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## **Western Kansas road projects to expand corridors, enhance safety**

DODGE CITY – Projects that will continue the expansion of major highway corridors in southwest Kansas and make important safety enhancements to others in the western third of the state were announced here today by Gov. Sam Brownback.

The Governor, who was introduced by Dodge City Mayor Rick Sowers at an event at United Wireless Arena, said four-lane expansion projects on U.S. 50 and U.S. 54 will address issues associated with high truck traffic. A four-lane expressway will be built on 16 miles of U.S. 50 from Dodge City to Cimarron for an estimated \$69 million. Funding for all projects announced this week on the Governor's four-day, five-city tour are funded under T-WORKS, the transportation program passed by the 2010 Legislature.

On U.S. 54, a 10-mile, four-lane expressway will be constructed from Liberal 10 miles to the northeast in Seward County for an estimated \$59 million. In addition, preliminary engineering work will begin to extend the U.S. 54 four-laning to the Seward-Meade county line.

“This work will provide huge safety and economic benefits to those who depend on these roads for work, school and commerce,” said Gov. Brownback. “The projects I’m announcing today are the ones you told us were most important to you during the Local Consultation process and I’m pleased we could address those concerns with the limited funding we have available.”

Other projects announced include the 15-mile reconstruction of U.S. 281 in Russell County, a modernization project that will straighten the curves on K-27 in Wallace County, and alignment and shoulder improvements on 26 miles of K-383 in Phillips/Norton counties.

Kansas Transportation Secretary Deb Miller, who is accompanying the Governor on the announcement tour, said T-WORKS is significantly smaller than the two previous transportation programs. As a result, KDOT recommended lower-cost options such as expressways instead of freeways, and adding passing lanes instead of four-laning many highways.

“We call that ‘designing to a budget’, much like you have to do when you think about home repairs and remodeling,” Secretary Miller said.

“We’re taking this approach because most Kansans we’ve heard from have said some improvement is better than no improvement at all.”

The list of expansion and modernization projects announced today can be viewed on the T-WORKS website at <http://www.ksdot.org/t-works/>. Projects for other regions of the state also will be posted on the T-WORKS website and updated daily after announcements.

The Governor’s announcement tour concludes tomorrow in Kansas City, Kan., at a 10 a.m. event at Kansas Speedway administrative offices, just north of the I-70/110<sup>th</sup> Street interchange.

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