

Southwest District Office
121 N. Campus Drive
Garden City, KS 67846



phone: 620-276-3241
fax: 620-276-2333
www.ksdot.org

Julie Lorenz, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

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Lisa Knoll
620.765.7080
lisa.knoll@ks.gov

Groundbreaking for U.S. 54 project celebrated in Seward County

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), state and local officials and highway advocates attended a groundbreaking ceremony for the previously delayed U.S. 54 expansion project in Seward County this morning.

“This U.S. 54 project is a true connection point between delivering on the promises of our past transportation program, T-WORKS – and serving as a guidepost for the work we want to do under our next program, FORWARD,” said Transportation Secretary Julie Lorenz.

State Representative, Shannon Francis, and Rozelle Webb, CEO of the Liberal Chamber of Commerce, joined Secretary Lorenz in speaking prior to the groundbreaking event.

“This project means safer traveling for our eastern Seward County residents who drive to Liberal to work every day and safer traveling for folks who are passing through Seward County on the way to their eastern and western destinations.” Rozelle Webb stated. “Also, the increase in truck traffic will have a positive economic impact on our community.”

Improvements to highways across the state are important for many reasons.

“What this project means for this road is reconstructed pavement, improved shoulders where we currently have them and new 10-foot shoulders where we don’t,” Secretary Lorenz said. “But what this project means for Kansans is a safer trip to school, commute to work or transport of goods to market.”

KDOT is expanding three miles of U.S. 54 from two lanes to a 4-lane divided limited access expressway in Seward County. Koss Construction Company of Topeka is the primary contractor on the \$27.6 million T-WORKS project, which is located just east of the current 4-lane divided expressway in Seward County. The project will also add a second bridge over

the Cimarron River for westbound U.S. 54 traffic and repair the existing U.S. 54 bridge over the Cimarron River for eastbound traffic. The intersection of R Park Road and U.S. 54 will be realigned to a 90-degree intersection to improve driver's sight line and turn lanes will be added at U.S. 54 and Davies/Panhandle Road.

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