

## NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation news release

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **KDOT announces projects that will preserve roads, bridges**

Dozens of projects that will preserve the state's highway infrastructure have been announced by Kansas Transportation Secretary Deb Miller.

Thirty-five of the 56 projects added to the construction schedule for the next five years are bridge replacements. Other projects include significant work on western stretches of I-70 and pavement resurfacing and replacement throughout the state. The estimated cost of the projects is \$401.6 million.

Secretary Miller also has announced that KDOT is beginning engineering design work on 67 bridges. Most, if not all, of these projects will be funded for construction in fiscal years 2014-15. The estimated cost of these projects is \$138.6 million.

"All of the projects allow us to preserve the investments Kansans have made in the state's transportation infrastructure over the past two decades," said Secretary Miller. "This is work that enhances the safety of travelers, supports efficient transportation for businesses and commerce, and creates jobs for thousands of Kansans."

Under the T-WORKS transportation program, which was passed by the Kansas Legislature in May, preservation work was given top priority. The bill commits to meeting 100 percent of the road/bridge preservation needs over the next 10 years.

T-WORKS also provides funding for larger projects that expand or modernize the system. KDOT is in the process of consulting with local communities to identify projects that have regional importance, but no selections will be made until 2011. Six local consultation meetings will take place in October throughout the state. The local consultation meeting schedule can be viewed on the Kansas Transportation Online Community at [www.ktoc.net](http://www.ktoc.net).

Funding for the just-announced preservation work will be financed through Build America Bonds (BABs). BABs are subsidized, taxable bonds created under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help state and local governments fund capital projects at lower borrowing costs.

The first BABs for T-WORKS projects were issued in August. Thanks to favorable market conditions and the Recovery Act subsidy, KDOT has its lowest interest rate ever on a fixed-rate debt transaction – 2.99 percent. Despite the fact the BABs are 25-year transactions, rather than the traditional 20-year, tax-exempt issues, KDOT will save \$27 million.

A new list of the preservation projects, which includes previously-announced work, and the 2014-15 bridges now in engineering design, are posted on KDOT's web site at [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org) under "News Releases" on the home page.

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