

# Project Overview



**18TH STREET**  
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT



The 18th Street Bridge over the Kansas River was built in 1959 and has been a crucial part of the community for more than 60 years. Over the course of its life, the bridge has undergone numerous rehabilitations and repairs, however, the bridge is nearing the end of its lifespan. After consideration, the Project Team decided to completely replace the bridge to improve the travel conditions and safety through the 18th Street Corridor.



## Project Goals:

- Maintain the River Crossing
- Improve motorist safety along 18th Street Corridor

## Project Area



# Existing Conditions



These existing conditions were reviewed during the study:

## Traffic:

Traffic analysis determined that the number of lanes and configuration is adequate for the number of vehicles traveling through the corridor. Traffic is not expected to increase considerably in the future, so the corridor is capable of handling future traffic needs.

## River-related environmental considerations include:

- Fringe Wetlands
- Floodplain
- Aquatic Threatened and Endangered Species (creates seasonal construction restrictions)

## Safety:

With the existing 28-foot roadway widths being a safety concern, shoulder widths across the bridge and ramp lanes were identified as areas of potential improvement.



**ARGENTINE NEIGHBORHOOD**

**SHAWNEE HEIGHTS**

**ARMOURDALE NEIGHBORHOOD**

Steele Rd

Kansas Ave



## Water:

The current bridge does not have adequate vertical clearance over the river and levees. During extreme high water events, the bridge spans can gather debris, which can affect the river's flow capacity.

# Study Process

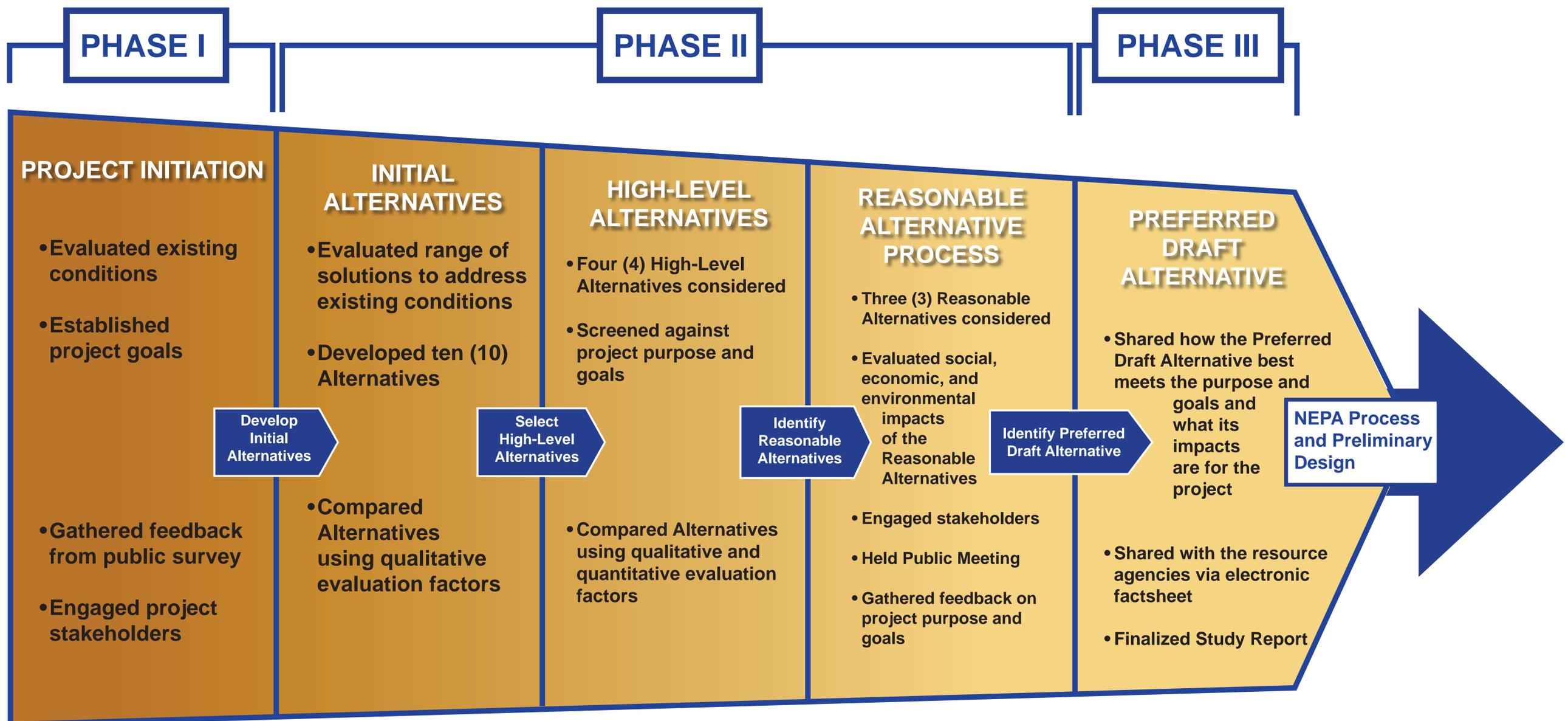


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## How We Got Here

In 2019, KDOT conducted a study to evaluate various alignment alternatives and identify a Preferred Alternative that best met their project goals. The process evaluated many alternatives based on factors including safety, traffic, impacts to the river and floodplain, and public opinion. The On-Alignment Alternative was selected as the Preferred Alternative to best meet the project goals and public needs.



# Preferred Alternative



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## Preferred Alternative: On-Alignment



The On-Alignment Alternative was selected as the preferred project alternative and is currently in the preliminary design phase. This alternative...



**Minimizes Project Footprint**



**Limits Impacts to Adjacent Properties**



**Protects Environmental Resources**



**Provides Highest Return on Investment**

This project will require a full closure of the 18th Street Bridge for two construction seasons and is anticipated to be closed for approximately 20 months, beginning in 2025. This will allow for construction to be completed efficiently and safely for both workers and travelers. KDOT has already identified several low impact detours that will result in minimal travel delays and high trip reliability during construction.

# Project Benefits



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This project will replace the deteriorating structure and provide an efficient, safe, and high-quality bridge that will support continued activity along 18th Street for years to come.

Benefits of the new bridge include:

- Four 12-foot lanes
- 10-foot wide exterior shoulders
- 6-foot wide interior shoulders

KDOT will also be working to improve adjacent bridges, roadway pavement, and roadside safety elements to maximize the benefits of the road closure.



*Rendering*

# Schedule/Next Steps



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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.

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

## Stay Engaged

As the project progresses there will be opportunities for the public to remain informed and receive project updates. Sign up for project updates at [www.18thstreetbridgekck.com](http://www.18thstreetbridgekck.com).



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