

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2013

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U.S. 24 Bridge Replacement Project to Begin in Topeka

On **Tuesday, May 28**, weather permitting, a project will begin to replace the U.S. 24 Bridge spanning Topeka Boulevard in Topeka (Shawnee County). Crews will replace the existing bridge structure with a new structure in kind; except for the bridge height clearance which will be slightly higher for Topeka Boulevard through truck traffic. Work will take place during daylight hours from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, with some occasional Saturday work.

Project work will be completed in three phases. Detailed project information, including construction phasing, aerial project map, traffic impacts and detour routes available online at:

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

Phase One work will begin on **Tuesday, May 28**, as crews will first set temporary traffic control devices with only minor traffic impacts. Then either **before 7:00 a.m. or after 9:00 a.m., on Wednesday, May 29**, Topeka Boulevard will be closed to all through traffic and all entrance and exit ramps at the U.S. 24 and Topeka Boulevard interchange will be closed. Next, crews will construct shoofly detours for eastbound and westbound U.S. 24 through traffic.

Once the shooflies are constructed and opened, all access points to U.S. 24 between Topeka Boulevard and Kansas Avenue will be closed. **Phase One work is tentatively scheduled to be completed in mid-June 2013**, weather permitting.

Advance message boards will alert drivers to the northbound and southbound Topeka Boulevard full roadway closure. A marked detour will be provided for Topeka Boulevard traffic. Topeka Boulevard traffic will detour via Northwest Menninger Road, North Kansas Avenue and Lyman Road. Drivers should expect delays during peak commute times, should allow extra travel time for daily commutes, and are advised to use alternate routes throughout the duration of the project.

Project work for Phase II includes: opening of shoofly detours; demolition of existing bridge and construction of new bridge; and mill and overlay of all interchange loop ramps. Phase III project work includes: opening of new bridge to U.S. 24 traffic; closure and removal of temporary shooflies; reopening of Topeka Boulevard to through traffic; and mill and overlay on remaining ramps.

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.

Knapp Construction (Kansas City, KS) is the primary contractor on this bridge replacement project with a total contract cost of \$1.964 million. **The scheduled completion date for the bridge replacement project is mid-November 2013**, weather permitting (excluding seeding work scheduled for spring 2014).

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

Tom Dow, Construction Manager, at (785) 296-3986. (KDOT Project #24-89 KA 0461-01)

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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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