

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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News Contact: Kristen Brands (785) 877-3315 cell (785) 871-2137

kristenb@ksdot.org

Penokee Bridge project to shift traffic soon

A bridge replacement project which began on February 27 in Penokee will switch traffic onto the temporary bridge and shoo-fly detour within the next two weeks.

Construction work to replace a bridge over the South Fork of the Solomon River located along K-84 Highway, ½-mile north of Penokee; or ½-mile south of US-24 continues to progress.

The scope of the project includes replacing the existing bridge – within three construction phases. The first phase included earthwork, installation of the temporary bridge and the temporary shoo-fly detour. “We have completed that phase of the work,” reports KDOT Construction Engineer Nick Rogers, of the Hays Construction Office.

The second phase will route drivers onto a temporary bridge structure and shoo-fly detour located east of the existing bridge. Both will carry legal loads during construction. While traffic utilizes the temporary structure, workers will demolish the existing bridge, which was built in 1957; and construct the new bridge.

The speed limit will be reduced to 30 m.p.h through the shoo-fly and the construction zone.

The third phase will eradicate the shoo-fly and temporary bridge.

Weather permitting this bridge project will be completed by June of 2013.

The bridge replacement project is funded by T-WORKS, the transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature in May of 2010.

Please use caution, pay attention to the work zone signs, and respect workers when driving through any road construction zone. Slow down and "Give 'Em A Brake".

KDOT awarded the construction contract - totaling \$1.9 million - to L & M Contractors, Inc., of Great Bend.

Subcontractors on the project include: B & H Paving, Scott City, asphalt seal; APAC- Kansas, Inc. Shears Division, Hays, asphalt paving; Highway Signing, Inc., Omaha, traffic control; Merz Brothers Construction, Inc., Newkirk, Oklahoma, erosion control and seeding; J & J Contractors Inc., Iola, rebar; Max Jantz Excavating, L.L.C., Montezuma, grading; Whitewing Construction, Inc., Newton, guardrail; Advance Land Surveying & Drafting, Hays, construction staking.

For questions concerning this project, please contact Nick Rogers at (785) 625-9718 in Hays; or Kristen Brands, Northwest Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org in Norton.

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