US-69 & 87th Street Ramp Project Update in Johnson County

At approximately 6:50 p.m. on Friday, December 3, Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) officials responded to a call involving several vehicles that were literally “stuck” in the construction zone for the new northbound US-69 to 87th Street exit ramp in Johnson County. The northbound US-69 to 87th Street exit ramp was closed in mid-August for reconstruction work and was scheduled to reopen on Wednesday, December 15. Construction crews poured approximately 12 inches of concrete pavement for the ramp itself that same day. Crews completed work and left the construction site at approximately 6:30 p.m. that same evening. When the crews departed for the day, all traffic control, including barricades and cones, was in place indicating that the ramp was closed to all traffic.

Upon arrival, KDOT crews found that two vehicles had driven around the traffic control and proceeded onto the newly poured ramp. One vehicle made it up the ramp and a second vehicle became stuck trying to back up on the ramp roadway. Tire ruts from the vehicles are visible in the newly poured concrete. Newly poured concrete on roadways typically must cure for a minimum of seven days before the roadway can be opened to traffic.

According to the Overland Park Police Department, they filed four accident reports that evening at the US-69 and 87th Street ramp location. These accident reports are not completed and it will take several days before they are finalized and available for public record.

An investigation and review will be conducted to determine what repairs need to be made, how to best complete those repairs, and how long it will take to make the needed repairs. At this time, it is undetermined how long it will take to assess the needed repairs. It could take anywhere from a few days to up to two weeks to finalize all the needed information for the ramp repairs.
The cost for the repairs of the ramp will be determined once the investigation and review is completed. The necessary repairs will be made no matter what the cost is and as to who pays for those repairs will be determined by the appropriate agencies.

The ramp will remain closed until repairs are made and all related construction work is completed for the interchange ramp. A marked detour will be provided for the ramp closure. Updated daily traffic information for this reconstruction pavement project can be viewed online at: www.ksdot.org/kcmetro/laneclose.asp.

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.