

## NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **I-135/47<sup>th</sup> Street South Project to Start Tuesday**

Work will begin on a highway project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in South Wichita on Tuesday, September 8. The \$16.1 million project will rebuild the I-135 & 47<sup>th</sup> Street South interchange, the intersection at 47<sup>th</sup> and Broadway plus make improvements on other parts of the 47<sup>th</sup> Street corridor (from Broadway to Lulu).

Included in the project:

- Rebuilding of four bridges on 47<sup>th</sup> Street, two over I-135 and two over Big Slough Creek, west of the interstate.
- Pedestrian traffic over the interstate will be accommodated on the south side of 47<sup>th</sup> St. (after the new bridge is constructed).
- Additional lanes will be added to the southbound I-135 to 47<sup>th</sup> Street ramp (two for right turns and two for left turns onto 47<sup>th</sup>).
- Two ramps on the southwest side of the interchange will be removed.
- Traffic signals will be installed at each end of the bridges over the interstate to allow left turns onto the remaining ramps.
- Ida Street at 47<sup>th</sup> Street will be permanently closed.
- Access changes to businesses east of Broadway will include a traffic signal at Emporia Street.
- The Broadway and 47<sup>th</sup> Street intersection will be improved with two left turn lanes for each direction.
- Realignment of utilities including improvements to the storm water drainage system and the installation a new 12" water line.

On Tuesday morning, installation of traffic control signs and lane striping will begin. When traffic control measures are in place on the 47<sup>th</sup> Street corridor and work on the roadway begins (not necessarily on Tuesday), these changes will be evident:

- Generally, there will be two lanes of traffic for each direction on 47<sup>th</sup> St. west of the interstate. There will be times when only one lane for each direction is possible.

- East of the interstate on 47<sup>th</sup> St. there will be single lane traffic for each direction when bridge construction begins.
- A barrier wall will be placed on the southbound I-135 to westbound 47<sup>th</sup> St. ramp. Single lane traffic will continue while the ramp is expanded.
- Curbs on the north side of 47<sup>th</sup> St. and medians on 47<sup>th</sup> St. will be removed and asphalt will be placed to allow traffic lanes in those areas.
- No left turns will be allowed onto Ida for eastbound 47<sup>th</sup> St. traffic.
- A temporary traffic signal will be installed at Emporia St. to allow access onto 47<sup>th</sup> St. from adjacent businesses.
- At some point during the first phase of construction work, left turns will not be allowed from 47<sup>th</sup> St. between Broadway and the interstate.
- Some lane closures will be necessary at Broadway and 47<sup>th</sup> St.

Dondlinger & Sons Construction of Wichita is the lead contractor for the project. Completion is planned for mid-2011.

The project is one of 12 road projects financed with ARRA funds in the Wichita metropolitan area and is the first to get started. In addition to the \$32 million planned for roads, projects are also slated for transit, rail, aviation plus a bike/pedestrian trail, for a total Federal investment of \$40.4 million.

