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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Penokee Bridge project Opens to traffic early

A bridge replacement project which began on February 27 in Penokee opened to normal traffic today, approximately seven months ahead of schedule.

Construction work to replace a bridge over the South Fork of the Solomon River located along K-84 Highway, ½-mile north of Penokee (1/2-mile south of U.S. 24) started on February 27. The bridge was closed to traffic on May 3.

“The contract specifies that the bridge didn’t have to open until June, 2013,” reports KDOT District Construction Engineer Travis Scott. “Due to good weather days and great collaboration between the contractors and our field staff, this bridge project has made excellent progress.”

The following phases of the bridge project have been completed. Contractors demolished the old bridge – which was built in 1957. Major earthwork and installation of a temporary bridge and construction of a shoo-fly detour also took place this spring.

The shoo-fly structure routed traffic around the east side of the new bridge construction.

Currently, the project has progressed to the third and final phase of construction. This includes the demolition of the shoo-fly detour and the temporary bridge. Workers

will also perform erosion control, seeding, and more earthwork operations as weather allows this winter and next spring.

The speed limit, which was reduced to 30 m.p.h through the shoo-fly and the construction zone, will return to the normal posted limit of 55-mph.

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.

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

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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