

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New U.S. 24 & Menoken Road Interchange Project to Begin in Topeka

On **Monday, July 8**, weather permitting, a project will begin to construct a new interchange at U.S. 24 and Menoken Road in northwest Topeka (Shawnee County). Project work includes the replacement of the existing intersection with a diamond interchange and a replacement of the one existing 708-foot long, 28-foot wide bridge structure with four new bridge structures. Two new bridge structures, each 253-foot long by 40-foot wide, will carry eastbound and westbound U.S. 24 traffic over Menoken Road. The two other new bridge structures, each 640-foot long by 40-foot wide, will carry eastbound and westbound U.S. 24 traffic over the railroad tracks. When completed, the new bridges will carry two-lanes of eastbound and westbound U.S. 24 traffic through the new interchange area. Work will take place during daylight hours, Monday through Friday, with some occasional Saturday work.

Construction work on the project will be completed in four phases. Each phase includes specific work and advance notification will be sent under separate cover for each phase of construction, including planned traffic impacts. An aerial map of the new U.S. 24 and Menoken Road Interchange Project can be found online at:

<http://www.ksdot.org/topekaMetro/projectstudytest.asp>.

Phase One work, which begins on **Monday, July 8**, includes the following:

- Pavement reconstruction to widen Menoken Road to two lanes each direction, plus add a center turn lane, from NW 25th Street to U.S. 24.

- Widening and rehabilitation work on NW 25th Street.
- Construction of two new access roads to adjacent businesses.
- Construction of new eastbound and westbound U.S. 24 roadway, northwest and southwest interchange ramps, and four bridges that will all take place on a new offset alignment.
- Construct shoofly detour for Menoken Road traffic.
- Construct U.S. 24 crossover needed for Phase Two and Three traffic.

Beginning on **Tuesday, July 9**, northbound and southbound Menoken Road from U.S. 24 north to NW 25th Street will be closed to all traffic, so crews can begin reconstruction and widening work on Menoken Road. During this phase, access to PTMW and other existing businesses will be maintained via the current access points along U.S. 24.

Menoken Road traffic should expect delays during peak commute times and should allow extra travel time for their daily commutes. Eastbound and westbound U.S. 24 traffic will have little to no traffic impacts during Phase One construction. Traffic on NW 25th Street will be carried through the project work zone via flaggers when needed.

Phase Two project construction includes: construction of remaining westbound and eastbound U.S. 24 lanes and northwest interchange ramp, and removal of U.S. 24 access at US Foods and PTMW.

Phase Three project construction includes: construction of remaining eastbound U.S. 24 lanes, and southwest interchange ramp, construction of Menoken Road shoofly detour, Menoken Road (where exiting U.S. 24 intersects Menoken Road) and southeast interchange ramp. Also, this phase includes removal of existing U.S. 24 pavement and demolition of old bridge.

Phase Four project construction includes: removal of existing median crossover on U.S. 24 and the temporary crossover constructed during Phase One.

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.

Hamm Inc. (Topeka, KS) is the primary contractor on this new interchange project with a total contract cost of \$25.798 million. **The scheduled completion date for the overall project is Fall 2014, 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/>.

For more information on this bridge replacement project, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340, or Bill Heptig, Field Engineering Administrator, at (785) 296-3986. (*KDOT Project #24-89 K 7431-01*)

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