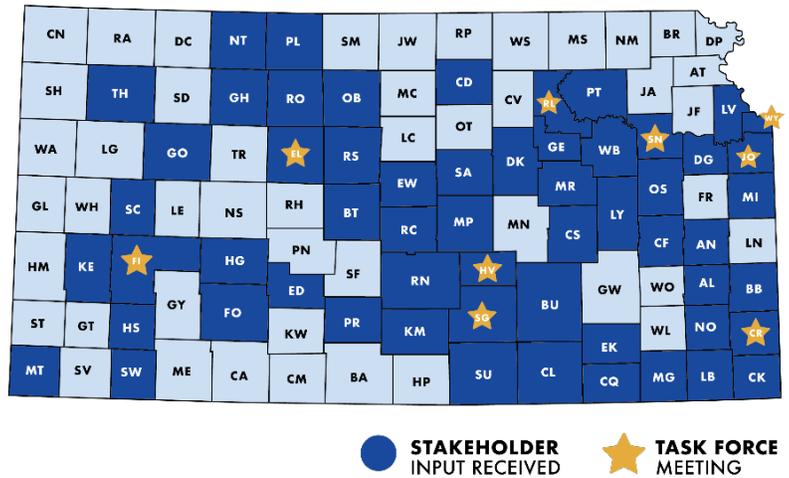


Joint Legislative Transportation Vision Task Force

The Task Force:

The Kansas Legislature initiated the Joint Legislative Transportation Vision Task Force, which is comprised of 35 members from across the state. Senator Carolyn McGinn and Representative Richard Proehl serve as co-chairs for the task force, which features 12 legislators, 14 transportation stakeholder/industry leaders, five local government officials and four ex officio members. From August to November 2018, the task force convened nine regional meetings to gather stakeholder input, and members participated in a two-day session to draft recommendations.



The Charge:

The Kansas Legislature broadly charged the task force with the following:

-  **Evaluate** the state's transportation system, the way it uses state highway funds, and whether funding levels are sufficient.
-  **Seek local input** on existing and emerging transportation needs.
-  **Make recommendations** on the state's future transportation system needs and the structure of the State Highway Fund.

What We Heard:

More than 300 stakeholders provided testimony at nine regional task force meetings across the state. Through these discussions, the following themes have emerged:

-  There are **unmet transportation needs** across the state.
-  Transportation investments **generate economic growth, create jobs, enhance safety** and **improve mobility and quality of life for citizens.**
-  Recent funding reductions have caused needs to go unmet, and **the state must provide a steady, consistent source of revenue going forward.**

Moving Kansas Forward

The Challenge:

In 2010, the Kansas Legislature passed the Transportation Works for Kansas (T-WORKS) plan to protect Kansans' investment in their infrastructure, generate economic growth and expand mobility across the state. Since its passage, approximately **\$2 billion of revenue has been transferred out** of the State Highway Fund, the result of this transfer has been the following:

- ! Preservation work, which extends the life of the highway system, has not kept pace with needs causing **system health to decline**.
- ! **T-WORKS projects, including 21** highway modernization and expansion **projects**, are **delayed** and cannot be completed if transfers continue at the recent pace.
- ! The State **cannot seize emerging economic opportunities or meet future transportation needs** without a stable funding source.



The picture above shows a stretch of U.S. 83 that appears smooth on the pavement surface. However, an inspection of the subsurface (shown below) revealed that the pavement health was in poor condition resulting in having to replace the pavement.



The Recommendations:

Following the nine regional meetings to gather stakeholder input, the task force convened for two days to develop recommendations for Kansas transportation going forward. The following are tentative recommendations crafted by the task force:

- ✓ Kansas must provide **adequate, consistent and stable transportation funding**.
- ✓ The **remaining 21 T-WORKS projects** should be **completed**.
- ✓ Kansas should provide the necessary **investment** in **highway preservation** to **improve system health**.
- ✓ While the previous **highway project selection process** worked well, minor modifications to include factors such as **practical improvements, cost sharing and priority corridors** should be considered.
- ✓ Kansas **must invest in transit, rail, aviation, and bicycle/pedestrian paths** to provide a quality transportation system that serves all Kansans.

Stay Tuned:

The task force will release a final report of the recommendations in early 2019. The report will be available at www.kslegresearch.org under "Recent Publications."