

NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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I-70 Gateway Enhancement Project to Begin in Topeka on November 20

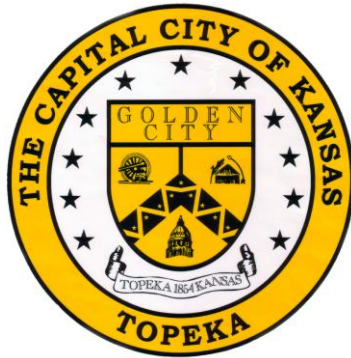
Weather permitting, on **Friday, November 20**, a gateway enhancement project will begin along the I-70 corridor in downtown Topeka. The gateway enhancement project will include landscaping, signage and fence replacement work. Landscaping will include limestone outcroppings and native plantings, and signage will include the installation of seven welcome signs at major highway entrances into Topeka. Work will take place on I-70 between 4th Street and 10th Street and at key entrance points into the capital city. There will be little to no traffic impacts as work will take place primarily off of mainline I-70.

RFB Construction, Pittsburg, KS, is the primary contractor on this \$630,000 gateway enhancement project. Project funding includes \$500,000 from the Kansas Department of Transportation's Transportation Enhancement program, \$55,000 from the City of Topeka, and \$37,500 each from The Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce Foundation and private donations from GO Topeka. The scheduled completion date for the entire project is summer 2010.

Travelers can see RFB's work in the limestone Flint Hills signing located along I-70 and the Kansas Turnpike. The signage will include new "Welcome to Topeka" signs that will be placed either on sign posts along the highway right of way or on limestone bases at key entrances into the city along I-70, US-75 and US-24 (see attached drawings/map). The replacement fence will look similar to the fencing on the new Topeka Boulevard Bridge and the limestone outcroppings will look similar to the limestone retention walls along the stretch of MacVicar Avenue from I-70 to 6th Street (which were completed in early November).

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 I-70 gateway enhancement project, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340 or David Bevens, City of Topeka Communications Manager, at (785) 368-1642.

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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.