K-31 Improvement Project
KDOT Project No. 31-70 KA-2365-01

Project History
During the Kansas Department of Transportation’s Local Consultation meetings where local stakeholders discussed regional transportation priorities, the reconstruction of K-31 between Osage City and U.S. 75 was the only modernization project to be ranked as one of the most important projects in the region. It was selected to support economic growth in Osage County and to address increasing traffic and safety concerns.

Project Need
By reconstructing K-31, safety benefits can be realized by improving sight distance and passing opportunities. The existing segment of K-31 is a very hilly corridor with practically no shoulders. Flooding is also a concern for K-31. During flooding events, portions of the highway have to be closed due to water overtopping the roadway. These safety concerns are a major priority for local leaders in Osage County. By improving this portion of K-31 from Osage City to U.S. 75, traffic safety and potential for economic growth will be enhanced along this corridor.

Project Details
The K-31 Improvement Project is a modernization project funded by T-WORKS, the transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature in May 2010. Proposed improvements will include two 12-foot lanes with 10-foot shoulders. Project construction will begin on the east side of the K-31 and South Indian Hills Road intersection and will tie into the west end of the U.S. 75 and K-31/K-268 Roundabout Project. The K-31 Improvement Project will shift the new highway alignment to the south in order to remove some of the rolling hills and valleys, providing a safer roadway with enhanced passing opportunities.
Project Construction
K-31 will remain open to all through traffic during construction of the new roadway with the exception of a brief time period when the tie-in work at the beginning and end of the project is under construction. During the brief closure, K-31 traffic will detour via a 28-mile state route via U.S. 75 to U.S. 56, through the cities of Scranton and Burlingame, where traffic will then connect back to K-31 at Osage City. Keeping access to K-31 open during the majority of construction will help to minimize traffic impacts for motorists, residents, and businesses in the area.

Project Schedule and Funding
In October 2011, a public open house for K-31 was conducted in conjunction with the U.S. 75 and K-31/K-268 Roundabout Project to gain feedback from the community. Survey work on the project has since been completed. Geology investigation work will begin in Fall 2013 along with continued work on preliminary design plans. Preliminary design plans are scheduled to be 50% complete by Fall 2014. Right of way acquisition will begin in Summer 2015. Project construction is estimated currently at $14 million (2017 dollars) and is scheduled to begin in Summer 2017 with project completion in Fall 2018.

Questions or Comments Contact:
Kimberly K. Qualls
NE Kansas Public Affairs Manager
Kansas Dept. of Transportation
(785) 296-0192
kqualls@ksdot.org

LEGEND
- Proposed K-31 Alignment
- Existing K-31 Highway
- New Bridges
- U.S. 76 Roundabout Project

U.S. 75 & K-31/K-268 Roundabout Project
KDOT Project No. 75-76 KA-0047-01
[See separate handout]

Project End

W 245th St.
S Lawnell Rd.
S Morrill Rd.
S Fairway Rd.
S Jordan Rd.

KDOT Project No. 75-76 KA-0047-01
[See separate handout]

New K-31 Cross Section
- 12' Shoulder
- 12' Driving Lane
- 12' Driving Lane
- 10' Shoulder

Existing K-31 Cross Section
- 6' Shoulder
- 10' Driving Lane
- 10' Driving Lane
- 6' Shoulder

K-31 Public Open House
September 19, 2013, 5-7 p.m.
Osage City School Cafeteria