April 22, 2011

Secretary Deb Miller  
Kansas Department of Transportation  
700 S.W. Harrison Street  
Topeka, KS 66603-3754

Dear Secretary Miller

Following the tragic crash on K-10 last week and receipt of Eudora Mayor Scott Hopson’s letter to me about his concern for those who travel on this highway, I’m asking you to take the following steps:

1) Please contact Mayor Hopson and have a conversation with him about his concerns.
2) As has been done effectively in the past in other communities, please form a local group so they can be included in the discussion of K-10 and provide helpful input in the decision-making process.
3) It is my understanding that KDOT has under consideration a project to widen the shoulders and add rumble strips along the Douglas County stretch of K-10, similar to what already has been done on the Johnson County section. While that may not have prevented this crash, it seems like a very important safety improvement. Please immediately begin designing these improvements so that the construction project can be completed by fall. Even if a decision is made later to install cable median barriers, it will take longer to accomplish that improvement than it will for this shoulder enhancement. So let’s get that going immediately.
4) Without delay, begin an update of the previous study on cable barriers on this section of K-10. Utilize the locally-formed committee mentioned above to help review the analysis and provide local input as to whether cable barriers should be recommended.

Thank you for your immediate attention to these steps.

Sincerely,

Sam Brownback
Governor