

The Kansas Safety Corridor Pilot Program

Did you know that, on average, more than 400 die and 1,700 people suffer serious injuries from crashes on Kansas roadways every year? To reduce the number of fatal and serious injury crashes, the Kansas Drive to Zero (DTZ) Coalition works with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) to implement strategies from the Kansas Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). One of these strategies is to develop a safety corridor program, which begins as a pilot or trial program.

What is a safety corridor?

In this pilot program, a safety corridor is a section of highway selected for increased traffic safety strategies. Examples can include:

- Education: multilingual public outreach on billboards, radio stations, newspapers, and social media.
- Law enforcement: additional high-visibility enforcement to encourage safe driving behaviors, such as wearing seat belts.
- Engineering: low- and medium-cost safety improvements, such as enhanced pavement markings and signing.
- Emergency Response: Research and identification of any issues with post-crash care in the corridor.

Where are the pilot safety corridors?

Four corridors were identified statewide for this pilot program (see maps). Corridor limits were determined based on the following factors:

- Crash history, including fatal and injury crashes,
- Availability of additional law enforcement, and
- Input from local traffic safety partners.

From 2016 to 2021, 513 crashes occurred on these corridors resulting in 35 deaths and 66 serious injuries.

Planned Program Timeline

- 2023 Launch pilot program.
- 2023-2025 Implement education, enforcement, and short-term engineering strategies.
- 2026-2028 Implement long-term engineering strategies and evaluate the pilot program.

What does the safety corridor mean for drivers?

Motorists will see and hear targeted media campaigns, signage, and increased law enforcement within the corridors. With more drivers choosing safer speeds, wearing seat belts, and avoiding driving while impaired, we expect increased safety for all road users along the safety corridors.

