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***Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission Honored with   
2025 Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations***

# **July 15, 2025 –** Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission (SEKRPC) based in Chanute, Kansas has recently been recognized with a 2025 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

The SEKRPC is developing a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan aimed at enhancing traffic safety across its 12-county region, grounding the plan in the Safe System Approach that recognizes fatal and serious injury traffic crashes are preventable through strategic interventions. By fostering a holistic framework that operates on the principles of establishing robust layers of protection, the plan aims to ensure that the transportation system is safer for all road users. SEKRPC led the development and implementation of the Safe Streets for All grant application, including organizing and conducting stakeholder engagement. The agency also oversaw the consultant procurement process, managed funding requests, and promoted Safety Task Force meetings in coordination with the TranSystems Corporation team. The plan serves as an invaluable resource for empowering local leaders to make informed choices that directly reflect the priorities of the community.

The project partners are: U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program; Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) SS4A Matching Funds program; TranSystems Corporation team; Allen County; Anderson County; Bourbon County; Cherokee County; Coffey County; Crawford County; Labette County; Linn County; Montgomery County; Neosho County; Wilson County; Woodson County.

Presented annually, the [NADO Impact Awards](https://www.nado.org/2025impactawards/) honor regional development organizations and their partners for strengthening communities, building regional resilience, and enhancing local economies through innovative approaches to economic and community development. NADO is a Washington, DC-based membership association of regional development organizations that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies.

This year’s cohort included 90 impactful projects led by 79 organizations across 24 states. These award-winning efforts will be recognized during [NADO’s 2025 Annual Training Conference](https://www.nado.org/2025atc/), held this coming October in Salt Lake City, Utah. All selected projects are featured in an interactive StoryMap that showcases summaries, images, and key partners. The map is available at [www.nado.org/2025impactawards/](http://www.nado.org/2025impactawards/).

“The Impact Awards are an annual reminder of the creativity and commitment that regional development organizations bring to their communities,” said 2024-2025 NADO President Rick Hunsaker, Executive Director of the Region XII Council of Governments in Iowa. “This year’s awardees show how local and regional partnerships, driven by vision and collaboration, can lead to lasting positive change across our country.”

“With seven US Highways traversing our area and linking us to major metropolitan hubs, it is imperative that we invest in enhancing these key routes. This project is a direct response to the needs of our communities, aiming to upgrade our highway infrastructure so that it can effectively support the growing flow of freight and personal travel.” said Carey Spoon, Executive Director of SEKRPC. “We are grateful for this acknowledgment from NADO, which inspires us to continue our mission of innovative planning and development strategies.”

The Impact Awards are presented in memory of Aliceann Wohlbruck, NADO’s first executive director, who was a lifelong advocate for regional solutions and rural economic development.

For more information, contact Executive Director Carey Spoon at 620-431-0080 or director@sekrpc.org.

**About SEKRPC**

At the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission (SEKRPC) our goal is to improve the quality of life in southeast Kansas by providing the tools to create and retain jobs and increase the services available in our communities. To accomplish this goal, the SEKRPC offers professional development, planning and management services to local governments, and assist in the administration of local programs and projects. Learn more about SEKRPC at [www.sekrpc.org](http://www.sekrpc.org).

**About NADO**

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) promotes public policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through the regional strategies, coordination efforts, and program expertise of the nation’s regional development organizations. Learn more about NADO at [www.nado.org](http://www.nado.org).