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## Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Construction Update on New US-59/Amelia Earhart Bridge Project**

Construction work on the US-59 Amelia Earhart (AE) Bridge Project in Atchison, Kan., has been gearing up these last few weeks as crews awaited delivery of the structural steel components needed to complete the arch span section of the new bridge. Construction crews along with several cranes are now back on the Missouri River project and are set to resume operations on the new bridge. The structural steel components for the new bridge began to be delivered to the project site this past week. Crews will now resume installation work on the arch span section of the bridge and will continue to do so throughout the winter season as weather allows.

Don't forget you can see ongoing construction of the new bridge via the project webcam located online at: [www.ksdot.org/aebridge](http://www.ksdot.org/aebridge). Camera images refresh every 15 minutes and users can view time lapsed images in sequential order over an extended period of time on the online site.

The new AE bridge was originally scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2011, but due to varying delays including Missouri River flooding and structural steel fabrication issues, it is

now scheduled for completion in fall 2012, weather permitting. The removal of the existing bridge is scheduled for early 2013.

The new Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge, a four-lane, tied arch structure will stretch nearly 2,500 feet, distinguished by its double steel arches on the main river span and special aesthetic lighting. It will replace the existing two-lane structure, which was completed in 1938 and is too narrow to handle some of today's larger truck loads and farm implements. The extra lanes also will accommodate the greater numbers of vehicles that now pass over the bridge daily.

The AE bridge replacement is a cooperative project funded by the Kansas Department of Transportation and the Missouri Department of Transportation. Of the \$59.4 million construction cost, Kansas will contribute \$30.6 million and MoDOT will contribute \$28.8 million.

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 bridge replacement project, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340, or Michelle Anschutz, Horton Construction Engineer, at (785) 486-2142.

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