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I-35 & Homestead Lane Interchange Project Breaks Ground in SW Johnson County

The Kansas Department of Transportation along with Johnson County and City of Edgerton officials broke ground today for the I-35 and Homestead Lane interchange project in southwest Johnson County. This \$33 million project is estimated to provide more than \$600 million in economic impact to the region.

From the southwest corner of the future interchange, KDOT Acting Secretary Barb Rankin, Johnson County Commission Chair Ed Eilert, Edgerton Mayor Donald Roberts and Bill Clarkson with Clarkson Construction shared their comments and then officially “turned the dirt” with golden shovels at the lunch hour event.

The project features a diverging diamond interchange, the first of its kind in Kansas. A diverging diamond interchange (DDI) is a unique form of diamond interchange through which traffic is diverted to the opposite side of the road to reduce the number of turning contact points and to facilitate a more efficient flow of a large amount of traffic. In addition to the DDI interchange, a new section of Homestead Lane will be constructed as a paved road from 199th Street north to the intersection of 191st Street as part of this project.

The new interchange will provide improved access to future development planned in southwest Johnson County including the BNSF Intermodal Facility, Logistics Park and warehouse facilities. When open, the BNSF Intermodal Facility and Logistics Park will generate significant traffic in southwestern Johnson County. More than 17,000 vehicle trips per

day, of which 7,000 will be commercial trucks, are forecast to be generated by the BNSF facility at full build-out.

The demand for improved access to I-35 in southwest Johnson County is due to population growth, business expansion and development. In order for traffic to move safely, efficiently and conveniently through the southwestern Johnson County corridor on I-35, a Southwest Johnson County Interchange Access Study was completed in April 2010. Currently, average daily traffic is 20,000 vehicles per day on I-35 between Sunflower Road and Gardner Road. By 2040, average daily traffic is estimated at 69,000 vehicles per day between the existing Gardner Road and Sunflower Road Interchanges. This level of traffic volume will result in congestion at critical ramp and freeway locations.

Construction on the interchange project will begin this spring and is scheduled to be completed in late fall 2013. Clarkson Construction is primary contractor on this \$33 million interchange project.

This interchange project is funded by T-WORKS, the transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature in May 2010. Find out more about this and other T-WORKS projects at: <http://kdotapp.ksdot.org/TWorks/>

For more information on the I-35 and Homestead Lane SW Johnson County Interchange project, please visit the project website at <http://i35swjohnsoncointerchange.ksdot.org>.

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