

NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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29th Street & Fairlawn Road Improvement Project Updates #2

On Wednesday/Thursday, August 25-26, overnight work will close Fairlawn Road and the westbound I-470 to Fairlawn Road exit ramp for pavement work. Crews will mill and overlay Fairlawn Road, place an overlay on the new Connector Road, and complete pavement marking work on the westbound I-470 to Fairlawn Road exit ramp and adjacent roadway.

Advance message boards will alert drivers to the lane and ramp closures. Both northbound and southbound Fairlawn Road will close south of 29th Street and the westbound I-470 to Fairlawn Road exit ramp will close beginning at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 25 and reopen to all traffic at 5:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 26; then close again at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 26 and reopen to all traffic at 5:00 a.m. on Friday, August 27.**

At 5:00 a.m. on Friday, August 27, the new Connector Road will open to all traffic. Beginning on Monday, August 23, the new traffic signals located at the Connector Road junctions at 29th Street and Fairlawn Road will flash yellow to alert drivers to the upcoming traffic changes. To help drivers better understand how they will now drive through the reconstructed intersection, KDOT and the City of Topeka will make available a project map and detailed description of turn movements for the newly revamped intersection on Monday, August 23. This information will be sent under separate cover.

The NO left turn restrictions from northbound and southbound Fairlawn Road and/or from eastbound and westbound 29th Street at the intersection will remain in place. Northbound and southbound Fairlawn Road and eastbound and westbound 29th Street will continue to be reduced to one lane in each direction for the ongoing pavement repair and median work.

Drivers should expect some delays and are encouraged to use alternate routes, if possible. Updated traffic information for this intersection improvement project can be viewed online at:

www.ksdot.org/topekametro/laneclose.asp.

The sidewalk located on the west side of Fairlawn Road will continue to be open to pedestrian traffic. The east side of Fairlawn Road sidewalk will remain closed until handrails can be installed along the sidewalk underneath the I-470 bridges.

Please remember that the access roadway located south of I-470 between Fairlawn Road on the east (near Lewis Toyota) and McClure Road on the west (near Marlings Home Furnishings) is not a public street, but is located on private property. As well, drivers cannot utilize the parking lot on the northeast corner of 29th & Fairlawn as again this is private property.

The intersection improvement project includes the reconstruction of the 29th Street and Fairlawn Road intersection along with improvements to adjoining I-470 entrance/exit ramps. Construction improvements for 2009 include complete reconstruction of the 29th Street to westbound I-470 entrance ramp, and construction of a new Connector Road that will carry two new designated lanes of traffic from eastbound 29th Street to southbound Fairlawn Road and from the westbound I-470 exit ramp to 29th Street. Construction improvements for 2010 include the addition of a new dedicated right turn lane on the westbound I-470 to Fairlawn Road exit ramp, widening of Fairlawn Road to the east, complete reconstruction of the intersection, and the installation of additional traffic signals at the I-470 ramps to 29th Street and Fairlawn Road.

Graybeal Construction Co. Inc, is the primary contractor on this \$2.1 million intersection improvement project. The 29th Street and Fairlawn Road intersection improvement project is a cooperative effort, funded in part by the KDOT, the City of Topeka, and Shawnee County. The scheduled completion date for the entire project is early fall 2010.

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 the project work zone. For more information on this intersection improvement project, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340, or Steve Baalman, Field Engineering Administrator, at (785) 296-2291.

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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.