

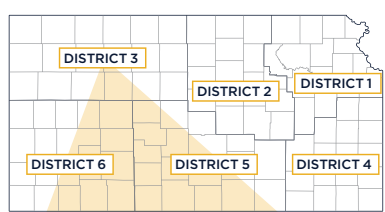


# INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS IN NORTHWEST KANSAS



## CONNECTING PEOPLE/ THE REGION BY THE NUMBERS

Current Population **94,514** (3% of Kansas)  
 Change in Population since 2010 **-2.4%** (down from 96,833)  
 Projected Population in 2049 **81,599** (2% of Kansas)  
 Current Median Age **45**  
 Percent of Population 65+ in 2049 **24.5%** (compared to 23% statewide)



### KDOT/DISTRICT 3

CHEYENNE	RAWLINS	DECATUR	NORTON	PHILLIPS	SMITH
SHERMAN	THOMAS	SHERIDAN	GRAHAM	ROOKS	OSBORNE
WALLACE	LOGAN	GOVE	TREGO	ELLIS	RUSSELL



## ROADS & BRIDGES IN NORTHWEST KANSAS

- **1,645** state highway system miles (16% of the statewide miles)
- **4.3M** vehicle miles are traveled daily on state highways (8% of the statewide total); **28%** of these miles are trucking.
- **1,409** 2-lane miles (16% of statewide), **236** 4+-lane miles (13% of statewide)
- **10%** of KDOT's non-Interstate highway miles have shoulder widths that fall below KDOT's current design standards (compared to 10% statewide).
- In 2020, **8.6%** of the state highway miles in the region did not meet the smoothness rating for "good" (compared to 12% statewide).
- **22,207** local (city/county) road miles (17% of local road miles statewide)
- **645** state bridges, **72%** in good condition (compared to 78% statewide)
- **2,281** local bridges, **42%** in good condition (compared to 47% statewide)



## NORTHWEST KANSAS TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS DISTRICT 3 | BY MODE 2020-2021

	Completed Projects (\$M)	Planned (Programmed) Projects (\$M)	% of Statewide Investments*
<b>State Highways</b>			
Preservation	\$2.4	\$109.1	10%
Modernization	\$0	\$8.6	8%
Expansion	\$0	\$1.9	1%
<b>Cost Share</b>	\$0	\$6.6	8%
<b>Local Roads</b>	\$1.3	\$33.5	6%
<b>Modal Projects</b>			
Public Transit	\$0	\$2	4%
Aviation	\$0	\$0.8	17%
Rail	\$0	\$0	0%
Bike/Pedestrian	\$0	\$.4	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3.7</b>	<b>\$162.9</b>	<b>7%</b>

\*Statewide investments include completed and planned (programmed) projects as of July 2021. Regional investments do not include projects considered statewide (i.e., lighting, signage).

### WHAT SHOULD WE CONSIDER TO MEET CURRENT & FUTURE CHALLENGES?



How can we plan for and prioritize investments based on the condition of roads and bridges to support changing demographics and funding sources?





# INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS IN NORTHWEST KANSAS



## WHAT SHOULD WE CONSIDER TO MEET CURRENT & FUTURE CHALLENGES?



*What types of investments could help improve access to jobs, quality of life and better serve residents aging in place?*

*What types of partnerships could help leverage active transportation investments to better support community-wide connections?*

*How can KDOT leverage partnerships to promote short-line and Class 1 rail projects that stimulate local economic development?*

*What innovations will shape how we move freight and people in the next 10 years? 25 years?*



## TRANSIT IN NORTHWEST KANSAS

- **4%** of households in this region and **5%** of households in Kansas **don't have access to a vehicle**. **27%** of households in this region and **30%** of households across the state **only have access to 1 vehicle**.
- **14** of the 18 counties in this region have transit service providers. Of the 2 regional projects awarded through the **Access, Innovation and Collaboration (AIC) Program**, 1 provides funds to transit agencies to expand and improve their services.
- KDOT is beginning to see more interest in the **electrification of transit fleets** from both urban and rural transit providers. Electric vehicles may have higher capital costs, but they provide significant economic benefits through reduced maintenance and fuel costs. We continue to work with our transit agencies to explore electric vehicle options and **partnerships to expand electric transportation options in Kansas**.



## BIKES/PEDESTRIANS IN NORTHWEST KANSAS

- Over the past year, KDOT has been working with stakeholders across the state to develop the first active transportation plan in over 25 years—the **Kansas Active Transportation Plan will be completed in 2021** and will provide an action plan to address transportation needs for people who walk, bike and roll.
- KDOT's **Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program** provides funding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities.



## RAIL IN NORTHWEST KANSAS

- Railroads across Kansas are important connectors for shipping both raw materials and finished goods. Short-line tracks are the critical link to accessing Class 1 rail and delivering our products to domestic and international markets.
- There are **515 miles of track** in northwest Kansas, this is about **12%** of the state's total track miles.
- This includes **239 miles of Class 1 freight rail service** (about **9%** of the state total) and **276 miles of short-line service** (about **19%** of the state total). There are no passenger rail stations in this region.

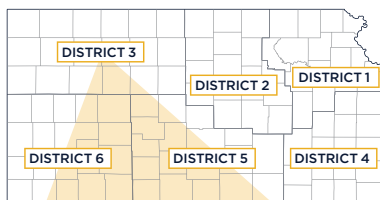


## AVIATION IN NORTHWEST KANSAS

- **5** airports (of **43** statewide) have runways long enough\* to attract new jobs/businesses and provide all-weather health emergency access.  
\*3,500-4,000 feet which is the minimum distance that jets need to take off.



# BUILDING A STRONG WORKFORCE IN NORTHWEST KANSAS



## KDOT/DISTRICT 3

CHEYENNE	RAWLINS	DECATUR	NORTON	PHILLIPS	SMITH
SHERMAN	THOMAS	SHERIDAN	GRAHAM	ROOKS	OSBORNE
WALLACE	LOGAN	GOVE	TREGO	ELLIS	RUSSELL



## BUILDING A STRONG WORKFORCE

- **17%** of workers travel to another county for work. (compared to **23%** statewide)
- **14 mins** is the average commute time (**18 mins** statewide)
- **17%** of workers age 24 and younger (**15%** statewide)
- **54%** of workers age 25-54 years (**61%** statewide)
- **20%** of workers age 55-64 years (**18%** statewide)
- Statewide, a larger share of younger workers carpool, use public transit, bike, or walk to work compared to older workers. In northwest Kansas the trend is **more**.



### Current top employment industries in northwest Kansas

- Local Government
- Manufacturing
- Healthcare & Social Assistance
- Retail Trade
- Accommodation & Food Service



### Top growing occupations in northwest Kansas

- Respiratory Therapists
- Physician Assistants
- Nurse Practitioners
- Personal Care Aides
- Personal Finance Advisors



## WHAT SHOULD WE CONSIDER TO MEET CURRENT & FUTURE CHALLENGES?



*What transportation investments can help recruit new businesses and the next generation of workers?*



*How will customer demands for ever-faster arrival of goods impact last-mile delivery?*



## MOVING FREIGHT IN KANSAS

- **49%** of Kansas communities depend exclusively on trucks to move goods, especially in rural areas not served by other modes.
- More than **470 million tons of freight** is transported in the state each year worth more than **\$380 billion**.
- **40%** of freight shipments stay within Kansas (originate in and are delivered within Kansas).
- Types of freight being transported include: farm products and livestock, manufactured goods and equipment, retail consumer goods, and energy and natural resources.



# SUPPORTING LIVABILITY IN NORTHWEST KANSAS



## WHAT SHOULD WE CONSIDER TO MEET CURRENT & FUTURE CHALLENGES?



*What transportation investments could support equitable access to jobs, education, healthcare and services?*



*What technology investments are needed to support economic development opportunities in the region?*



### CONNECTING TO HEALTH

- **44** healthcare facilities\* in the region. **17** are critical access hospitals.
- **5** regional runways provide all-weather health emergency access through air ambulance (**43** statewide).
- **435** staffed inpatient beds. **28** total ICU beds.
- Healthcare has been transformed rapidly during the course of the pandemic; nearly half (**48%**) of Kansans say they have used **telehealth** for a wide variety of reasons and types of care.

*\*Healthcare facilities include Community Mental Health Centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, Safety Net Clinics and Tribal & Urban Indian Health Centers.*



### CONNECTING TO EDUCATION

- **93** K-12 schools in the region (**6%** of the statewide total).
- **26%** K-12 students transported by bus (compared to about **42%** statewide in 2018\*).
- **3** continuing education institutions are located in northwest Kansas. This includes 1 technical college, 1 community college and 1 university.
- **21,405** continuing-ed students (**8%** of statewide total in 2018\*).

*\*Because the most recent data may not be representative of future trends, 2018 data has been used.*



### CONNECTING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

- **86%** of the population in this region is covered by broadband (**92%** statewide) and nearly 100% of the state is covered by cell service according to the Federal Communications Commission. However, residents, businesses and local officials report ongoing concerns about accessibility as well as affordability of these services.
- **6** Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations in the region. Many are open to the public; some are restricted to customers of businesses. Additional charging stations are tentatively planned for the Oakley area, Russell and WaKeeney.

Last updated 9/3/2021