

NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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29th Street to Westbound I-470 On-Ramp Scheduled to Close in Topeka

Weather permitting, **on Monday, September 28 at 8:30 a.m.**, the 29th Street to westbound I-470 entrance ramp will close for construction work on the 29th Street and Fairlawn Road intersection improvement project in Topeka. This ramp closure will be in effect until late November 2009.

The westbound right lane on 29th Street between the west edge of Fairlawn Road to just before the I-470 entrance ramp closed on Monday, August 24. The southbound right lane on Fairlawn Road between the south edge of 29th Street to just south of I-470 and the eastbound right lane on 29th Street between the I-470 bridges to approximately 200 feet from the west edge of Fairlawn Road were closed on Monday, August 31. These lane closures will be in effect until late November 2009.

The sidewalk located along east side of Fairlawn Road will remain open for pedestrian use throughout the 2009 construction season. *During this construction season, drivers exiting the westbound I-470 off-ramp at Fairlawn Road need to be extra cautious of the pedestrians using this sidewalk.*

There will be no traffic impacts during the winter shutdown on the project between November 21, 2009, and March 28, 2010. Updated traffic information for this intersection improvement project can be viewed online at: www.ksdot.org/topekametro/laneclose.asp.

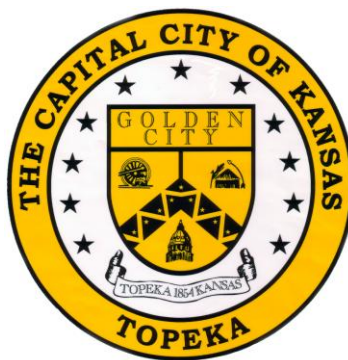
Drivers should expect some delays and are encouraged to use alternate routes, if possible. Please remember that the access roadway located south of I-470 between Fairlawn Road on the east (near Lewis Toyota) and McClure Road on the west (near Marlings Home Furnishings) is not a public street, but is located on private property. Drivers should not use this access roadway as a detour route during construction.

The intersection improvement project includes the reconstruction of the 29th Street and Fairlawn Road intersection along with improvements to adjoining I-470 entrance/exit ramps. Construction improvements for 2009 include complete reconstruction of the 29th Street to westbound I-470 entrance ramp, and construction of a new Connector Road that will carry two new designated lanes of traffic from eastbound 29th Street to southbound Fairlawn Road and from the westbound I-470 exit ramp to 29th Street. Construction improvements for 2010 include the addition of a new dedicated right turn lane on the westbound I-470 to Fairlawn Road exit ramp, widening of Fairlawn Road to the east, complete reconstruction of the intersection, and the installation of additional traffic signals at the I-470 ramps to 29th Street and Fairlawn Road.

Graybeal Construction Co. Inc, is the primary contractor on this \$2.1 million intersection improvement project. The 29th Street and Fairlawn Road intersection improvement project is a cooperative effort, funded in part by the KDOT, the City of Topeka, and Shawnee County. The scheduled completion date for the entire project is early fall 2010.

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 intersection improvement project, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340, or Steve Baalman, Field Engineering Administrator, at (785) 296-2291.

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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.