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Groundbreaking for U.S. 169 project celebrated at Welda

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), state and local officials and highway advocates attended a groundbreaking ceremony for the previously delayed U.S. 169 project in Anderson County this morning at Welda.

“This U.S. 169 project is a true connection point between delivering on the promises of our past transportation program, T-WORKS – and serving as a guidepost for the work we want to do under our next program, FORWARD,” said Transportation Secretary Julie Lorenz.

Trisha Purdon, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Action Council, and Mark Bettis, with Bettis Asphalt and Construction, joined Secretary Lorenz in speaking prior to the groundbreaking event.

“This project was identified as a No. 1 priority for the entire region. Counties from the Oklahoma border all the way to Kansas City said this project was a priority,” said Trisha Purdon, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Action Council.

Improvements to highways across the state are important for many reasons.

“What this project means for this road is reconstructed pavement, improved shoulders where we currently have them and new 10-foot shoulders where we don’t,” Secretary Lorenz said. “But what this project means for Kansans is a safer trip to school, commute to work or transport of goods to market.”

Starting in March, KDOT will reconstruct and rehabilitate 7½ miles of U.S. 169 from Welda north to the roundabout south of Garnett. Bettis Asphalt & Construction is the primary contractor on the \$21 million T-WORKS project, which will add 10-foot shoulders to the roadway and provide a 32-foot clear zone off the highway. The project will also improve the vertical alignment of U.S. 169 to provide more opportunities to safely pass slow-moving vehicles.

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