



US 69 EXPANSION PROJECT

# Final Environmental Assessment

February 2022

KDOT Project Number 69-46 KA-5700-02

# U.S. 69 Modernization and Expansion Project

Overland Park, Johnson County, Kansas

## Final Environmental Assessment

Submitted Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4332 (2)(c)

by the

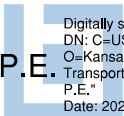
U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration

and


Kansas Department of Transportation

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The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have developed this Environmental Assessment to improve portions of U.S. 69 within Johnson County, Kansas. This Environmental Assessment evaluates and discloses the potential environmental impacts resulting from the Preferred Alternative.

Changes made to the Draft EA due to public and agency comments.

1. Page 3-18, Section 3.1.4.3 *Environmental Justice Impacts* – The second and third paragraphs, under the Direct EJ Impacts heading, were added as follows:

“The Preferred Alternative will not further the historic bisection of EJ communities. Much of the U.S. 69 corridor was undeveloped when the roadway was originally constructed in the late 1960s and adjacent properties along the U.S. 69 corridor have not developed with extensive EJ communities.

The Project will benefit communities along the corridor by improving several east-west connections across U.S. 69 including arterial roadway enhancements. The Preferred Alternative also includes on-street bike lanes at several of the major arterial street crossings and the addition of sidewalks and off-street recreational use paths. The sidewalks and off-street recreational paths will provide additional opportunities for pedestrians to safely move along the corridor.”

2. Page 3-18, Section 3.1.4.3 *Environmental Justice Impacts* – Added a “Noise Impacts” heading and the following text:

“The minority and low-income EJ populations encompass 17 of the 23 noise sensitive areas identified in the noise analysis (Section 3.4.2). In these 17 noise sensitive areas, 1,359 noise impacts are identified in the Preferred Alternative without any noise abatement. However, all 14 noise walls found to be both feasible and reasonable per KDOT and FHWA noise policies are located in the block groups with EJ populations. The noise walls will benefit 1,783 receptors in the block groups with EJ populations. Figure 3-7 displays the noise sensitive areas overlaid on the block groups with EJ populations.”

3. Page 3-19, Section 3.1.4.3 *Environmental Justice Impacts* – A new heading “Environmental Justice Outreach” was added for clarity. Two new paragraphs, paragraphs two and three were added as follows:

“No Limited English Proficiency communities were identified in the corridor. However, throughout the NEPA process, the Project Team provided Project information to non-English proficient populations in the following ways:

- The Project Website was available in seven languages: English, Spanish, French, German, Chinese (Simplified), Korean, and Vietnamese;
- All public meetings included an option to request an interpreter. No requests were received; and,

- All content publicly provided was noted as available in alternative languages upon request. No requests for this service were received.

EJ outreach included seven Advisory Group meetings conducted over a period of 12 months. The Advisory Group included representation from multiple community organizations that represent a broad spectrum of EJ related communities. Other EJ outreach included notices for public meetings, fact sheets and other Project informational materials, and invitations for individual stakeholder meetings with the Project Team being distributed by hand in residential areas in the corridor identified as EJ communities.”

4. Page 3-24, Section 3.1.5.1 *Parks and Recreation Impacts* – The first paragraph under the “Impacts of the Preferred Alternative” heading was revised with the below text to provide the outcome of the Section 4(f) coordination with the Overland Park Parks and Recreation Department.

“Coordination regarding concurrence of the *de minimis* impacts with FHWA and the City of Overland Park Parks and Recreation Department was performed by KDOT. In a letter dated December 17, 2021, the Overland Park Parks and Recreation Department agreed with the *de minimis* finding and stated that the “official detour routes will need to be coordinated in tandem with the Overland Park Parks and Recreation department and the design-build contractor as the project progresses.””

5. Page 3-57, Section 3.4.2.1 *Traffic Noise Methodology* – Revised the number of noise sensitive receptors in the second paragraph from “4,119” to “4,092.”
6. Page 3-58, Section 3.4.2.2 *Existing Conditions* – Revised the number of receptors in the second paragraph from “974” to “972.”
7. Page 3-59, Section 3.4.2.3 *Traffic Noise Impacts* – Revised the number of impacted receptors in the first paragraph for the Existing Condition (2019) from “977” to “972,” for the 2050 No-Build from “1,166” to “1,156,” and for the Preferred Alternative 2050 design year from “1,475” to “1,462.”
8. Page 3-60, Table 3-17: Summary of Traffic Noise Impacts – Revised the receptor numbers for NSA 9, NSA 19, and the Total to match the updated Noise Report in Appendix H.
9. Page 3-60, Section 3.4.2.3 *Traffic Noise Impacts* – Revised the text in the paragraph below Table 3-17 from “fewer than 600 noise impacts” to “just over 600 noise impacts” to match the updated Noise Report in Appendix H.

10. Page 3-62, Section 3.4.2.5 *Potential for Noise Abatement* – Revised the number of benefited receptors in the second paragraph from “1,790” to “1,783.”
11. Page 3-70, Table 3-20: Summary of Impacts – Revised the number of noise impacts to match the updated noise report in Appendix H.
12. Figures – Inserted a new Figure 3-7: Environmental Justice Population Noise Impacts. The original Figure 3-7, and following figures, were renumbered to Figures 3-8 through Figure 3-14. Updated Figure 3-11 to display the finalized Noise Sensitive Area boundaries to match the Noise Report in Appendix H.
13. Page 4-7, Section 4.2.2.3 *Public Meeting #3* – Added the date the public comment period ended (January 22, 2022) to the end of the first paragraph.
14. Page 4-11, Section 4.3 *Tribal Coordination* – Added a new column (Draft EA Coordination Date of Response) to Table 4-5 and added the following sentence to the first paragraph in Section 4.3:

“Notification of the Draft EA for comment was shared with the Tribes in December 2021.”
15. Page 4-12, Section 4.4 *Public Review of the Draft EA* – The section was revised to show the dates of the public comment period, locations where paper copies of the Draft EA were available, and that the public comments and their responses are available in **Appendix L**.
16. Page 4-13, Section 4.5 *Comments and Responses on the Draft EA* – Added the summary of the public comments and that the full comments and responses are available in **Appendix L**. The Section was also revised to add **Table 4-6: Draft EA Agency Coordination** and a summary of the agency responses.
17. Table 5-1: Proposed Project Commitments – Revised commitment C-3 with the updated Section 4(f) coordination from the Overland Park Parks and Recreation Department. Also Deleted commitment C-39 as it was a duplicate.

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