

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Next Two Phases to Begin on K-18 Construction Project in Riley County

On **Tuesday, July 5**, construction work will begin on the final two phases of the K-18 improvement project in Riley County. Construction for these phases will begin just east of Miller Parkway/Davis Drive and will extend west to Wildcat Creek Road. This work is part of the overall improvement project that will reconstruct K-18 to a freeway when completed.

Both the westbound and eastbound lanes of K-18 will be affected during these two phases. Beginning on **Tuesday, July 5**, shoulder widening on the westbound lanes will begin first, requiring a lane closure on westbound K-18 from Scenic Drive to Airport Road. The work will then continue in the eastbound lanes and eastbound K-18 will also experience a lane closure a little bit later this summer. These lane closures will be in place round the clock 24/7 and are scheduled to be completed by early September 2011, weather permitting.

Traffic will be directed through the project work zone via advance arrow boards and signage. The speed limit will be restricted to 55 mph throughout the project work zone. There will be a 12-foot lane width restriction throughout the project duration. Drivers should expect delays and are encouraged to use alternate routes, if possible. To view updated K-18 project information including construction phasing, traffic impacts and overall project schedule, visit the following link:

<http://www.ksdot.org/bureaus/TopekaMetro/projectstudyNEKS.asp>.

KOSS Construction Company (Topeka, KS) is the primary contractor on this \$55.4 million improvement project. The K-18 improvement project is funded by T-WORKS, the transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature last May 2010.

Project work that will take place during these two phases includes: grading and surfacing, concrete pavement placement, construction of bridges, fence installation, seeding, lighting, signing and

pavement marking. **The scheduled completion date for these two K-18 project phases is late 2013.** Construction on phase one of the K-18 project began in the summer of 2010 and is scheduled to be completed in late 2012.

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 the K-18 improvement 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.