

NEWS RELEASE

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Final Recovery Act projects under contract

Contracts for the last of Kansas' five major state highway projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 have been awarded.

In addition, 77 of the 78 local government projects expected to total approximately \$35 million have been awarded. Bids on the final local project will be opened April 21 and approval is expected by the end of the month.

"It took some heroic efforts by both KDOT employees and local governments to get these ARRA projects under contract," said Deputy Secretary and State Engineer Jerry Younger. "Many pre-construction activities had to be accomplished before the projects could even reach the bid letting stage. We hit the ground running and the hard work helped us exceed all the ARRA federal deadlines."

Three days after the bill was signed into law by President Obama, KDOT announced how it would distribute its ARRA funds. Within one month, KDOT's district engineers had evaluated over 400 local projects and announced its selected list of projects throughout the state.

"Most people aren't aware of how much time and work goes into a road or bridge project before dirt can actually be turned," said Transportation Secretary Deb Miller. "It

can take months or years, and that's why I'm so impressed that KDOT and all of the nation's state transportation departments were able to meet the Recovery Act's tight deadlines. It not only speaks to the dedication and good work of many, it's telling of the great infrastructure needs in our state and nation."

The fifth major highway project – initial work on the construction of a four-lane K-18 freeway between Ogden and Manhattan – was recently awarded by KDOT. The project is divided into three phases with the first phase awarded to Sema Construction Inc. of Centennial, Colo. at \$64.9 million. Runner-up on the first phase bidding was Koss Construction of Topeka at \$65.1 million.

The K-18 project is needed to support the significant population and economic growth taking place in the region. The new freeway is designed to connect rapidly growing Fort Riley to the City of Manhattan, site of the new National Bio Agro-defense Facility, and provide a new connection to the Manhattan Regional Airport.

Total cost of the project, which is estimated to support 2,900 jobs, is \$140 million. There are currently no funds available for Phase II and III construction.

"We were pleased that the K-18 project came in about \$19 million under the estimated cost of \$84 million," said Younger. "In fact, all five of our major state highway projects were under estimate by an average of 21 percent."

Four ARRA state highway projects are already under construction. Included in the list is the four-lane expansion of K-61 in McPherson County and improvements to U.S. 69 in Overland Park, the I-135 and 47th Street interchange in Wichita and K-23 in Gove County.

KDOT estimated the costs on all five projects at \$297 million, but the actual awarded total was \$235.3 million.

Bids were also recently approved on 11 projects on local roads that were ARRA funded ranging from \$144,000 to just over \$1 million. One year ago, KDOT announced its list of 78 local government projects selected to receive federal stimulus funding.

To see a full list of the projects and how all the ARRA funds were distributed go to

http://www.ksdot.org/Economic_Recovery/

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