



REPRESENTATIVE SHARICE DAVIDS

THE STATE OF OUR SYSTEMS: SAFETY

An investigative series on the Kansas Third District's
infrastructure systems from Representative Sharice Davids

JUNE 2022

INTRODUCTION

The Kansas Third District has long been a hub for transportation, with rail, highway, air, and water infrastructure converging right here in our backyard. However, decades of underinvestment has led to a growing need in communities across the country, Kansas City Metro included, for repairs, upgrades, and additions to the systems that allow us to live our lives.

As Vice Chair of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the first Kansan on the committee in a decade, Representative Sharice Davids is working to reverse that trend and bring smart, sustainable investment to the Kansas Third District. Through policies that create jobs, tackle climate change, and encourage sustainable economic growth, we can ensure the Kansas Third District remains a center for infrastructure for decades to come.



5TH

highest fatality rate
on rural roads

Kansas has the 5th-highest fatality rate on rural roads in the country. ([TRIP](#))

20

hours

One Kansan dies due to a traffic-related crash every 20 hours. ([KDOT](#))

150%

increase in
pedestrian fatalities

Kansas had the 2nd largest increase in pedestrian fatalities from 2019 to 2020, at 150%. ([GHSA](#))

21%

of pedestrian
deaths happen in
KS-03

21% of Kansas' pedestrian crash-related deaths in 2020 happened in the Third District. ([MARC](#))

A CLOSER LOOK

Federally Funded Safety Improvement



SAFER STREETS: US 69

- US 69 is one of the most congested roads in the state. Traffic volume is projected to double by 2045.
- The corridor experiences crash rates above the statewide average.
- At three different locations within a 4-mile stretch in Johnson County, crash volume peaks higher than one crash per day.

Federally Funded Safety Improvement



SAFER SIDEWALKS: 47TH STREET

- When surveyed, Johnson and Wyandotte County residents ranked safety, especially for pedestrians and cyclists, as a top priority for the 47th Street corridor.
- Set to begin implementation this year, the 47th Street Complete Streets plan will create a safe and welcoming destination for all with dedicated bike lanes and enhanced pedestrian crossings.

Federally Funded Safety Improvement



STRONGER ENFORCEMENT: KCK POLICE

- The Third District experienced record high injuries and deaths from unrestrained passengers in 2020 and contributed 27.5% of alcohol-impaired crashes in the state in 2019.
- A federal overtime grant for the KCK Police Department allowed the department to make more than 700 contacts and arrest six DUI offenders.

“Last year, the U.S. hit a 16 year high in roadway deaths, and here in our state, one Kansan loses their life every 20 hours to a motor vehicle accident. The bipartisan infrastructure law invests in safer streets, safer sidewalks, and stronger enforcement to reverse this trend and save lives.”

-Representative Sharice Davids

HELP IS HERE: SAFETY

Representative Davids is a consistent advocate for bringing smart, sustainable infrastructure investments to the Kansas Third District. Davids supports several pieces of legislation that will improve our infrastructure's safety, support traffic enforcement, and reduce crashes.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

- Allocated \$117 million to Johnson County and \$32.1 million to Wyandotte County in the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, flexible funding which can be used for roads or other infrastructure.

BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

- Invests \$5 billion over 5 years in a **new Safe Streets & Roads for All grant program** to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.
- Allocates nearly \$16 billion over 5 years, a **25% increase**, to the Highway Safety Improvement Program which provides crucial funding to the Kansas Department of Transportation to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries.
- Updates safety standards for new vehicles for the **first time in 12 years**, requiring that all new passenger vehicles be equipped with advanced crash avoidance technologies.
- Increases funding for **Safe Routes to School (SRTS)** by ~60% in 2022, helping local entities like the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment empower youth to bike and walk to school safely.
- Strengthens safety standards for heavy-duty commercial motor vehicles and improves training programs to ensure **safe, highly-trained drivers**.