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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2015

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# **Update: U.S. 54 railroad bridge closure expected this weekend**

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) now expects to close the U.S. 54 railroad overpass east of Yates Center as soon as Saturday, March 7, or early in the week of March 9-13. The closure had originally been set for March 2 but was pushed back owing to weather-related concerns.

The bridge spans the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. It is located 1½ miles east of the Yates Center city limits and 20½ miles west of Iola. KDOT will demolish the existing structure and replace it with a weathered steel span bridge.

After the bridge is closed the work zone will remain closed to through U.S. 54 traffic until the new bridge is completed this autumn. The signed detour on state highways for eastbound U.S. 54 traffic is as follows: from the U.S. 75/U.S. 54 junction at Yates Center proceed south on U.S. 75 to the U.S. 75/K-39 junction, continue east on K-39 to the K-39/U.S. 169 junction at Chanute, then travel north on U.S. 169 to the U.S. 169/U.S. 54 junction at Iola. Westbound U.S. 54 traffic will take the same route in the opposite direction.

KDOT awarded the construction contract of \$4.2 million to A.M. Cohron & Son of Atlantic, Iowa. This bridge replacement project has a calendar completion date of October 16, 2015. Persons with questions concerning the project may contact KDOT Iola Area Construction Engineer Dayna Barlow at (620) 365-2161 or Southeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager Priscilla Petersen at 1-877-550-5368.

For the latest information on highway and weather conditions in Kansas call 511 or go to [www.kandrive.org](http://www.kandrive.org).

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