

Southeast District Office  
411 W. Fourteenth  
Chanute, KS 66720-2894



phone: 620-431-1000  
fax: 620-431-4406  
[www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org)

Mike King, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**News contact:** Priscilla Petersen, (620) 431-1000; [Priscilla@ksdot.org](mailto:Priscilla@ksdot.org)

## **KDOT constructing new passing lanes on U.S. 400 northwest of Fredonia**

Monday, Aug. 10, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) expects to begin the construction of new concrete passing lanes on U.S. 400 northwest of Fredonia. The expansion project starts 1½ miles east of the Greenwood/Wilson County line and continues east for 1½ miles. The existing westbound passing lane will be extended westward for 0.9 miles, with a 12-foot wide concrete passing lane and 10-foot shoulder. The existing eastbound passing lane will be extended for 0.3 miles, with new 12-foot wide concrete pavement and 10-foot wide shoulder.

The existing highway shoulders are being removed where the passing lanes are being extended. Nine inches of concrete will be used to pave the new passing lane and adjacent shoulder. The contractor will first extend the crossroad culvert pipes and remove the shoulder, and then begin the earthwork to extend the westbound passing lane. Once the new westbound passing lane is complete, work will start on the eastbound passing lane. The westbound passing lane is expected to be finished by mid-October and the eastbound passing lane by early December 2015, weather permitting.

During most phases of the project two-way traffic will be shifted onto the existing eastbound or westbound lanes under a reduced speed limit. Traffic will occasionally be restricted to one lane controlled by flaggers, resulting in delays of 15 minutes or less at the work zone. Access to side road entrances will be maintained. A 12-foot driving lane width restriction will be in effect for wide loads within the project limits.

KDOT awarded Koss Construction Company of Topeka, Kan., the \$1.4 million construction contract. Tim Burton, construction engineer at the Independence KDOT office, reminds drivers to watch for the signs and flaggers, reduce speed through the work zone and “Give ‘Em a Brake!” Persons with questions concerning this project may contact Burton at (620) 331-3760 or Priscilla Petersen at 1-877-550-5368.

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