Getting it Done
Lessons from T-WORKS

presented to
National Conference of State Legislatures

presented by
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August 8, 2012
Governor signed bill in May 2010

$8 billion, 10-year program

Includes funding and better business models for all modes

No set list of projects

Funded by a 4/10 cent sales tax, additional bonding authority
Key Ingredients of TWORKS

- Agency Credibility: Past programs successful
- Solid Process: 7-year planning & outreach effort
- Citizen Buy-in: 2,000+ Kansans participated
- Political Leadership: Strong bi-partisan support of Governor & Senate President
- Good Timing: Budget shortfalls forced the need for a tax increase.
Credibility: **20 years of Success**

- All projects completed as promised
Process & Buy-In: Partnership Project 2003

- 900+ stakeholders surveyed
  - Learned relationships with local governments needed to improve
  - One-size-fits-all solutions don’t always work

- Adopted “Responsible & Responsive” mantra

- Developed more nimble approach tailored to local needs
“Over the past decade, KDOT has more intentionally and continuously engaged with transportation stakeholders than ever before. These efforts have saved both the State and local governments (and ultimately our citizens) significant money, in addition to benefiting the traveling public and freight moving across Kansas.”

--Randall Allen, executive director of the Kansas Association of Counties

- 40+ meetings
- 420 Kansans participate, 5 working groups assembled

Learned:
  » Preservation top priority
  » Transportation investments need to be linked to Kansas’ economic priorities
  » Needs: 400 potential projects identified

- Charged with crafting a new approach to transportation
- 14 meetings held, 850+ Kansans participate
- Created new highway project selection processes
- Developed better business models
### New Project Selection Process

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<th></th>
<th>Engineering Data</th>
<th>Local Consult</th>
<th>Economic Impact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preservation</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Modernization</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expansion</td>
<td>50%</td>
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- 200 projects scored using new process
- 6 meetings held
- 800+ Kansans participate, offer input on scores
- Some scores are revised
- Overall, Kansans supportive of process
Process & Buy-in: Continuous Communication 2003-2010

- 2,300+ stakeholder e-mail list
- Taskforce members testify before legislative committees
- K-TOC: agency’s online community
- YouTube video news releases
- Tweeting from transportation events
“When we have an economy like we have now, to me one of the most important things we can do to stimulate our economy… would be to pass… a comprehensive transportation plan.”

-- Kansas Senate President Steve Morris, Republican

“This (T-WORKS) is one of the most important pieces of economic development, of jobs legislation that has ever passed in Kansas.”

-- Governor Mark Parkinson, Democrat
Good Timing

- Despite $1 billion worth of cuts in state spending, Legislators faced a short-fall of $500 million.

- Legislators used transportation program as an incentive to pass a sales tax increase.
ksleg : Long: "With all respect to my chairman, it's time we pass this comprehensive transportation plan. [...] It's taken three years." #ksleg 3:15 PM May 11th via TweetDeck

ksleg : Long: "This makes Kansas a better place to live. Let's keep this going...” "Transportation Works for Kansas and you know it...” #ksleg 3:20 PM May 11th via TweetDeck
Passed!

- The result of a 7 year planning & outreach effort
- 2,000+ Kansans participated
- 95+ meetings held across the state
- 175,000 jobs expected to be created
Keys to Keeping it

- Regions informed of anticipated spending ranges, have expectations
- Continuous communication efforts
- Kansans have been involved from the start, and will continue to be involved in selecting projects—recently helped identify what the best combination of projects was for their region
Lessons Learned

- Transparency not only makes you more credible, it creates expectations
- Don’t be afraid to be bold
- Collaborate to connect with themes that resonate