

NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Speed Limit Restrictions Implemented on US-24 for McCall Road Project

On **Friday, April 9**, a reduced work zone speed limit was implemented on US-24 for the McCall Road intersection improvement project in Manhattan/Pottawatomie County. On US-24, through the project work zone, the speed limit has now been reduced from a posted speed of 55 miles per hour to a posted speed of 45 miles per hour. Extra law enforcement by the Riley County Police Department and the Pottawatomie County Sheriff's Department through the project work zone has been implemented as well. The changes have been implemented through the project work zone due to safety concerns and an increase in traffic crashes at or near the project site.

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) recognizes work zone safety each April during National Work Zone Awareness Week which will be observed nationwide this month during the week of April 19-23. In its 11th year, the goal of this week-long recognition continues to be the reminder to drivers of how they can help keep everyone in a work zone safe on a daily basis.

Work zone safety is just as important for motorists as it is for our highway workers. Statistics annually show that motorists comprise four out of five of all deaths in highway work zones. Eighty-five percent of those killed in work zones are drivers or their passengers. KDOT takes work zone safety seriously and has implemented the additional work zone restrictions to keep both our workers and motorists safe.

Motorists can make their drives through the project safer by remembering the following work zone safety tips.

- Don't speed in work zones; obey the posted speed limits.
- Stay Alert! Expect the unexpected.
- Watch for workers; drive with caution.

- Don't change lanes unnecessarily, do anticipate lane shifts.
- Avoid distractions such as mobile phones while driving in work zones.
- Turn on headlights so that workers and other drivers can see you.
- Expect delays, especially during peak travel times.
- Be extra alert at night while driving in work zones.

Pavers, Inc., Salina, Kansas is the prime contractor on this \$1,228,703 intersection improvement project. The scheduled completion date for the project is mid-August 2010. McCall Road is expected to be back open to two lanes of traffic by mid-summer 2010. This is a City of Manhattan project, which is being funded in part by the City of Manhattan and with federal funds from the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) that will be administered by the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Project work includes the addition of double left-turn lanes on McCall Road for motorists turning east onto US-24. There will be longer left- and right-turn lanes constructed on US-24, installation of new traffic signals and storm sewer improvements.

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 intersection 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.