



Northeast District Office
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NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Big Blue River Bridge to Close for Repair Work in Pottawatomie/Riley County

Weather permitting, on **Monday, January 11**, a repair project will begin on Big Blue River Bridge located on Dyer Road spanning the Pottawatomie/Riley County line. The Big Blue River Bridge is located two miles north of the city of Manhattan. The bridge will close completely for approximately five months so repairs can be completed on the bridge deck.

Crews will completely replace the bridge deck. Project work will include removing the entire concrete deck and concrete corral rail from the steel girders, cleaning and priming tops of girders, welding on additional shear studs to the top of the girders, pouring a new lightweight concrete deck, and sealing the deck with a polymer concrete overlay. Work will take place during daylight hours.

The Big Blue River Bridge will close to all traffic on Monday, January 11, and will remain closed throughout the duration of the project. Drivers will need to use alternate routes during the duration of the project. Suggested alternate route is K-13 across Tuttle Creek Dam and/or US-24/Tuttle Creek Boulevard.

Bridges, Inc. (Newton, KS) is the primary contractor on this bridge repair project for a total contract cost of \$462,558. The scheduled completion date for the bridge repair project is early June 2010. This is a Pottawatomie County project, which is being funded in part by Pottawatomie County and Riley County, and with federal funds from the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) that will be administered by the Kansas Department of Transportation.

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 project work zones. For more information on this bridge repair project, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340, or Jerry Haug, Wamego Construction Engineer, at (785) 456-2353.

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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.