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Deb Miller, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

## Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

October 28, 2011

011-105

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Short closures of I-435 beneficial for motorists

Constructing a major project and still accommodating traffic in one of the most heavily traveled sections of roadways in the state is a challenge that is being met by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT).

In October, KDOT and the project contractor, Clarkson Construction Company, made several decisions to benefit motorists on Interstate 435 along an area near Quivira Road in Johnson County where \$102 million in roadway improvements are currently underway. During two weekends (9/30-10/3 and 10/14-10/17) KDOT first closed all eastbound lanes of I-435 and then all westbound lanes of I-435 to expedite construction activity.

“Closing I-435 was a short-term pain that resulted in long-term benefits for both motorists and the contractor,” said KDOT Metro South Engineer Burt Morey. “Normally we would not close an interstate, but in this case it proved to be beneficial for many reasons.”

The closure allowed for the quick construction of a pair of concrete box bridge culverts under I-435 to carry storm water. One was constructed just east of Quivira Road and other just west of Quivira Road. To view photos of work on the culvert construction visit:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/kansastransportation/sets/72157627992632204/>.

“Instead of carrying traffic through a highly constricted construction zone for up to 45 days we were able to expedite the project by working around-the-clock for two weekends. This greatly reduced long-term traffic congestion resulting from construction and more importantly improved safety for motorists and workers.”

The section of I-435 closed was located between US-69 and I-35 in Overland Park. I-435 carries an average of 122,500 vehicles per day through this area.

KDOT also benefited motorists by changing the original date for the westbound closure. The highway was scheduled to be closed October 7-10, but KDOT postponed the work to the following weekend to accommodate fans traveling to the NASCAR races at the Kansas Speedway.

Improvements being made at US-69 & I-435 are part of KDOT's T-WORKS program. Project work includes construction of southbound collector-distributor road network along US-69 between 103rd Street and 119th Street, widening work on eastbound and westbound I-435 and construction of collector-distributor road network along I-435 between I-35 and US-69.

Interchange improvements will be completed at I-435 & Quivira Road, I-435 & US-69, US-69 & College Boulevard and US-69 & 119th Street.

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