

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Five short line railroad projects selected for stimulus funding**

Five short line railroad improvement projects in Kansas have been selected to receive nearly \$2.2 million in federal stimulus funding. Short line rail accounts for about 41 percent (1,930 miles) of the nearly 4,780 miles of rail across the state. Short line railroads transport about 14.5 million tons of freight in Kansas each year.

The state received \$348 million for highway and bridge projects through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. ARRA allowed states to devote a portion of their highway and bridge funding to rail projects. KDOT sought applications from short line railroads and port authorities to share approximately \$3 million for projects to build or improve infrastructure. The grants are intended to enhance economic vitality in the areas served by the railroads.

“All the applications we received were for worthwhile projects so it was challenging to decide which would be funded,” said KDOT Director of Planning and Development Chris Herrick. “The projects we selected will benefit shippers and industry as well as local and regional economies. They will bring greater efficiency and improve safety on the short lines. Moving freight by rail also reduces the number of heavy trucks on our highways, saving on maintenance costs.”

The number of requests for short line railroad grants exceeded the available funds. KDOT received 16 requests for grants totaling \$18,978,000. Staff from KDOT’s Bureau of Transportation Planning and the Freight and Rail Unit evaluated and selected the projects following specified criteria, such as job creation, whether the project was in an economically distressed area and whether it could be completed within three years. Most of the projects will include matching funds, so the ARRA funds could be stretched even further.

The selected projects are:

- **Kyle Railroad Company, Scandia** – construct 2,000 feet of new siding and a new switch at Nesika Energy, \$371,000 (Republic County)
- **Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad, Alexander** – expand siding at Mid-States Farmers Coop, \$158,470 (Rush County)
- **Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad, outside of Wichita** – add siding to handle 110-car grain trains, \$967,820 (Sedgwick County)
- **Nebraska Kansas Colorado Railroad, near St. Francis** – partial funding for bridge rehabilitation, \$476,826 (Cheyenne, Rawlins and Decatur counties)
- **Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad, Sawyer** – extend siding capacity at Farmers Coop, \$195,278 (Pratt County)

To view the full list of applications and requested funding, visit KDOT's ARRA Web page at <http://www.ksdot.org/EconomicStimulus.asp> and go to "Other Recovery Projects."