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Press Release

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Reno County is awarded KDOT grant to replace Victory Road bridge southeast of Buhler

Reno County, Kansas – December 29, 2022

The Reno County Public Works Department, on behalf of Reno County, has been chosen to receive \$820,000 in grant funding for the replacement of the bridge on Victory Road one-half mile east and two miles south of Buhler. The grant is part of the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 Off System Bridge Program.

Don Brittain, Reno County Public Works Director, said that this was the third time he had applied for the grant to replace the 140-foot-long bridge that spans the Little Arkansas River. The bridge was built in 1962 and Brittain said that twice, major floods have caused the bridge deck to loosen from the piling supporting the bridge. Because of the large size of the bridge, Reno County's bridge crew is not able to build a new bridge. "I'm very pleased to be able to replace another bridge with a minimal cost to the taxpayers and be able to mark another bridge off the needed replacement list," said Brittain.

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) received 99 applications requesting assistance for projects totaling \$93.2 million in construction costs. KDOT was able to award \$20.5 million to 22 projects in the program supporting \$22.3 million worth of total construction costs.

The maximum amount of funding for the project is \$820,000. Eligible work includes construction and inspection performed under contract. Reno County is responsible for any costs over the maximum award as well as costs for design, right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation and any non-participating costs.

"On behalf of the rural Buhler residents in my district, I applaud the efforts of Reno County Public Works to leverage grant dollars to rebuild rural bridges to maintain fast access to emergency services and support our rural economy. We are too, thankful for KDOT's vision in helping our county secure critical infrastructure for generations to come," said Reno County Commission Chairman Daniel Friesen.

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