

NEWS RELEASE

September 17, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hands-On inspection completed on the Amelia Earhart Bridge

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) completed the hands-on inspection of the US-59 Amelia Earhart Bridge on August 31 and the bridge inspection crew found no new significant defects. This means that the inspectors found no new concerns regarding the bridge's current condition and will perform a routine walk-through inspection in about one year and a hands-on inspection in 2010.

After each inspection, engineers review the findings and determine if any work or other actions need to be undertaken. Although the current inspection has found no new significant defects, based on past inspection reports KDOT has decided to post the Amelia Earhart Bridge for legal load weight limits. This means that oversize/overweight vehicles will no longer be issued permits allowing them to use the Amelia Earhart Bridge. Before making the decision to post the bridge KDOT officials consulted with city officials and some local businesses to see how posting the bridge would impact area businesses.

The legal weight limits that will now be enforced on the Amelia Earhart Bridge are:

- 25 tons (50,000 lbs) for a single-unit truck. These are commonly referred to as H-truck and Type-3 trucks. Common dump trucks and ready-mix concrete trucks are included.
- 43 tons (86,000 lbs) for truck-tractor, semi-trailer trucks
- 43 tons (86,000 lbs) for truck-trailer (a single unit pulling a full trailer)

Signs which show the bridge as posted for legal limits will be in installed within the next week.

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