

Southeast District Office  
411 W. Fourteenth  
Chanute, KS 66720-2894



phone: 620-431-1000  
fax: 620-431-4406  
[www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org)

Julie Lorenz, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Priscilla Petersen, (620) 902-6433; [priscilla.petersen@ks.gov](mailto:priscilla.petersen@ks.gov)

**Work on U.S. 69 Crawford County expansion project will start this week**

The week of Nov. 2, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) plans to start a project that will expand a 5.7-mile section of U.S. 69 in Crawford County to a four-lane divided expressway.

The expansion project begins three miles north of the north city limits of Arma and continues north to the Crawford-Bourbon county line. Two lanes will be added to the existing U.S. 69 alignment. At-grade intersections will be constructed at 680<sup>th</sup>, 690<sup>th</sup>, 700<sup>th</sup>, 710<sup>th</sup> and 720<sup>th</sup> avenues.

Two-way traffic is being maintained on the existing lanes of U.S. 69 while the new lanes are under construction. Early project activity includes grading and work on box culverts off the highway. Traffic will be flagged through the area during intermittent blasting operations, with minimal delays expected. The speed limit through the project is 55 miles an hour.

KDOT awarded the \$21.6 million construction contract to Bob Bergkamp Construction, Inc., of Wichita. The project is north of another U.S. 69 expansion project at Arma, which began in March. The work should complete by summer 2022, weather permitting.

Persons with questions may contact Darrin Petrowsky at KDOT-Iola, (620) 901-6557, or Priscilla Petersen at KDOT-Chanute, (620) 902-6433.

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