U.S. 69 EXPANSION PROJECT HISTORY AT A GLANCE





PREVIOUS STUDIES

1998-2020

Nearly 25 years was spent studying how to ensure U.S. 69 more safely meets growing local and state needs.

- 2020 U.S. 69 Pre-Planning Analysis
- 2018 U.S. 69 Corridor Study Phase 1 Report
- 2016 167th Street and U.S. 69 Break-in-Access Request
- 2006 159th Street and U.S. 69 Break-in-Access Report
- 2004 Break-in-Access Study on I-435 and U.S. 69
- 1998 U.S. 69 Initial Corridor Screening Evaluation



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

2020-2021

The U.S. 69 Expansion Project kicks off with a series of civic leader interviews and statistically valid community surveys and focus groups to better understand the issues and opportunities surrounding improving the corridor. A broad-based community advisory group is established to provide input and insights regarding community preferences for the project.



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

2020-2021

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) undertook an Environmental Assessment (EA) to examine the environmental effects of the project. The goal was to help transportation officials to make project decisions that balance engineering and transportation needs with social, economic, and natural environmental factors.



TOLL FEASIBILITY STUDY

2021

The 69Express Toll Feasibility
Study was conducted to
determine whether Express
Toll Lanes could realistically
and effectively manage
corridor congestion, producing
more reliable travel times.
It concluded that they could
- and would also generate
sufficient revenue to support
the operations, maintenance
and lifecycle costs associated
with tolling.



KTA VOTE

June 25, 2021

The KTA Board approves the Overland Park/KDOT joint proposal for implementing Express Toll Lanes on U.S. 69 by a 5-0 vote. The proposal goes to the State Finance Council for its approval in accordance with state law.



DESIGN BUILD

July 2021

KDOT opens the search for the 69Express design-build project team, with selection coming in 2022. KDOT selected design-build for delivery because the approach helps deliver complex projects more quickly through improved innovation and communication.



RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

December 2021

Express Toll Lanes are selected as the Recommended Preferred Alternative for the U.S. 69 Expansion Project. It is determined that the Express Toll Lanes best meet the Purpose and Need of the project, address congestion and traffic safety concerns within the corridor, result in fewer impacts to the natural and human environment, and provide a lower-cost solution.



PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT

May 2020

The U.S. 69 Improvements project is announced as a top project for KDOT. The improvements would include an emphasis on expansion of the roadway from 103rd to151st Streets. The project wuold aim to alleviate congestion and bottlenecks on one of Kansas's busiest highways.

PROJECT INITIATION

October 2020

The U.S. 69 Expansion Project is launched to determine how best to improve one of the state's busiest highways to address growing safety, travel time reliability and congestion issues between 103rd and 179th Streets.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

2020 - Ongoing

U.S. 69 Corridor users, residents and businesses were engaged in developing the Project's technical analysis and proposed alternatives through a broad range of public involvement tools: public and virtual meetings; project website, social media and newsletter; media relations; community presentations; and other means.



REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

2021

As the EA progressed, three Reasonable Alternatives emerged: No-Build (kept as a benchmark to measure against), Traditional Widening; and Express Toll Lanes Alternative. The two Build Alternatives were carried forward for their ability to satisfy project needs and because they rated favorably against most other initial screening criteria when compared to other alternatives.



CITY COUNCIL VOTE

June 21, 2021

The Overland Park City Council votes 10-2 in favor of Express Toll Lanes on U.S. 69 Highway. With the vote, Overland Park and KDOT will take a joint proposal for Express Toll Lanes to the Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) for its approval in accordance with state law.



STATE FINANCE COUNCIL VOTE

June 25, 2021

The Kansas State Finance Council (SFC) approves the Overland Park/KDOT joint proposal for implementing Express Toll Lanes on U.S. 69 by an 8-0 vote. The vote concludes the state process by which Express Toll Lanes may be considered as an addition to the state highway system within a municipality.



NOISE STUDY

November 2021

KDOT completes the noise

like 69Express significantly

study required when a project

expands or alters a highway's

alignment. Fourteen locations

are identified where noise wall

construction may be warranted

if approved by nearly

Receptors.

1,500 identified Benefitted

February 2022

FONSI

The U.S. Department of Transportation issues a FONSI - Finding of No Significant Impact. The FONSI clears the way for KDOT to move ahead with construction of Express Toll Lanes.

The U.S. 69 Expansion Project (69Express) was launched in 2020 after years of effort to examine how best to improve the state's busiest four-lane highway. The goal was to address growing safety, travel time reliability and congestion issues in the corridor, which stretches from 103rd Street to 179th Street, all in Overland Park. Crash rates in the corridor are 53 percent above the statewide average. Existing pavement and bridges are more than 50 years old and overdue for replacement. Meanwhile, congestion is growing; peak travel times are expected to triple over the next few years. As a result of great progress on the Project in 2021, 69Express advanced significantly towards the start of construction in 2022.







