

Build Kansas Fund | Fiscal Year 2025 Application Package | Memo



To: Representative Troy Waymaster, Chair, Build Kansas Advisory Committee
Chardae Caine, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Shauna Wake, Office of the Kansas State Treasurer

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

RE: Build Kansas Fund Application #2025-073-NoEDD

Date: September 13, 2024

Attached, please find an application made to the Build Kansas Fund by the Osage 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 14 of the Build Kansas Fund Application Package.
- Build Kansas Fund Application – includes information submitted with the Build Kansas Fund Application, pages 2-10. Page 10 provides the table of funding sources.
- Attachments – executive summary, pages 11-14.

Project Overview

The Osage County seeks funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation for funding available through the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program for their Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for Osage County, Kansas and Communities project, to develop a comprehensive safety action plan.

This opportunity is a discretionary BIL program with a local match requirement of 20% of the total project cost. The entity is requesting \$525,000.00 from the Build Kansas Fund with no applicant cash or in-kind match dollars due to the project meeting the local match exception as a regional project. This request has the potential to unlock \$2,100,000.00 in federal funds.

The deadline was August 29, 2024, and this Build Kansas Fund application was received on August 27, 2024.

Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee Recommendation

The Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee reviewed this application on September 11, 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 2025 Application Package | Coversheet



Build Kansas Fund Application Number	2025-073-NoEDD
Applicant Name	Osage County, Kansas
Project Name	Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for Osage County, Kansas and Communities
Entity Type	County Government
Economic Development District (EDD) Planning Commission	NoEDD Region
Infrastructure Sector(s)	Transportation
BIL Program	Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)
BIL Program Type	Discretionary
BIL Application Deadline	08/29/2024
Build Kansas Fund Request	\$525,000.00
Technical Assistance Received	General Yes
	BIL Application No
	Build Kansas Fund Application No
	Other (Brief Description): Applicant is seeking an exemption to local match expectation due to the regional nature of the project.
Application Notes	Build Kansas Fund contribution of \$525,000.00 will unlock \$2,100,000.00 in federal BIL funding, with no local contribution due to the project meeting with local match exception as a regional project.

Steering Committee Funding Recommendation	September 11, 2024 Recommend
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Advisory Committee Funding Recommendation	DATE Recommend or Decline
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Completeness Review Data

Date Build Kansas Application Received:	8/27/2024
Date Of Completeness Check:	8/28/2024
Date Forwarded to Steering Committee:	9/9/2024

Title	Osage County, Kansas	08/27/2024
	by Colleen Mendoza in Build Kansas Fund Application	id. 47323219
	717 Topeka Ave Lyndon, Kansas 66451 United States 913-710-3775 cmendoza@osageco.org	

Original Submission	08/27/2024
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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:	Osage County, Kansas
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Project Name:	Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for Osage County, Kansas and Communities
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Entity type:	County Government
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Applicant Contact Name:	Colleen Mendoza
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Applicant Contact Position/Title:	Osage County Kansas Economic Development Director
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Applicant Contact Telephone Number:	+19137103775
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Applicant Contact Email Address:	cmendoza@osageco.org
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Applicant Contact Address:	717 Topeka Ave
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Applicant Contact Address Line 2 (optional):	
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Applicant Contact City:	Lyndon
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Applicant Contact State:	Kansas
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Applicant Contact Zip 66451
Code:

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? Osage 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: DOT-SS4A-FY24-01 - USDOT FY24 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

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 (FY) 2024 SS4A Notice of Funding Opportunity

What is the application due date for this Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity? 8/29/2024

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: \$2,100,000.00

Enter the total project cost: \$2,625,000.00

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

Enter the non-federal cash match amount being provided by the eligible applicant, if applicable: 0.0

Enter the estimated value of the non-federal in-kind match amount being provided by the eligible applicant, if applicable: 0.0

Enter the non-federal cash match amount being requested from the Build Kansas Fund: \$525,000.00

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

What other available American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) or Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund monies will be used for this 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 to be used for this match? N/A

Describe your efforts to find other available funding sources for this project: Over the last three years, Osage County local government has faced dramatic changes in their operating environment from a variety of external forces including COVID-19 downturn, recession, increased need for public services, recent pressures from state governments affecting local policy and budgets and a declining tax base. They are called to do more with less without marked funding increases. The County's General Fund is allocated for operations and maintenance of existing infrastructure, not for investment usage. Local grants are not applicable to a project of this regional magnitude.

Despite rural disadvantage, resource challenges, historic clerical inconsistency and rising costs, the 2022 newly elected board of commission shifted their mindsets to pro-growth and made important efforts to hire an Economic Development Director in 2023 to improve economic prosperity and population well-being.

As a strategic first step, the Economic Development Director partnered with Wichita Center for Economic Development and Business Research and organized a Vision Summit where the community aligned on strategies to strengthen Osage County Economic Competitiveness; Leverage proximity to markets, Grow Housing, Grow Revenue, Create Jobs, Foster Growth in Infrastructure and Business development.

In five short months, Osage County Economic Development boldly pursued the 2023 EDA Reconnect Plan Grant for eligible distressed communities in southern Osage county. Innovative projects with targeted solutions were put forth to bring positive and lasting change and held the potential to make a profound impact on our communities for generations to come. Unfortunately, Kansas projects were not awarded, however we received very encouraging feedback on our application and will pursue again if a second round of funding is announced in future.

Additionally, Osage County has pursued the FY 2024 CRISI Rail grant in hope for funding a Osage County Transload Facility which would truly be transformational for southern Osage county economic viability. CRISI grant award announcements are expected in Oct 2024. We are excited to share Osage County did receive affirmation of Intent to Award from the KS-BIL for match dollars.

In partnership with Economic Development, the Osage County Commissioners contribute to local momentum by strengthening Osage County small rural communities by funding grant workshops, county-wide housing assessment to grow affordable housing, development of a Neighborhood Revitalization program to promote rehabilitation and new home construction and supporting Economic Development pursuit of MIH grant for new housing and bringing broadband fiber to Osage County enhancing connectivity; establishing a proactive Economic Development ecosystem.

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:

Provide any additional information about this project (optional):

The Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for Osage County, Kansas and Communities is a multi-jurisdictional project devoted to infrastructure improvements which enhance safety, accessibility, mobility and county-wide connectivity for all its residents and visitors.

The project is led by a coalition of county (Osage County Board of Commission, Economic Development) and eight Municipalities (Burlingame, Carbondale, Lyndon, Melvern, Osage City, Overbrook, Quenemo, Scranton) aiming to reduce traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries across Osage County.

Project will consist of the development of a new Action Plan, demonstration activities and supplemental planning activities to include safety analysis for lighting and speed studies, road safety audits, curb extensions and road diets.

The SS4A grant will allow the county to identify comprehensive improvements, driven by data, community input and equity matters to address safety concerns for all modes of transportation.

The goal is to reduce risk of injury by separating motorists from other users and providing connectivity to promote health and mobility for the communities.

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: The following persons are responsible for making this Build Kansas Fund application.

Colleen Mendoza

Position/Title:

Osage County Kansas Economic Development Director

Additional:

Position/Title:

Additional:

Position/Title:

Additional:

Position/Title:

Internal Form

Score

n/a

Pre-Award Information:

Post-Award Information:

Deviation Report:

Source	Amount
BIL Federal Funds (applied for)	\$ 2,100,000.00
Build Kansas Funds (non-federal match)	\$ 525,000.00
Eligible Applicant Cash Match	0
Eligible Applicant In-Kind Match (estimated value)	0
Additional Project Contribution (if applicable)	0
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ 2,625,000.00

Zip Code	% of project in zip code	State
66413	10	
66414	10	
66451	15	
66510	5	
66523	15	
66524	15	
66528	10	
66537	10	
66543	10	
	100	

Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for Osage County, Kansas and Communities

Osage County, Kansas, is devoted to enhancing the safety, accessibility and mobility for all its residents and visitors by utilizing existing Rails to Trails infrastructure, capitalizing on the Flint Hills Trail and providing the much-desired connection from these trails to the nearby communities. With a mix of rural farm ground, small towns and the transportation network, the county recognizes the need for infrastructure improvements that prioritize the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. The Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant offers an opportunity to implement strategic projects aimed at reducing traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries across the county. The county commissioners, city councils and mayors are prepared to take a proactive approach to safety concerns and understand the need for pre-emptive measures and will implement the Osage County and Surrounding Communities Safety Task Force (Task Force) to support the development of the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for Osage County & Communities (Action Plan). In cooperation with KDOT and BNSF, this Action Plan will encompass various initiatives aimed at enhancing public safety, promoting community engagement and reducing serious and fatal injuries in Osage County and the surrounding communities including Burlingame, Carbondale, Lyndon, Melvern, Osage City, Overbrook, Quenemo and Scranton further referenced as Osage County & Communities (OC&C).

This project will consist of the development of a new Action Plan, demonstrations and studies in every community and design plans providing network connectivity throughout the county. The Task Force will engage the communities through various methods, compile the feedback and update policies accordingly. **The SS4A grant will allow the communities to identify comprehensive improvements, driven by data, community input and equity matters to address safety concerns for all modes of transportation.** As low-cost, effective, proven countermeasures are implemented, the community will be updated and collected data will be shared to show the progress toward reducing injuries.

Project Location

The proposed Action Plan is in Osage County, Kansas includes: Burlingame, Carbondale, Lyndon, Melvern, Osage City, Overbrook, Quenemo and Scranton. Osage County maintains nearly 250 miles of both gravel and paved roadway in the 720 square mile area with approximately 31 miles of existing trails. The table shows the participants population, road network and current sidewalk mileage. The proposed connections to the existing trails will be regionally significant taking advantage of the proximity to growing markets; creating inter-county linkage, greater access to two federal lakes allowing for event hosting opportunities and promoting economic growth are just some of the benefits. The Landon Nature Trail has been partially constructed with funds from private investors, but the remaining connections are needed. The proposed plan will complete the connection to Topeka and the Flint Hills Nature Trail providing more attractive destinations for tourists who want to utilize alternative transportation. Additionally, the proposed connection would expand the recreational activities, provide accessible outdoor spaces ultimately inspiring more people to become active which promotes physical fitness and reduces illnesses.

Municipality	Pop	Roads (mi)	Sidewalk (mi)
Burlingame	956	13	4
Carbondale	1324	10	0.5
Lyndon	1040	13	3
Melvern	349	6.5	3
Osage City	2816	32	10
Overbrook	985	8	2
Quenemo	287	3	2
Scranton	644	9	0.75

The OC&C have several challenges with NHS highways and railroads passing through them. The proposed project will develop an Action Plan that will allow for safer modes of transportation for all users. Focus will be given to areas with the highest volumes, low-income residents and where residents with mobility and accessibility issues are a concern.

Response to Selection Criteria: Safety Impact

Osage County has had 14 roadway fatalities in the last five years. This correlates to a fatality rate of 17.8 per 100,000 persons. Safety is also a concern for students and elderly residents, especially those using micromobility devices to travel, due to the lack of or functionally obsolete sidewalks and ADA ramps. The SS4A funds will allow the county to complete an Action Plan to identify low-cost and high-impact strategies throughout the OC&C creating a cohesive, connected community for all the county's residents. Implementing evidence-based projects and strategies will improve the effectiveness of the Action Plan as well as the likelihood improvements will be utilized. Additionally, the grant will fund a countywide road safety audit, speed and lighting studies and the demonstration of projects in all communities to determine the feasibility, functionality and design of the improvements.

The areas indicated on the attached concept maps show the improvements and demonstration activities proposed to help enhance safety. These areas were selected due to being highly traveled by pedestrians, either elderly using micromobility devices or children on bikes or scooters and those walking to destinations or for exercise. There is a potential for severe and even fatal crashes when crossing major collectors, arterials, highways and railroads. Also, dedicated facilities have been shown to increase the community's activity level, reduce climate impacts, improve overall physical and mental health as well as enrich the overall quality of life.

Identifying areas where speeding is a concern and providing countermeasures will help reduce those risks. Additionally, improving lighting conditions and reducing conflict points by providing the pedestrian or cyclist a dedicated travel way separate from the motorist will also reduce the severity and likelihood of crashes.

Response to Selection Criteria: Equity

The county takes inclusivity and equity seriously. *With approximately 60% of the county population living in disadvantaged census tracts, developing improvements to each community as well as the residents living outside city limits is paramount.* The Task Force will include strategies and projects that improve residents' safety regardless of income. Experts agree that providing accessible improvements to low/moderate income areas increase the probability that the improvements will be utilized which improves both physical and mental health. Osage County residents are statistically vulnerable when it comes to Transportation Insecurity, according to the USDOT Equitable Transportation Community Explorer, with an overall disadvantaged component score of 80% followed closely by Health Vulnerability at 62%. The Action Plan will help address these issues, by providing alternative transportation connectivity and beginning the journey for improved health to all residents in Osage County.

Response to Selection Criteria: Additional Safety Context

Several communities either have no sidewalks or have sidewalks that will not safely accommodate persons using wheelchairs, families pushing strollers or children using bikes as

can be seen in the attached supporting documents. Lack of connectivity for non-motorized users increases the risk of conflict when those users need to get to their destinations. The Action Plan will identify concerns like unmarked pedestrian crossings which are imperative to fix. The road diet and curb extension demonstrations will implement low-cost methods including paint, signs and delineators to provide buffer space between vehicles and pedestrians. Curb extensions will also reduce the pedestrian’s risk at intersections. Additionally, connecting the communities to each other and to the existing bike trails with a separate facility reduces potential conflicts and the severity of the crashes. Speed and lighting studies are used to identify areas of potential risk.

Additional Consideration: Budget Costs

Osage County requests grant funding of \$2,100,000 to support the development and creation of the Action Plan, demonstrations and studies and associated design plans to aid in its guidance. The county has requested \$525,000 in funding from the Kansas Build Fund as the 20% match for a **total estimate project cost of \$2,625,000**. The Action Plan, demonstration, studies and associated design plans represent a proactive and collaborative approach to tackling transportation safety challenges and presents a significant opportunity to address lacking transportation safety improvements within the county while fostering economic growth and enhancing quality of life. With the funding from the SS4A Grant, Osage County is poised to implement strategic improvements that will increase roadway and rail safety, enhance pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure, and promote safe transportation practices. Together, the OC&C can create a transportation environment that is safer, more accessible and more conducive to the well-being of all residents regardless of socioeconomic status.

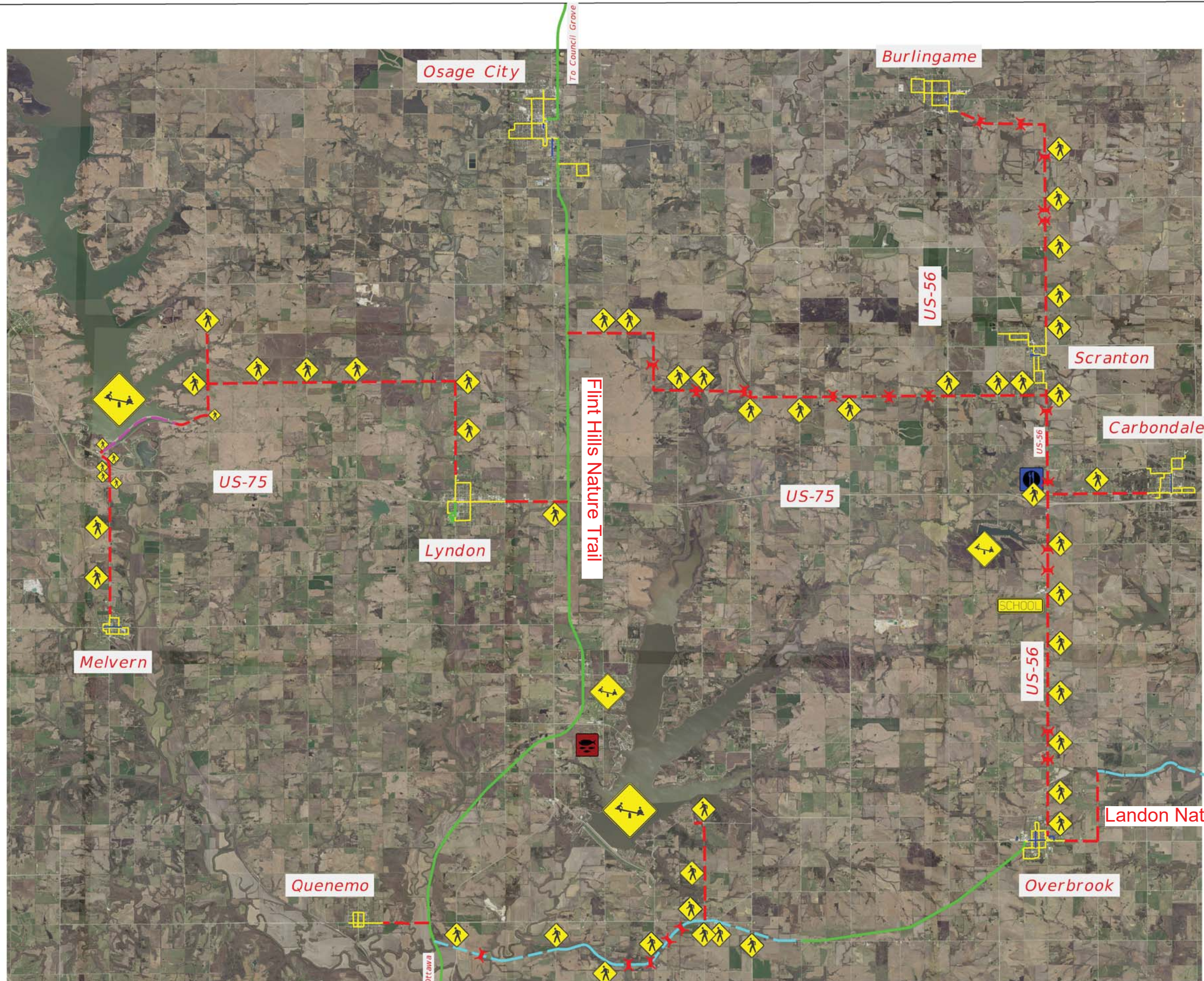
SS4A Planning and Demonstration Grant Application - Supplemental Estimated Budget				
Task	Total	Requested	Match	% Match
Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for Osage County, Kansas and Communities	\$ 2,430,000	\$ 1,944,000	\$ 486,000	20%
<i>Supplemental Planning Activities</i>				
Road Safety Audit	\$ 100,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 20,000	20%
Lighting/Speed Studies	\$ 25,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 5,000	20%
<i>Demonstration Activities</i>				
Curb Extensions	\$ 42,375	\$ 33,900	\$ 8,475	20%
Road Diets	\$ 27,625	\$ 22,100	\$ 5,525	20%
Total Project Costs	\$ 2,625,000	\$ 2,100,000	\$ 525,000	20%

Additional Consideration: High Fatality Rates

With the fatality rate of 17.8, which is slightly over the 17 fatalities per 100,000 persons, the road safety audit in combination with the safety action plan will identify areas where users are at a higher fatality risk and make low-cost and high impact recommendations to reduce those risks.

Project Readiness

The County is prepared to begin the advertising process once the notice of award is given. Blue Valley Consultants, LLC, a woman-owned, disadvantaged business, will be encouraged to submit a competitive proposal. Once the agreement is executed with the DOT, the OC&C will create the Task Force, data will be collected and road safety audits will be conducted. The Action Plan for OC&C is anticipated to take 18 to 24 months to complete.



LEGEND

- Existing Rails to Trails —
- Future Shared Use Path —
- Sidewalk —
- Future County Trail - - -
- Future Rails to Trail - - -
- Future Bike Boulevard - - -

- Pedestrian Conflict
- Park Facility
- Railroad Conflict
- Commerce
- Emergency Services
- High Density Housing
- Schools
- Bridges/Culverts

REVISIONS			
DATE	DESCRIPTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION


 Blue Valley Consultants
 785-504-9450
 engineer@bluevalleyconsultants.com

OSAGE COUNTY KANSAS		
ROAD NO.	COUNTY	PROJECT ID
	Osage	

SAFE STREETS FOR ALL GRANT

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