

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: Jason Fizell, Interim Executive Director, Kansas Infrastructure Hub

RE: Build Kansas Fund Application #2025-159-NoEDD

Date: July 22, 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 2-8. Page 8 provides the table of funding sources and zip codes served by the project.
- Attachments – Project narrative and Letter of Support, pages 9-11.

Project Overview

Franklin 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 Safe Streets for Franklin County project which includes the development of an Action Plan aimed at significantly reducing fatal crashes and severe injuries within the county's seven city jurisdictions.

This opportunity is a discretionary IIJA program with a local match requirement of 20% of the total project cost. The entity is requesting \$165,164.15 from the Build Kansas Fund, and is requesting an exemption from the local cash contribution. This request has the potential to unlock \$660,656.60 in federal funds, for a total project cost of \$825,820.75.

The deadline was June 26, 2025, and this Build Kansas Fund application was received on June 25, 2025.

Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee Recommendation

The Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee reviewed this application on July 9, 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	2025-159-NoEDD
Applicant Name	Franklin County
Application Date Received	6/25/2025
Project Name	Safe Streets for Franklin County
Project Description	This project includes the development of an Action Plan aimed at significantly reducing fatal crashes and severe injuries within the county's seven city jurisdictions.
Entity Type	Local Government
Economic Development District (EDD) Planning Commission	NO EDD/RPC
Infrastructure Sector(s)	Transportation
BIL Program	Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)
BIL Program Type	Discretionary
Application Type	Planning & Demonstration
BIL Application Deadline	6/26/2025
Build Kansas Fund Request	\$165,164.15
Technical Assistance Received	General Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	BIL Application Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Build Kansas Fund Application Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (Brief Description): Provided General TA and BKF Application Support.
Application Notes	Build Kansas Fund contribution of \$165,164.15 will unlock \$660,656.60 in federal BIL funding, for a total project cost of \$825,820.75.
Steering Committee Funding Recommendation	7/9/2025 Recommend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/>
Advisory Committee Funding Recommendation	7/22/2025 Recommend <input type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/>

Title	Franklin County	06/24/2025
	by Paul Bean in Build Kansas Fund Application	id. 50902521
	1428 S Main Suite 2 Ottawa, KS, Kansas 66067 KS United States 7852293496 paul.bean@fcdckansas.org	

Original Submission	06/25/2025
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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:	Safe Roads for Franklin County
Entity type:	County Government
Entity Population:	26,125
Applicant Contact Name:	Paul Bean
Applicant Contact Position/Title:	Executive Director, Economic Development
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: Safe Streets for Road and All

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? 20.939

What is the federal application due date for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity? 6/26/2025

Application Type: Planning

What is the federal fiscal year for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity? 2025

Enter the amount of funding being applied for, from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity: \$660,656.60

Enter the total project cost: \$825,820.75

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: \$165,164.15

Enter the non-federal cash match amount being provided by the eligible applicant, if applicable: \$0

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?	N/A
Describe your efforts to find other available funding sources for this project:	This is a collaborative regional application as all of Franklin County will be serviced under the SS4A application to develop a comprehensive action plan. We have coordinated with Ottawa and Wellsville to have demonstration projects in their cities as part of our one application. As such, we are requesting waiver to provide a local match.
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:	
Executive_Summary_of_SS4A_Grant_Request.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
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.	Paul Bean
Position/Title:	Executive Director, Economic Development, Franklin
Additional:	Janet Paddock
Position/Title:	County Clerk, Franklin
Additional:	Melissa Reed
Position/Title:	City Clerk, Ottawa
Additional:	
Position/Title:	

Source	Amount	% of Project
Build Kansas Funds (non-federal match)	\$165,164.15	20.00%
Eligible Applicant Cash Match	\$0.00	0.00%
Eligible Applicant In-Kind Match (estimated value)	\$0.00	0.00%
BIL Federal Funds (applied for)	\$660,656.60	80.00%
Additional Project Contribution (if applicable)	\$0.00	0.00%
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$825,820.75	100%

***Applicant has requested an exemption to the 5% applicant match contribution**

Zip Code	% of project in zip code
66067	60%
66092	15%
66078	4%
66079	3%
66042	3%
66095	3%
66080	3%
66076	3%
66258 & 66006	6%
	100% In Kansas

Safe Roads for Franklin County

Overview - Franklin County, Kansas is growing quickly. In fact, new building permits exceeds 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. The majority of those houses that are projected to be needed are in the largest cities in the County, Ottawa and Wellsville (see support letters). As the median year of the housing stock is currently from 1974, the growth in housing is reflected in new residential housing permits with 96% for single-family buildings.

While the new housing growth is good, the community is experiencing issues with the street infrastructure as a result. For example, in a heavy shopping area (with a Walmart, Tractor Supply Company, and Price Chopper) along a one-way road, a new housing development is just beyond the shopping center, and drivers have repeatedly been stopped for going the wrong way on the one-lane road. Due to the growth and increase in population, and ongoing safety concerns and needs, Franklin County is dedicated to developing a robust Action Plan aimed at significantly reducing fatal crashes and severe injuries within the county's seven city jurisdiction.

Location - 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 of which the SS4A Action Plan will include all, however, the Cities of Ottawa and Wellsville will specifically have increased community outreach for the development of the Action Plan due to their size and housing growth projections. Additionally, both Cities have growing Main Street areas where pedestrian testing will be needed to evaluate community response via proposed demonstration projects.

Response to Selection Criteria - Safety Impact - Per the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) report, Franklin County has tragically experienced 29 fatalities from 2018-2022 and the average annual fatality rate is 22.3 per 100,000 people. A county-wide comprehensive jurisdictional Action Plan will help the community's street infrastructure catch up with the current housing growth and further prepare streets and roadways for future growth patterns, especially in some critical economic development zones such as the Main Street areas for the County. Another large safety hazard for the County is flooding as it is along the Marais des Cygnes River and includes 48 low-lying waterways. Even though there is current signage in these zones (a total of 96 signs) during flooding events, many citizens ignore the warnings and attempt to make it across flooded roads. In the last five years 27 were rescued by emergency personnel. Through the Action Plan and Demonstration Project portion of the SS4A grant, gaining community input will be critical to help keep road users, including motorists and commercial operators, safe from flooding.

Underserved Communities - A total of 25,994 people live in Franklin County, Kansas. According to the American Community Survey, 70% of the population lives in a family household. While the community is not underserved based on the Underserved Communities Tool, in 2023, the U.S. Department of Education reported 50% of the public-school students qualified for free and reduced lunches.

Additional Safety Context – Through this grant, data will be gathered and community outreach will begin to develop a comprehensive Safety Action Plan across all seven cities. The planning process will encompass conducting a comprehensive street safety assessment, engaging stakeholders to gather valuable insights, analyzing data, researching best practices, developing a detailed and actionable plan, and fostering collaboration and partnerships for sustainable change.

Demonstration projects are needed to understand behaviors and responsiveness to the following issues: a) pedestrian crossings along Main Street corridors in Ottawa and Wellsville, b) keeping motorists out of flooded waterways and zones, c) speed management in high-risk corridors including near highways, and d) one-way driving prevention. Projects aim to reduce and/or eliminate roadway fatalities and serious injuries using low-cost, high-impact strategies that can be adapted to the larger geographical area. Testing equipment includes: rubber sidewalks, poly ADA curb ramps, paint, temporary solar-powered flashing signs, solar-powered flood markers, electronic message boards, and speed radars. All of these items, while perhaps popular solutions, will be new to this community as the equipment does not exist in the County. Equipment will help denote pedestrian crossings, flood prone-areas, changes in speed zones from highway to rural roads, and used for one-way driving prevention.

Project Readiness

The County is confident that it will be able to complete the Action Plan within five years of the grant agreement being executed. Each Demonstration project will be completed within 18 months following a schedule as outlined in the planning and development process for the Action Plan. (Fall 2026 Project Start, 18 months to complete demonstration, plan completed Fall 2031). Community involvement from surveys and feedback sessions will be sought in the development and deployment of the proposed Demonstration projects. Testing will be completed from nationally approved standards such as traffic behavior observation, incident trend evaluations, visual documentation, activation events logs, signage performance reviews, site recommendations, and pre/post driver yield behavior assessments. All information will be captured and incorporated into the Action Plan which will be overseen by a creditable and experienced firm which will be sought through federally accepted procurement processes via a Request for Proposal. No environmental or permitting is expected during the development of the Action Plan, via the Demonstration projects, but will be completed if necessary. The resulting Action Plan will not only meet but exceed the rigorous requirements outlined by the SS4A grant program, providing a detailed roadmap for enhancing transportation safety and accessibility.



July 16, 2025

Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing you today to ask for your consideration of an exemption for Franklin County as related to the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant request. Your support would be a tremendous benefit to our community. While we are near the metro area, we are still a rural county and we have the financial limitations that come along with being rural. We anticipate rapid growth in the next decade but would certainly benefit from assistance as we prepare proactively for that growth.

Franklin County, Kansas, is a small, rural community of just over 25,000 residents, with much of its population spread across several small towns. Outside of the county seat, Ottawa, which serves as the regional hub, the county includes communities like Wellsville (under 2,000 residents) and Rantoul (just over 150 residents). While the county is actively working to grow, progress has been gradual.

A recent housing study projects a need for nearly 900 new homes by 2030, reflecting both a growing population and the pressure on existing infrastructure. Yet, economic indicators reveal significant challenges. Over 24.67% of households are cost-burdened, paying more than 30% of their income toward housing—exceeding the Kansas statewide rate of 23.38%. Additionally, more than 49.70% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, highlighting widespread childhood poverty and overall economic vulnerability.

These figures illustrate a constrained local tax base and limited fiscal flexibility—factors that significantly hinder the county's ability to independently fund comprehensive transportation planning efforts. This is especially true in the context of a growing housing market that will place added demands on road safety, traffic flow, and multimodal access.

Without external support, the financial burden of even modest local match requirements threatens to exclude Franklin County from critical federal programs like the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant. State match assistance is therefore essential to empower rural counties like Franklin to plan proactively, improve roadway safety, and ensure equitable access to federal resources that would otherwise be out of reach.

Sincerely,



Derek Brown
County Administrator
Franklin County