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New US-59/Amelia Earhart Bridge Project Update:

Final Piece of Arch Span Connection Scheduled for this Thursday

Construction of the US-59 Amelia Earhart Bridge in Atchison continues to reach new heights. This week a milestone will take place as crews complete final connection work on the arch span section of the new bridge.

At 7:30 a.m., Thursday, June 14, crews will put in place the final piece on the south side of the arch. **By 7:45 a.m., the arch span section of the bridge will be completed.**

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and the project contractor ask that all visitors and media view the work from the River Side Park area in Atchison. River Side Park is located north of the existing and new bridges, just east of 2nd Street. The park provides an unobstructed view of the connection work and has plenty of parking. **KDOT recommends that you be in the park area no later than 7:15 a.m. this Thursday.** It will take crews approximately 15 minutes to hoist the final piece into place, then the bolting will begin. No one (media included) will be allowed on the bridge deck of the new or existing bridge due to safety concerns.

For those who can't make it to the River Side Park area, the work can be seen on the AE Bridge Project webcam at: www.ksdot.org/aebridge. Camera images refresh every 15 minutes and users can view time lapsed images in sequential order over an extended period of time on the online site.

Once the arch span section is connected, the arch span cables will be secured and removal of the cranes will begin. Once the cranes are removed, crews will then begin work to complete the bridge deck.

The new AE Bridge is scheduled to open to traffic in September 2012. The removal of the existing bridge is scheduled for early 2013.

The Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge, a four-lane, tied arch structure will stretch nearly 2,500 feet, distinguished by its double steel arches on the main river span and special aesthetic lighting. It will replace the existing two-lane structure, which was completed in 1938 and is too narrow to handle some of today's larger truck loads and farm implements. The extra lanes also will accommodate the greater numbers of vehicles that now pass over the bridge daily.

The AE bridge replacement is a cooperative project funded KDOT and the Missouri Department of Transportation. Of the \$59.4 million construction cost, Kansas will contribute \$30.6 million and MoDOT will contribute \$28.8 million.

KDOT 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 the AE Bridge Project, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340, or Michelle Anschutz, Horton Construction Engineer, at (785) 486-2142.

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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.

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