

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **U.S. 56 Multi-Bridge Replacement Project to Begin in Douglas County**

On **Thursday, April 11**, a project will begin to replace three bridges located on a 2.55-mile stretch of U.S. 56 west of Baldwin City (Douglas County). Project work includes the replacement of three bridges located between E1400 Road (Douglas County) and 6th Street in Baldwin City. Work will take place Monday-Friday between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The furthest east bridge located closest to Baldwin City includes the replacement of the existing 27-foot reinforced concrete structure with a 40-foot reinforced concrete rigid frame structure (with two 14-foot lanes, one 12-foot center turn lane and two 5-foot sidewalks on both sides). The middle bridge includes the replacement of a 24-foot reinforced concrete deck girder structure with a 44-foot prestress concrete beam structure (with two 12-foot lanes and two 10-foot shoulders). The furthest west bridge (closest to U.S. 59) includes the replacement of the existing 24-foot reinforced concrete slab structure with a 44-foot prestress concrete beam structure (with two 12-foot lanes and two 10-foot shoulders).

Crews will begin installing traffic control and signage on **Thursday, April 11**. Advance message boards will alert traffic to the roadway closure. Beginning **early morning on Thursday, April 18**, all lanes of eastbound and westbound U.S. 56 from E1400 Road to 6th Street in Baldwin City will be closed to through traffic and will remain closed during the duration of the project. A 30-mile marked state detour route will be

provided. Eastbound U.S. 56 traffic will detour via southbound U.S. 59 to northbound I-35 to northbound K-33 back to U.S. 56. Westbound U.S. 56 traffic will detour via southbound K-33 to southbound I-35 to northbound U.S. 59 back to U.S. 56. Drivers should expect delays and must use alternate routes throughout the duration of the project. An aerial view of the project map, including state detour route, is available online at: <http://www.ksdot.org/topekaMetro/projectstudytest.asp>.

Updated traffic information for this project can be viewed online at: [www.ksdot.org/topekametro/laneclose.asp](http://www.ksdot.org/topekametro/laneclose.asp). 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.

An intersection improvement project in Baldwin City will also take place in conjunction with the bridge replacement projects beginning on **Thursday, April 18**. The intersection improvement project includes grading work between E1600 Rd/Lawrence St. and Bullpup Drive to improve sight distance and the addition of a dedicated westbound U.S. 56 left turn lane to Lawrence Street in Baldwin City.

Hamm Inc. (Perry, KS) is the primary contractor on this bridge replacement project with a total contract cost of \$4.090 million. **The scheduled completion date for the overall bridge replacement project is mid-October 2013 (just prior to the Maple Leaf Festival). The scheduled completion date for the intersection improvement project is early August 2013.**

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 multi-bridge replacement project please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340, or Nathan Jeffries, Construction Manager, at (785) 842-0299. *(KDOT Project #56-23 KA-0032-01, #56-23 KA-0033-01, and #56-23 KA-2294-01)*

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