

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 26, 2013

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Multiple Bridge Repair Project Begins in Brown & Nemaha Counties

On **Monday, July 22**, and on **Wednesday, July 24**, a repair project began on the U.S. 73 Otter Creek Bridge located 2.83 miles east of the U.S.159 junction (Brown County) and on the U.S. 73 Bridge spanning over U.S. 36 south of Hiawatha (Brown County). Crews will complete repair work on the approaches on both ends of all the bridges. Work will take place daily, Monday through Friday, during daylight hours. There are a total of six bridges (five in Brown County; one in Nemaha County) to be completed with the overall project but only two bridges will be worked on at a time. We will send out advance notification under separate cover for each of the duo bridge repairs.

Beginning on **Monday, July 22**, crews will begin the installation of temporary traffic signals at both ends of the U.S. 73 Otter Creek Bridge. Then on **Wednesday, July 24**, the traffic signals were turned on as eastbound and westbound U.S. 73 traffic will be directed in one lane across the bridge via the signals throughout the project duration. On **Wednesday, July 24**, northbound and southbound U.S. 73 traffic will be directed in one lane each direction across the U.S. 73 Bridge spanning U.S. 36, with cones and signage directing traffic throughout the project duration. The traffic signals will be operational, 24/7 round

the clock, throughout the project duration. Drivers should expect minor delays and must allow extra time for their daily commutes throughout the duration of the project.

There will be a 35 mph posted speed limit through the project work zone and traffic will be restricted to a 15-foot lane width restriction through the work zone during the duration of the project. No large structures or superloads will be allowed through the project work zone.

Wildcat Construction, Inc. (Newton, KS) is the primary contractor on this multi-bridge repair project with a total contract cost of \$658,830. **Project work is scheduled to be completed for the entire project in mid-November 2013, weather permitting. The U.S. 73 Otter Creek Bridge is scheduled to be completed on August 16, 2013, and the U.S. 73 Bridge (spanning U.S. 36) on September 10, 2013, weather permitting.**

The Kansas Department of Transportation urges all motorists to be alert, obey the warning signs, and “Give ‘Em a Brake!” when approaching and driving through the project work zone.

This project is funded by T-WORKS, the transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature in May 2010. Find out more about this and other T-WORKS projects at: <http://kdotapp.ksdot.org/TWorks/>.

For questions or additional information on this bridge repair project, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340, or Michelle Anschutz, Construction Manager, at (785) 486-2142. (KDOT Project #36 106 KA 3138-01)

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