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Major road projects announced by Governor Brownback

Three road projects that will have an estimated economic impact of more than $1 billion were announced by Gov. Sam Brownback today in Overland Park.

The projects, which have an estimated cost of $250 million, will be built in Overland Park and Reno and Riley counties. They are the first major expansion projects to be announced under the transportation program T-WORKS, which was passed by the Kansas Legislature last May.

“These projects provide safety enhancements, improve commute times and make infrastructure improvements that will support economic growth. They will create jobs during and after construction and help put Kansas on the road to growth,” said Gov. Sam Brownback.

“Among the factors analyzed by KDOT in the selection process was the economic impact these project will have on the economy. This is the first time economic analysis has been one of the selection factors for major Kansas transportation projects, and in all three cases, there will be an excellent return on the state’s investment,” the Governor said.

The projects are:
• **U.S. 69 and I-435 improvements in Overland Park.** This project includes improvement of interchanges at U.S. 69 and College Boulevard and at U.S. 69 and I-435. It will help relieve congestion and enhance safety along two of the busiest highways in the state. It provides an economic impact of $779 million and will cost $115 million. The city of Overland Park is contributing $10-12 million to the project. Construction will begin this spring and be completed in late 2013.

• **K-18 near Manhattan.** This project will complete the remaining 5.4 miles of the four-lane expansion of K-18 from Ogden to Manhattan. It will include three interchanges and provide drainage improvements. This expansion supports regional growth spurred by the return of the Big Red One to Fort Riley, the addition of the National Bio-Agra Science Defense Facility and continued expansion of Manhattan Regional Airport. By starting this project now, KDOT can coordinate construction with other work going on in the area and save the state nearly a million dollars. The project has an estimated economic impact of $121 million and will cost $96 million. Manhattan will contribute a yet-to-be- determined amount of funding for the project. Construction will begin this spring and be completed in late 2013.

• **U.S. 50 at Hutchinson.** This will expand U.S. 50 to four lanes from K-61 to Yoder Road in Reno County and adds new interchanges at K-61 and Airport/Yoder Road. It will enhance safety and accommodate growth associated with the new Siemens Energy plant that manufactures wind turbine components. It provides a $132 million economic benefit and will cost $46 million. The project will begin in late spring or early summer and be completed in late 2013.
“These projects were among those that consistently rose to the top during extensive public meetings across the state. We’re making this announcement now so we can get these projects started quickly and save the state money by taking advantage of low bid prices,” said Kansas Transportation Secretary Deb Miller.

“And, these are the only three projects that are ready to go to bid this spring. A more comprehensive list of projects, a few of which are being analyzed in more detail, will be announced later in the year. But now we can get to work creating jobs.”

More information about these projects is available on KDOT’s website, at www.ksdot.org/t-works./

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