Weather Observing Systems critical area. The entity is requesting \$3,420 and contributing a local match of \$180. This request has potential to unlock \$68,400 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$72,000. ([Attachment 18](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

18. #2025-118-MO-KAN is from the City of Atchinson for the design and construction services phases for the rehabilitation of the apron, hangers, and taxi lanes at the Amelia Earhart Airport (K59). The entity is requesting \$13,063 and contributing \$688. The request has the potential to unlock \$261,250 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$275,000. ([Attachment 19](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

19. #2025-119-GP is from the City of Ness City for the design for an apron expansion with associated grading, drainage, pavement markings, and minor modifications to the parallel taxiway. The entity is requesting \$5,500 and contributing a local match of \$289. This request has potential to unlock \$110,000 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$115,789. ([Attachment 20](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

20. #2025-120-NoEDD is from the City of Osage City for the design of the rehabilitation of runway 17/35 and apron, and reconstruction of runway lights at the Osage City Municipal Airport. The entity is requesting \$25,350 and contributing a local match of \$1,335. This request has the potential to unlock \$507,000 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$533,685. ([Attachment 21](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

21. #2025-121-SCKEDD is from the City of Lyons and Rice County for construction of a four-place T-hangar and associated taxi lanes at the Lyons-Rice County Municipal Airport. The entity is requesting \$5,400 and contributing a local match of \$285. This request has the potential to unlock \$108,000 of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$113,685. ([Attachment 22](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

22. #2025-122-NWKPDC is from the City of Hays for construction and construction services costs associated with the reconstruction of runway 4-22, runway turnarounds, and portion of Taxiway M at the Hays Regional Airport. The entity is requesting \$153,864 and contributing a local match of \$8,098. This request has the potential to unlock \$3.1 million of federal funds, for a total project cost of \$3.2 million. ([Attachment 23](#))

There was consensus to approve this application.

Operating Expenditures Request from Build Kansas Matching Grant Fund for FY 2026

Mr. Fizell provided an overview of the FY 2026 Hub Operating Budget with adjustments made to the Hub's operations. He highlighted that any carryover goes to the applicants for the Build Kansas Funds, the Kansas Infrastructure Summit is the Hub's main event, and much of their work is done virtually. ([Attachment 24](#))

Committee Discussion, Advise, and Recommendations

The Committee discussed the aging of the electric grid infrastructure; the requests representing more than 70.0 percent of entities' annual maintenance operating budgets, which is the reason for applying for the program; and the impact to the communities.

It was confirmed that all requests by cities were municipality-owned utilities and that smaller communities experiencing severe-weather events do not meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency threshold.

The Committee requested the total number of Kansans impacted by the electric grid improvements and the acknowledgment the impact on the rural population would be a greater percentage than the percentage in more populous areas.

The Committee requested the total revenue that would be generated with the potential concern of these projects being an economic hardship for citizens and whether the rates would decrease or be stagnant once the phase or project is completed.

The Committee discussed the possibility of consolidation opportunities and the need for difficult conversations to take place to address some of the issues. It was acknowledged that the KCC does not regulate municipalities; however, the KCC can make suggestions and provide recommendations for a reliable grid and ensuring the infrastructure is in place.

The Committee discussed the apprenticeship program and other training opportunities during implementation of some of these projects and how those opportunities can potentially contribute to building resiliency of the grid and workforce development in rural areas.

It was confirmed that some of the Airport Infrastructure Grant requests are multi-year requests for the same amount because the allocation from the Federal Aviation Administration has not changed from year-to-year.

Ms. Retz provided additional information on the phases of the City of Bronson project. In 2006, some improvements were completed and mitigation efforts with vegetation control were made but were not sufficient. The City of Bronson increased its rates in 2025 and will be increasing rates again in 2026. Even with those increases to keep the rates reasonable, the city does not have the financial resources to do the needed infrastructure improvements. All 40101(d) projects are phased projects, because the way KCC must report dictated Department of Energy project milestones over a period of years.

Approval of Minutes

Representative Hoffman moved, Representative Vaughn seconded, to adopt the minutes for the March 18 and April 16, 2025, meetings. The motion carried.

Adjourn

Chairperson Waymaster adjourned the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

Prepared by Susan McClacherty
Edited by Chardae Caine

Approved by the Committee on:

(Date)