

18th Street Bridge Replacement

Fact Sheet | Summer 2022

KDOT Project No. 69-105 KA-4881-02



18TH STREET
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The U.S. 69 (18th Street) Bridge over the Kansas River is one of the few remaining deck truss bridges on the state highway system. Built in 1959, the bridge has undergone numerous rehabilitations over its 60-year life and is nearing the need for a new bridge design.

In 2019, KDOT completed a study that evaluated alternatives to identify a preferred alternative to replace the bridge for the long-term. The study team developed bridge alternatives with the key goals being to maintain the river crossing and improve safety for motorists through the 18th Street Corridor.



The 18th Street Bridge, built in 1959, is nearing the end of its service life.



STUDY PROCESS

The study process evaluated and compared the alternatives using qualitative and quantitative factors to identify the alternative that best met the project goals. In addition, a public engagement process, including a community survey, was conducted to gather public input on the alternatives under consideration. The team identified the final preferred alternative as the option that best met the goals and evaluation criteria of the study.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Alternative 1, the On-Alignment Alternative, was determined to be the most feasible option as it best meets the project goals and evaluation factors. The key factors that differentiated this alternative were cost, impacts to adjacent properties, environmental considerations, maintenance of traffic and safety during construction. This alternative focuses on the bridge replacement and limits impacts along the corridor. It minimizes encroachment on adjacent properties and protects sensitive environmental resources.

The On-Alignment Alternative will utilize a full closure of 18th Street to construct the new bridge. This approach will allow for construction to be completed in the safest manner for both construction staff and travelers. KDOT analyzed detours to accommodate the full closure, and several low impact detours were determined to be viable options for travelers. The analysis indicated that travelers can expect minimal travel delay and high trip reliability during construction. More information will be provided as the project progresses.

The On-Alignment Alternative was selected because it:



Minimizes Project Footprint



Protects Environmental Resources



Limits Impacts to Adjacent Properties



Provides Highest Return on Investment

PROJECT BENEFITS

The new bridge will provide a safer river crossing. Potential improvements include four 12-foot lanes with upgraded, standard shoulders. Exterior shoulders will be 10-feet wide and interior shoulders will be 6-feet wide. The new bridge addresses the existing, aging structure providing a new, high-quality bridge that will serve the needs of the traveling public long into the future.

In addition, KDOT will be implementing improvements to some of the adjacent bridges, roadway pavement, and roadside safety elements to make additional investments in the corridor and take advantage of the full closure.



This image is an example exhibit of what the bridge could look like upon completion.

SCHEDULE AND NEXT STEP

The Project Team is moving forward on the 18th Street Bridge Replacement Project with the On-Alignment Alternative. Preliminary design started in 2021 and will conclude by the end of 2022 with a final design process to follow. Construction is tentatively set to begin in 2025. As the project moves forward, the team will meet with the public to provide project updates. Below is an overview of the schedule.

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Preliminary Design	■			
Final Design		■		
Right-of-Way Activities		■		
Public Engagement	▲	▲		▲
Potential Construction Begin				★

STAY ENGAGED AT WWW.18THSTREETBRIDGEKCK.COM

The Project Team has created a website to provide the most up to date information about the Project. As the project moves forward, there will be opportunities to meet with the Project Team and provide comments and ask questions. Stay engaged and learn more about the 18th Street Bridge Replacement Project by signing up to receive updates about the Project and upcoming events at www.18thstreetbridgekck.com.



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