

## NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **US-69 & 87th Street Ramp Project Update #2 in Johnson County**

The northbound US-69 to 87th Street ramp that was originally scheduled to open in mid-December 2010 may not reopen until spring 2011. At approximately 6:50 p.m. on Friday, December 3, Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) officials responded to a call involving several vehicles that were literally “stuck” in the construction zone for the new northbound US-69 to 87th Street exit ramp in Johnson County. Upon arrival, KDOT crews found that two vehicles had driven around the traffic control and proceeded onto the newly poured ramp. One vehicle made it up the ramp and a second vehicle became stuck trying to back up on the ramp roadway.

After review of the damaged ramp, it was determined that a 1,200-foot section of the ramp’s concrete surface was damaged and repairs needed. Crews will first remove the damaged section, 800-foot long by 12-foot wide, and replace it with new concrete. For the remaining 400-foot section of damaged pavement, crews will retexture the concrete surface here as the damage in this portion was only minor.

Crews will try to complete the repairs as weather permits. Due to the winter season and very cold temperatures, it is unknown at this time if the concrete work will be able to be completed yet this year. It is possible that the ramp may remain closed until spring 2011. Newly poured concrete for pavement surfaces typically must cure for a minimum of seven days before the roadway can be opened to traffic.

The northbound US-69 to 87th Street exit ramp was closed in mid-August for reconstruction work and was scheduled to reopen on Wednesday, December 15. Construction crews poured approximately 12 inches of concrete pavement for the ramp itself on December 3 and left the construction site at approximately 6:30 p.m. that same evening. When the crews departed for the day all traffic control, including barricades and cones, was in place indicating that the ramp was closed to all traffic.

According to the Overland Park Police Department, they filed four accident reports that evening at the US-69 and 87th Street ramp location. The accident reports have now been completed and submitted to the City of Overland Park Prosecutor for review for charges.

The ramp will remain closed until repairs are made and all related construction work is completed for the interchange ramp. A marked detour will be provided for the ramp closure. Updated daily traffic information for this reconstruction pavement project can be viewed online at:

[www.ksdot.org/kcmetro/laneclose.asp](http://www.ksdot.org/kcmetro/laneclose.asp).

US-69 project improvements include the rebuilding of Lenexa Drive from 84th Terrace to Farley, and the widening of northbound and southbound US-69 from two lanes to three lanes in each direction, from north of 103rd Street to I-35, as well as improvements to the US-69/95th Street interchange. New designated exit lanes for 75th Street will move traffic off of I-35 sooner and will utilize the existing tunnel that was constructed as part of the 87th Street/I-35 interchange project in Lenexa.

Clarkson Construction Company is the primary contractor on this \$82.3 million reconstruction project. The entire US-69 reconstruction project is scheduled to be completed in the fall 2011.

The US-69 reconstruction project is a cooperative effort, funded in part by the Kansas Department of Transportation, using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 funds, and the City of Overland Park.

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 reconstruction project, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340, or Ruben Noguera, Field Engineering Administrator, at (913) 764-4525.

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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.