



You're Up to Bat

The Case for Regional Partnerships

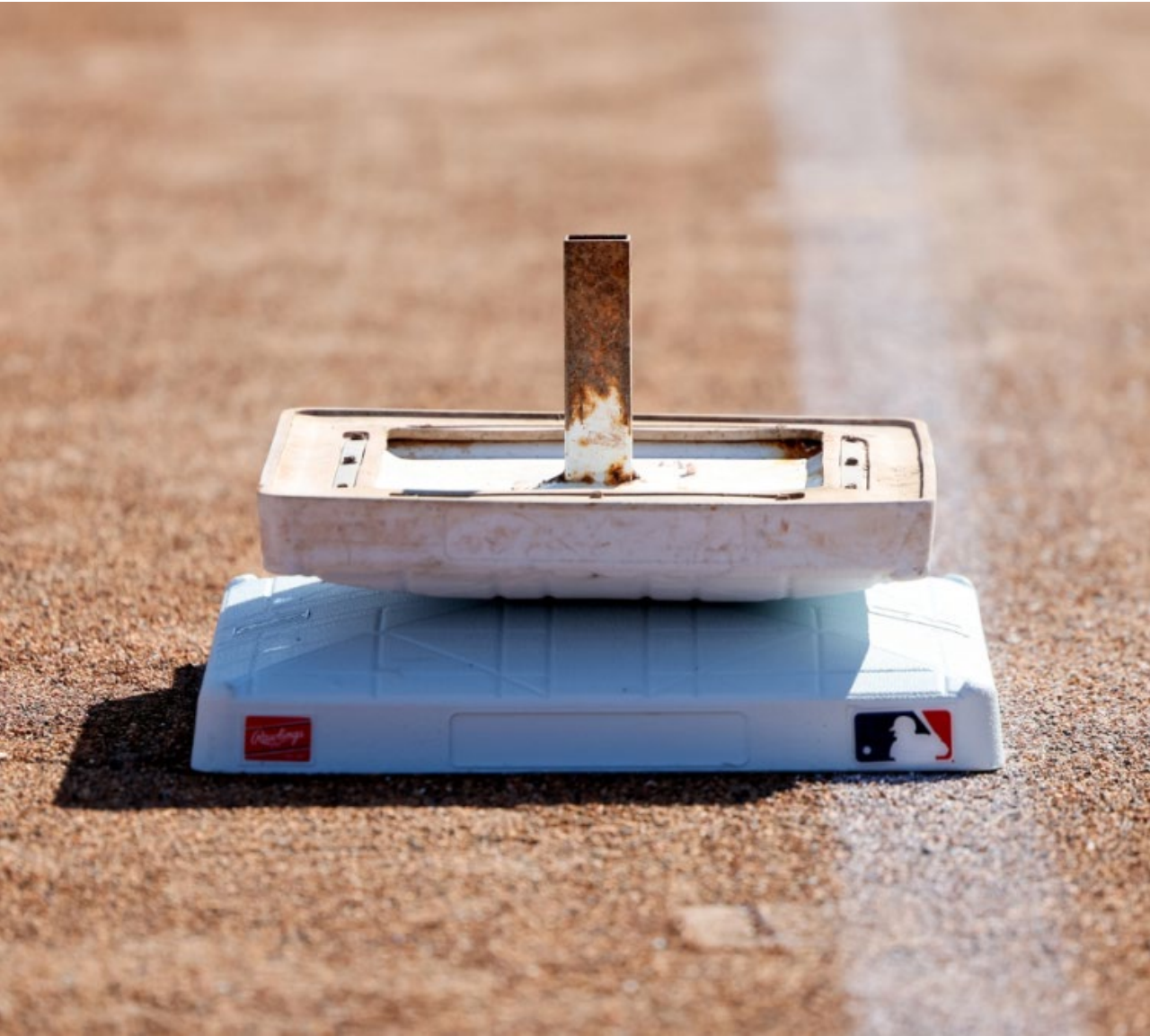
Kansas Infrastructure Summit
April 29, 2026
Julie Lorenz

Hays, Kansas 1885





Baseball Seized an Opportunity Through Thoughtful Changes



Is this Our Opportunity to Change Direction?



Demand Greatly Exceeds Funding



**HB 2302 Water
Grants 2025**

11% of needs funded

\$26M Awarded

\$237M Requested



**KDOT Local Bridge
Program 2025**

21% of needs funded

\$40M Awarded

\$189M Requested

One Tool: Regional Collaboration

Regional Infrastructure Project Examples:

- Bundling multiple bridge repairs into a single project
- Bundling engineering studies for shared wastewater systems
- Connecting water systems to increase resiliency
- Regional transportation studies that guide shared investment

Communities See the Value – But Barriers Exist

82%

**Regional
Collaboration is
Important**

2025 Hub Statewide Survey

- **Barriers include:**
 - Lack of engineering studies or project readiness
 - Limited staff capacity
 - Uncertainty about who coordinates regional projects
 - Competing priorities between communities

What do People Value Most in a Community?



Security



Connection



Belonging

Infrastructure Supports Thriving Communities



Security

- Safe roads & bridges
- Reliable water
- Resilient infrastructure



Connection

- Broadband access
- Reliable utility networks
- Regional transportation networks



Belonging

- Walkable streets
- Revitalized main streets
- Safe public spaces



Why Regional Collaboration Matters





Today's Breakout Session Focus

Project Readiness

- Where communities face the greatest challenges preparing projects
- Key barriers in project development
- Scale and volume of projects in the pipeline

Regional Collaboration

- Opportunities for joint or regional projects
- Types of projects that benefit from bundling
- How the Kansas Infrastructure Hub can support collaboration

Outcomes

- Inform future workshops
- Shape Hub support models
- Identify collaboration opportunities

Hays, Kansas 2026





Breakout Session Rooms

Ballroom	Regions
A	Southeast, Mid-America & MO-KAN
B	North Central & South Central
C	Flint Hills & NoEDD
D	Northwest, Great Plains & Tribal

Groups based on registration numbers.

Regional Breakouts

