

NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Early Reopening Set for US-69 & 87th Street Interchange Ramp in Johnson County

The northbound US-69 to 87th Street interchange ramp is scheduled to reopen to all traffic on either Monday or Tuesday, January 10 or 11, weather permitting. This interchange ramp was originally scheduled to open in mid-December 2010, but the reopening was delayed due to damage caused by several vehicles that drove on the freshly poured ramp in an early December 2010 incident. We will provide a specific date and time for the ramp reopening via a separate news release.

A 1,200-foot section of the ramp's newly poured concrete surface was damaged in the early December incident. Crews first had to remove a damaged section, 800-foot long by 12-foot wide, and replace it with new concrete. For the remaining 400-foot section of damaged pavement, crews retextured the concrete surface as the damage in this portion was only minor.

According to the Overland Park Police Department, they filed four accident reports related to the December 3rd incident at the US-69 and 87th Street interchange ramp location. As of today, Thursday, January 6, the accident reports are at the City of Overland Park Prosecutor's Office for review of potential charges and no decisions have been made as of yet.

US-69 project improvements include the rebuilding of Lenexa Drive from 84th Terrace to Farley, and the widening of northbound and southbound US-69 from two lanes to three lanes in each direction, from north of 103rd Street to I-35, as well as improvements to the US-69/95th Street interchange. New designated exit lanes for 75th Street will move traffic off of I-35 sooner and will utilize the existing tunnel that was constructed as part of the 87th Street/I-35 interchange project in Lenexa.

Clarkson Construction Company is the primary contractor on this \$82.3 million reconstruction project. The entire US-69 reconstruction project is scheduled to be completed in the fall 2011.

The US-69 reconstruction project is a cooperative effort, funded in part by the Kansas Department of Transportation, using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 funds, and the City of Overland Park.

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 reconstruction project, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340, or Ruben Noguera, Field Engineering Administrator, at (913) 764-4525.

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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.