



## KUTC Begins Research on the Use of Drones

*By Lisa Koch*

This spring, the University of Kansas Transportation Center is conducting exciting research on the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), often called “drones,” to determine their applications in the local public works environment. Project Manager Lisa Koch, associate researcher with the Center, will be analyzing research related to UAS in engineering and public works, with specific emphasis on a recent National Cooperation Highway Research Program (NCHRP) report that synthesized the state of the practice (NCHRP Domestic Scan: 17-01 Successful Approaches for the Use of Unmanned Aerial Systems by Surface Transportation Agencies). Koch will then develop and implement a survey that will be distributed to Kansas public works/road and bridge professions regarding their current and future use of drone technology.

Information collected from the research scan and the survey will be used to develop an LTAP training course or module for public works/road and bridge professionals.

The research is funded through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) Incentive program. The FHWA provides resources to help STICs foster a culture for innovation and make innovations standard practice in their States. Through the program, funding is made available to support or offset the costs of standardizing innovative practices at the state and local levels. The program is administered nationally by FHWA’s Center for Accelerating Innovation (CAI).

The project will begin in late winter 2019 and will end the fall of 2019. For more information about the project, please contact Lisa Koch at [kolisach@ku.edu](mailto:kolisach@ku.edu).

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