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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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K-10/23rd Street Bridge Replacement Project Begins Work in Douglas County

On Tuesday, March 6, a replacement project began on the K-10/23rd Street Bridge located between Haskell Avenue and Barker Avenue in east Lawrence (Douglas County). On March 6, crews began construction work on the shooflys that will be located on the north and south sides of the existing bridge which will handle detoured 23rd Street traffic while the new bridge is under construction. (See Exhibit B for the eastbound and westbound 23rd Street shoofly location map.)

During the construction of the temporary pavement for the shoofly, traffic will be unrestricted on 23rd Street. However, beginning in mid-April through mid-June, there will be intermittent lane closures on 23rd Street as the shoofly connections to 23rd Street are constructed.

Construction on the new bridge itself is scheduled to begin in mid-June 2012. Once the bridge construction starts, traffic will be detoured through the project work zone via the shooflys located on the north side and south side of the existing bridge. Two lanes will be maintained in each direction until the new bridge structure is complete and opened to traffic.

The trail and pedestrian sidewalks adjacent to the existing bridge have been closed and will remain closed throughout the project duration. A marked detour will be provided for all pedestrians.

Before construction begins on the new bridge structure and traffic is shifted to the shooflys, we will send updated project information out via a separate news release. Updated traffic impacts for this bridge replacement project can be viewed at:

www.ksdot.org/topekametro/laneclose.asp.

The purpose of the project is to replace the existing structurally deficient bridge. The bridge was constructed in 1931 and widened in 1971. The existing bridge is 237 feet 6 inches long with a 52-foot roadway width providing four-lanes. The new bridge will be 122 feet 6 inches long with a 66-foot roadway width providing for five lanes of traffic. The new bridge will continue to facilitate recreational trail and vehicular traffic underneath. (See Exhibit A for an overall aerial map view of the new bridge.)

RD Johnson Excavating (Lawrence, KS) is the primary contractor on this \$4.3 million bridge replacement project. **Project work on the bridge is scheduled to be completed by December 2012, while work on the frontage roads and other incidental items is scheduled to be completed mid-summer 2013, weather permitting.**

This project is funded by T-WORKS, the transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature in May 2010. Find out more about this and other T-WORKS projects at:

<http://kdotapp.ksdot.org/TWorks/>.

The Kansas Department of Transportation urges all motorists to be alert, obey the warning signs, and "Give 'Em a Brake!" when approaching and driving through the project work zone. For more information on this bridge replacement project, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340, or Jason Van Nice, Construction Project Manager at (785) 842-0299. (KDOT Project #10-23 KA 0685-01)

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Recommended Design

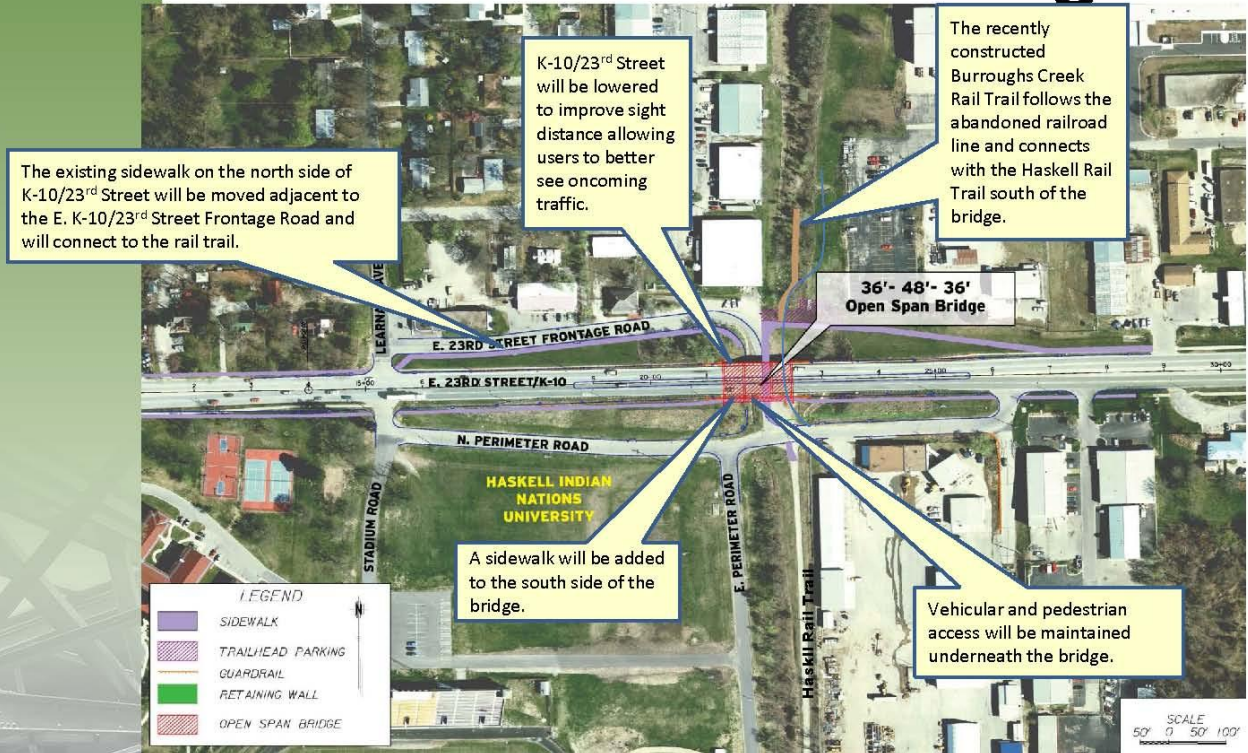


Figure A



- Two-lanes of traffic will be maintained in each direction during construction.

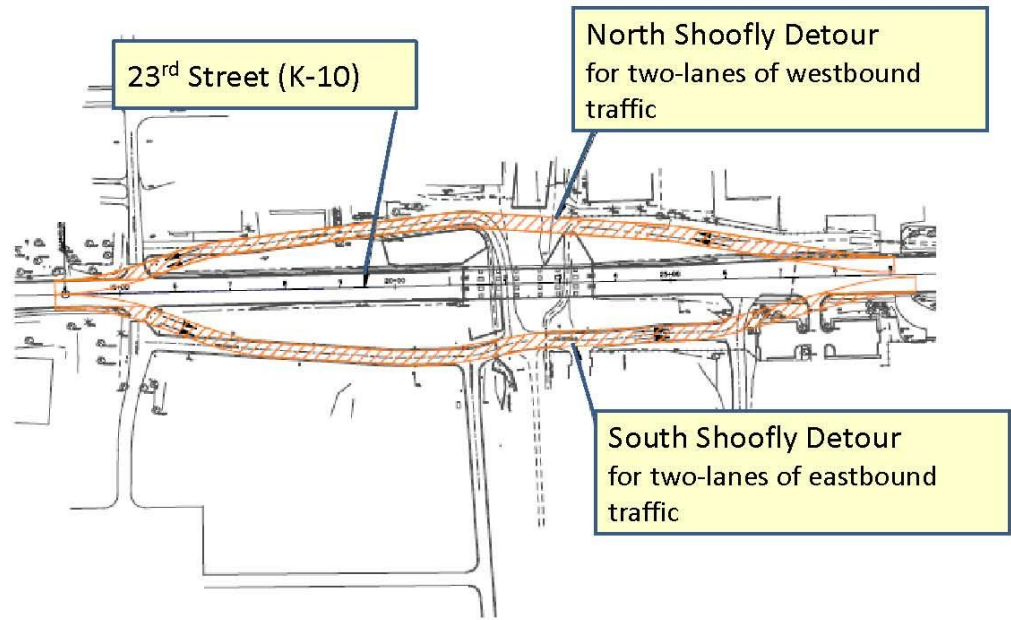


Figure B