FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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VANDALISM OF ANOTHER COLOR - STRIKE #2!

KS City KDOT Metro Area Maintenance crews have many, many tasks they undertake on a daily basis in keeping our highways safe for the traveling public. One of those tasks: dealing with ongoing tagged graffiti on highway signage.

Two signs tagged with graffiti in August 2013 were repaired last Thursday, November 14, on I-35 near Southwest Boulevard/Mission Road/37th Street (photo shown above right) in Johnson County. These tagged signs result in significant repair costs, readability issues of the signs for the travelling public, along with potential traffic delays that occur when the repair work takes place. Repair costs for this one incident: $6,500.

These two I-35 vandalized signs were covered with a "new skin" applied over the existing sign which completely hides the graffiti. Crews removed the ladders from the overhead sign structure at the time the repairs were made. The catwalks were not removed in order to keep traffic impacts at a minimum when the repair work was completed.

On Monday, November 18, this same pair of signs was once again tagged by vandals. Once weather permits, KDOT crews will first try to scrub off the graffiti. If this does not work, then crews will again have to order new skins to apply to the signs. Crews will remove the catwalks this time off the
overhead sign structure when they go in to remove the graffiti. Again, same cost to repair and same inconvenience to the motoring public.

In 2012, KC Metro KDOT saw 10 incidents of graffiti vandalism on highway signage at a repair cost of approximately $18,400. These costs include: graffiti remover, labor, equipment and signs. In the Wyandotte County area, KDOT crews have removed catwalks and ladders on a portion of eastbound I-70 and the ladders along a portion of westbound I-70 to help deter further graffiti incidents.

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