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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Sitka Junction reconstruction about to start

A project that came out of the Kansas Department of Transportation's local consultation process and generated considerable local interest will soon begin east of Ashland in Clark County. The project will rebuild and relocate the intersection of U.S. 160, U.S. 183, and K-34 (known locally as the Sitka Junction) and should begin by Monday, July 13, weather permitting.

The project calls for shifting a portion of U.S. 160, including the intersection, to the south and removing a portion of the hill just east of the junction. KDOT expects these changes to improve the sight distance for drivers at the intersection. The rebuilt intersection will be about 50 feet south of the current intersection, with the roadway east of the intersection shifting as much as 100 feet south of the current alignment before curving north to rejoin the existing roadway.

Construction will be phased to allow two-way traffic to continue in all directions. Drivers can expect reduced speed limits through construction. The Kansas DOT urges drivers to be alert, pay attention to all work zone warning signs, slow down when approaching a work zone and be prepared to stop.

APAC-Kansas, Shears Division, of Hutchinson is the primary contractor at a cost of approximately \$2.7 million. KDOT anticipates a possible winter shutdown for this project, with all work being completed by May 2016, depending on weather.

If you have questions on this project, you can call Joyce Muhlenbruch, Construction Engineer, at 620-227-6122 or Kirk Hutchinson, KDOT Southwest Public Affairs Manager, at 1-877-550-5368 (toll free).

You can stay aware of all road construction projects across Kansas at [www.kandrive.org](http://www.kandrive.org) or by calling 5-1-1. To learn more about this and other T-WORKS projects, visit [www.ksdot.org/tworks](http://www.ksdot.org/tworks).

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700 SW Harrison St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.

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