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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Traffic Will Switch Today On U.S. 36 Bridge Project

Traffic will move to the westbound/north lanes of U.S. 36 today on the bridge replacement located just east of the intersection of U.S. 36/K-67 (roadway into the Norton Correctional Facility).

Construction, which began February 27, is progressing as crews continue to replace this box and extend other drainage structures along this route. The box replacements and extensions are part of a 4.5 mile project which begins at the east city limits of Norton, and continues east to the US-36/K-383 junction.

Most of the construction is currently taking place off the roadway and does not impact traffic; but the structure located near the prison utilizes a traffic light and halts traffic for a brief period of time.

“Contractors are replacing the structure one-half of the roadway at a time,” explains Construction Engineer Jim Riener, of the KDOT Phillipsburg Construction Office. “The switch in traffic will allow construction to continue on the south half of the structure.

Additional earthwork will soon be underway to prepare for the mainline reconstruction and provide flatter shoulders along the project.

Beginning in September, the 4.5 miles of roadway will be reconstructed on existing alignment - utilizing a cold recycle operation, followed by a five-inch overlay of new asphalt material. **Flaggers and a pilot car operation will guide one-lane traffic through the early autumn work zone during daylight hours. Delays of 15 minutes or less will be expected throughout the construction time frame. Please plan**

your travels accordingly, especially those commuting to/from work, during all phases of the construction.

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 \$4,945,124 - to Venture Corporation, of Great Bend.

Subcontractors on the project include: Sporer Land Development, earthwork; All Road Barricades, traffic control; Merz Bros. Construction, seeding/erosion control; Ballou Pavement Solutions, cold recycle; PCI Roads, LLC, safety barrier; Survey's, Inc., construction staking; Smoky Valley Electric, traffic signals; Reece Construction Co, concrete; J&J Contractors, concrete; Fulsom Brothers, Inc., guardrail and signing; Industrial Pipelines South Central, Inc., pre-watering.

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

Weather permitting the construction work will be completed by January, 2013.

For questions concerning this project, please contact Jim Riener at (785) 543-2163 or jriener@ksdot.org in Phillipsburg; or Kristen Brands, Northwest Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org in Norton.

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