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Ribbon-Cutting Marks Completion of K-7 & 55th Street/Johnson Drive Interchange Project

City, state and federal officials today officially opened the recently-completed K-7 and 55th Street/Johnson Drive interchange in Shawnee (Johnson County). Featured speakers at the event included Governor Sam Brownback, U.S. Senator Pat Roberts, U.S. Congressman Kevin Yoder, Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller, Secretary of Revenue Nick Jordan, and Shawnee Mayor Jeff Meyers.

The K-7 and 55th Street/Johnson Drive interchange project was needed to address safety concerns and capacity issues along the heavily travelled K-7 corridor. The $21.4 million interchange project began construction in late March 2010.

"This project has all the benefits of a good transportation project – including short- and long-term job creation, a strong working relationship with the local partner, a state agency being responsive and responsible, and a vision of how this corridor should develop and sticking to it," said Kansas Transportation Secretary Deb Miller.

The existing at-grade signalized intersection was replaced with a diamond interchange, including bridges spanning K-7 over 55th Street/Johnson Drive. Project work also included construction of a roundabout to merge the K-7 on- and off-ramps with 55th Street/Johnson Drive and a second roundabout west of K-7 at the intersection of Hedge Lane Terrace and 55th Street. In addition, the project includes a side-road overpass at Clear Creek Parkway and K-7 (currently

underway) and construction of the already completed Hedge Lane Terrace from 55th Street south to Clear Creek Parkway.

"The investment here and along the K-7 corridor during the next few decades will provide important economic return and job creation for the region and state," said Gov. Sam Brownback.

"But the return on that investment won't just be in dollars and jobs; the improved roads also will be measured in fewer crashes, fewer injuries and fewer fatalities."

This improved access will promote economic development for the city of Shawnee and Johnson County.

The Mill Valley High School Marching Band in Shawnee provided opening music for the ribbon-cutting celebration.

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