

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KDOT to Host Public Open House for U.S. 24 & Topeka Boulevard Interchange Bridge Replacement Project

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is hosting a public open house for the upcoming construction on the bridge replacement project located at the U.S. 24 and Topeka Boulevard interchange in north Topeka on **Tuesday, March 12, 2013**. The public is invited to stop by the open house-style meeting anytime between **5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Garfield Shelter House, 1600 NE Quincy Street, Topeka**. There will be no formal presentations.

We invite anyone interested in the construction project to come learn about the project details and view displays on construction phasing and schedule, detour routes and potential traffic impacts. KDOT staff will be on hand to answer questions about the construction project.

KDOT has chosen to replace the existing bridge at the interchange with a new bridge structure, along with some pavement improvements on U.S. 24 itself. There will be no work completed on Topeka Boulevard and the remainder of the cloverleaf interchange will remain as is. Construction for the bridge replacement project at the U.S. 24 and Topeka Boulevard interchange is scheduled to begin construction in Spring (April or May?) 2013 with a completion date in late Fall 2013.

After a thorough review of factors on the existing bridge including type, age and condition, it was determined that the costs to replace the bridge are comparable to costs

for rehabilitating the existing bridge. In addition, the time to construct a new bridge will be about the same as the time it would take to rehabilitate the existing bridge.

If KDOT chose to rehabilitate the bridge, there is the potential for unknown issues that may arise during construction which could cause delays and increase project costs. By replacing the bridge, these potential impacts are removed. A new bridge will also allow for increased vertical clearance for truck traffic travelling on Topeka Boulevard.

The U.S. 24 and Topeka Boulevard interchange opened on September 18, 1941 and was built at a cost of \$168,500. It was the first cloverleaf interchange in the state.

The public open house project handout will be available online after the public open house at <http://www.ksdot.org/topekaMetro/projectstudytest.asp>. 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/>.

If you have questions or will require special assistance at the open house, please contact Kimberly Qualls, KDOT Public Affairs Manager at (785) 296-3881 at least one week in advance of the public open house.

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This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact KDOT Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, Kan., 66603-3754, or (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired - 711.

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