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## **Ribbon Cutting Officially Opens K-18 Corridor Improvement Project**

The K-18 Corridor Improvement Project was unveiled today at a ribbon cutting event in Manhattan at the Westview Community Church, located just east of the K-18 and Davis Drive/Miller Parkway Interchange. Officials from Riley and Geary counties, cities of Manhattan, Ogden and Junction City, Fort Riley and K-State helped KDOT cut the ribbon on the project that will fully open to all traffic in the next couple weeks.

The project has converted about seven miles of K-18 between Ogden and Manhattan into a four-lane freeway with multiple bridges, interchanges, major flood control measures, and rail and utility location. The entire stretch of K-18 between Fort Riley/Ogden and Manhattan is one of the fastest growing corridors in Kansas.

The improvement project supports the significant population and economic growth that is occurring in the region. The new freeway is designed to connect rapidly growing Fort Riley to Manhattan, site of the new National Bio Agro-defense Facility at K-State, and provide a new connection to the Manhattan Regional Airport.

Construction on the project was completed in three phases. Phase One included the reconstruction of two miles of K-18 between Fort Riley and Manhattan. SEMA Construction was the primary contractor on the \$80.3 million (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded) Phase One construction. Phase One construction began in 2010 and was completed in late 2012.

Phase Two/Three construction included the reconstruction of K-18 beginning just east of Miller Parkway/Davis Drive to west to Wildcat Creek Road. KOSS Construction Co. is the primary contractor on the \$55.4 million T-WORKS transportation program project. Phase Two construction began in July 2011 and will be completed later this month.

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