

NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Westbound I-470 to Fairlawn Road Exit Ramp to Reopen on June 29

On **Tuesday, June 29 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.**, crews will complete finishing work on the revamped westbound I-470 to Fairlawn Road exit ramp and then at approximately 2:00 p.m. they will reopen the ramp to traffic. The exit ramp was closed in early May for reconstruction work related to the 29th Street and Fairlawn Road intersection improvement project in Topeka. The new traffic signals at the westbound I-470 to Fairlawn Road exit ramp terminal will be activated when the ramp reopens. Ramp traffic will be allowed to turn left or right only onto Fairlawn Road, but will not be able to head straight as work on the new Connector Road is not completed as this point in time.

Also, beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 29, northbound and southbound Fairlawn Road will be reduced to one lane in each direction at and south of 29th Street. **There will be NO left turns** allowed from northbound and southbound Fairlawn Road **and/or from eastbound and westbound 29th Street at the intersection.** During this next phase, crews will reconstruct the medians and adjacent driving lanes on Fairlawn Road from the I-470 exit ramp to 29th Street. This phase of the project is scheduled to be completed **by early August, weather permitting.**

Lane closures will continue on both 29th Street and Fairlawn Road as crews continue reconstruction work on the intersection project. Updated traffic information for this intersection improvement project can be viewed online at: www.ksdot.org/topekametro/laneclose.asp.

Please remember that the access roadway located south of I-470 between Fairlawn Road on the east (near Lewis Toyota) and McClure Road on the west (near Marlings Home Furnishings) is not a public street, but is located on private property. Drivers should not use this access roadway as a detour route during construction.

The sidewalk located along the west side of Fairlawn Road will remain open to pedestrian use throughout spring and summer months, as the east side of Fairlawn Road sidewalk is now closed for reconstruction work.

During the 2009 construction season, crews completed the reconstruction of the entrance ramp from 29th Street to I-470, the majority of construction on the Connector Road and the widening of 29th Street. There is still additional pavement work needed on both the Connector Road and the widening of 29th Street which will be completed during the 2010 construction season.

The intersection improvement project includes the reconstruction of the 29th Street and Fairlawn Road intersection along with improvements to adjoining I-470 entrance/exit ramps. Construction improvements for 2009 included complete reconstruction of the 29th Street to westbound I-470 entrance ramp, and construction of a new Connector Road that will carry two new designated lanes of traffic from eastbound 29th Street to southbound Fairlawn Road and from the westbound I-470 exit ramp to 29th Street. Construction improvements for 2010 include the addition of a new dedicated right turn lane on the westbound I-470 to Fairlawn Road exit ramp, widening of Fairlawn Road to the east, complete reconstruction of the intersection, and the installation of additional traffic signals at the I-470 ramps to 29th Street and Fairlawn Road.

Graybeal Construction Co. Inc, is the primary contractor on this \$2.1 million intersection improvement project. The 29th Street and Fairlawn Road intersection improvement project is a cooperative effort, funded in part by the KDOT, the City of Topeka, and Shawnee County. The scheduled completion date for the entire project is early fall 2010.

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. For more information on this intersection improvement project, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340, or Steve Baalman, Field Engineering Administrator, at (785) 296-2291.

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This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact KDOT Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, Kan., 66603-3754, or (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired - 711.