

# 18th Street Bridge Replacement Project

Fact Sheet | Fall 2023

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

PUB #: KA.4881.02.FA.2023.09.02



**18TH STREET**  
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The U.S. 69 (18th Street) Bridge over the Kansas River in Kansas City, Kansas (KCK), 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 needs a new design and complete replacement.

## 18TH STREET BRIDGE DESIGN

The project is moving forward with final design and will replace the bridge at its current location. The new bridge will use modern design standards, including new 10-foot wide exterior shoulders and 6-foot wide interior shoulders. It will also include visually appealing designs for the fencing over the railroad and the exterior concrete pattern. The pattern will be a stone pattern consistent with the Lewis and Clark Viaduct that connects KCK to Kansas City, Missouri. The consistency will help reduce costs associated with maintenance and will provide a similar look and feel throughout the area.

KDOT will be implementing additional improvements in the corridor to utilize a full closure of 18th Street and improve motorists driving experience. These improvements will include:

- Roadway improvements along 18th Street just north and south of the river bridge.
- Bridge rehabilitation on the 18th Street bridges over Ruby Ave., Metropolitan Ave., KCT Railroad and Osage Ave.



10-foot-wide exterior shoulders and 6-foot-wide interior shoulders will increase safety for motorists.



The new bridge will include visually appealing fencing over the railroad yard.



The exterior bridge concrete will include a stone pattern that is consistent with the Lewis and Clark bridge.

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

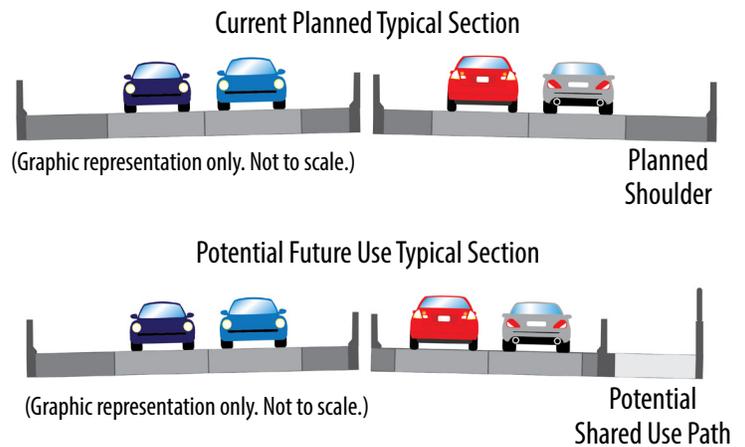
## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) collaborates with communities to determine the right bike and pedestrian elements on all roadway and bridge projects. The intent, when possible, is to integrate bike and pedestrian facilities that are safer and serve the needs of the community.

Since the 18th Street Expressway is a freeway that carries over 30,000 vehicles per day and has a posted speed of 55 mph, there are safety concerns with providing bike and pedestrian facilities directly on 18th Street. For this reason, KDOT recommends to not include bike and pedestrian facilities on 18th Street, but rather, continue working with the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, KS (UG), Mid-America Regional Council and other community partners to determine meaningful improvements on the routes identified in the current city-wide master plan developed by the UG.

However, KDOT recognizes that the needs of communities can evolve. For this reason, the proposed replacement bridge is being designed to accommodate both the freeway section today, and a potential future arterial (lower speed) street section which could include bike and pedestrian paths. If future studies determine that a different facility type and lower posted speed better serves the needs of all users, the bridge could be modified to incorporate bike and pedestrian facilities at that time.

**KDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Vision:** Kansas will be a place where people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds have safe and convenient options to walk, bike, roll, and use other active modes for transportation and recreation.



## NEXT STEPS

The final design phase will conclude in 2024 with construction projected to begin in 2025. The bridge will be closed to traffic throughout the duration of construction. It is estimated that this full closure will last for two construction seasons or approximately 24 months. Alternative detour routes will include I-35, I-635 and I-70.

## SCHEDULE

	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Preliminary Design</b>				
<b>Right-of-Way Activities</b>				
<b>Final Design</b>				
<b>Public Engagement</b>	▲	▲		▲
<b>Potential Construction Begins</b>				★

## STAY ENGAGED

Sign up for project updates at [18thstreetbridgekck.ksdot.gov](https://18thstreetbridgekck.ksdot.gov).



## PROJECT CONTACTS:

**Steve Bass, PE**  
KDOT Project Manager  
(785) 296-3840  
[stephen.bass@ks.gov](mailto:stephen.bass@ks.gov)

**Delaney Tholen**  
KDOT Public Affairs  
(785) 296-0192  
[delaney.tholen@ks.gov](mailto:delaney.tholen@ks.gov)

**Brian Hash, PE**  
Project Manager  
(913) 312-4895  
[bhash@hntb.com](mailto:bhash@hntb.com)

KDOT Project No.  
69-105 KA-4881-02  
PUB#: 1.2023.4.30001