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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Bridge to close on U.S. 40 in Wallace County; detour in effect**

The Kansas Department of Transportation will close the U.S. 40 bridge over the Union Pacific railroad west of Sharon Springs starting Monday, April 1.

The closure is necessary for the removal and replacement of the existing bridge, which is located approximately 6 miles west of Sharon Springs or 10 miles east of the Colorado border. During construction, traffic will be detoured on U.S. 40, K-27 and I-70, and U.S. 385 in Colorado.

Work on the \$5.5 million project is expected to be completed by the end of the year, conditions permitting.

The project is the last of three bridge replacements along U.S. 40 in Wallace County between 2023 and 2025. Construction is continuing on the initial two projects, which are both located east of Sharon Springs. The first bridge, over the Smoky Hill River, is scheduled to be finished this fall. Traffic is being routed around the work zone on a shoofly detour.

The second bridge, also spanning the Union Pacific railroad, will enter its second phase of construction this year after the new road alignment is completed. Crews will begin building the bridge structure later this spring, and the project is expected to be fully completed in 2025. Traffic is being carried on the current bridge and will later be directed on to temporary detours on each end of the new structure while construction on the tie-ins to U.S. 40 is completed.

Bridges Inc. of Newton is the primary contractor for all three projects with a combined contract cost of \$28 million. For more information, contact KDOT Area Construction Manager Todd Anderson at 785-953-6011 or [todd.anderson@ks.gov](mailto:todd.anderson@ks.gov).

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