

South Central District Office  
500 N. Hendricks  
Hutchinson, KS 67504-0769



phone: 620-663-3361  
fax: 620-663-1804  
[www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org)

Mike King, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**News Contact:** Martin Miller, (620) 663-3361; cell (620) 727-2278  
[martinm@ksdot.org](mailto:martinm@ksdot.org)

## **New K-61 Highway Lanes and 30<sup>th</sup> Street West Open**

As part of the construction progress for the new four lane alignment of K-61 highway in Reno County, traffic will be switched today to the newly constructed K-61 lanes. Additionally, as part of this opening of the newly constructed K-61, the intersection with 30<sup>th</sup> Street west of K-61 which had been closed on Monday, April 2, will also be opened today, but 30<sup>th</sup> Street east of K-61 will now close to complete the final construction of the K-61 and 30<sup>th</sup> Street intersection.

With 30<sup>th</sup> Street west of K-61 near Union Valley School now reopened, 30<sup>th</sup> Street traffic in that area will have access to K-61 to turn north or south on K-61, but there will be no through traffic across K-61 on 30<sup>th</sup> Street going east, so drivers on the east side of K-61 will need to use an alternate route.

Now that traffic is switched to the new K-61 alignment, drivers will have access to local roads from the new K-61 north of Hutchinson through two interchanges with ramps at Medora and at 56<sup>th</sup> Street, and in Hutchinson by intersections with traffic signals at 30<sup>th</sup> Street and at 17<sup>th</sup> Street, but as stated earlier the 30<sup>th</sup> Street intersection is currently closed east of K-61.

Two sections of the newly constructed K-61 will initially be open to two lanes only to allow for the removal of the old roadway and construction of new concrete pavement. These two lane sections are from north of Medora to the Reno/McPherson County line

and from 30<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> Streets in Hutchinson. Drivers can also expect some sections of the new K-61 four lane to have intermittent work continuing, so some additional areas may temporarily have reduced lanes.

30<sup>th</sup> Street will remain closed at the location between K-61 and Apple Lane until the end of June; while the existing concrete pavement is removed, earth work completed, new concrete pavement is constructed, and new traffic signals installed. Construction of the pedestrian bridge over K-61 at 30<sup>th</sup> Street will be completed later this fall.

KDOT urges all motorists to be alert, obey the warning signs, and “Give ’Em a Brake!” when approaching and driving through a highway work zone. Persons with questions about this road work can contact the KDOT South Central Kansas Public Affairs Manager, Martin Miller at 620-663-3361 or 1-877-550-5368 (Toll Free).

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This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information, 700 SW Harrison St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.

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