The road to staying connected

July 24, 2020

Gov. Kelly and Secretary Lorenz celebrate U.S. 50 delayed T-WORKS groundbreaking in Lyon County

On location in Emporia, Gov. Laura Kelly and Secretary Julie Lorenz joined community leaders to break ground on a delayed T-WORKS project on U.S. 50 in Lyon County.

The project, which spans from Road E5 to a half-mile east of Road F in Lyon County, will widen the highway to 4-lanes for one mile. This stretch of highway carries the most truck traffic of any 2-lane highway in the state. Improvements are also being made at the Road E5 and Road F intersections. It will cost around $8 million. The primary contractor is Koss Construction.

“The announcement of the U.S. 50 T-WORKS project will bring jobs, safety and a long-term economic boost to the community,” Gov. Kelly said. “My administration is committed to rebuilding our infrastructure and putting an end to using critical transportation dollars to cover the state’s unpaid debts.”

“Through this process, we were able to build eight sets of passing lanes rather than five along the corridor,” Secretary Lorenz said. “And now, we will add one mile of 4-lane too.”

The project should wrap up in November 2021, watch a replay of the event here.
Bridge replacement project prompts overnight closure of I-135 in McPherson County

On July 17, the Avenue A bridge, located south of U.S. 56 in McPherson County, was demolished and removed so new construction can begin to replace the bridge. I-135 was closed overnight and traffic was detoured through McPherson. Debris was removed with southbound I-135 reopening at 6 a.m. on July 18 and northbound I-135 opening at 4 p.m. that same day. The bridge is being replaced by Dondlinger and Sons Construction Company, Inc., of Wichita. The project is scheduled to be completed in January 2021, weather permitting.

Lessons from the field: Explaining a scrub seal

The Avenue A bridge, located south of U.S. 56, was demolished on July 17. Photo credit: Lieutenant Rust, Kansas Highway Patrol.

District Five is performing its first scrub seal project on K-96 in Rush County.

How is a scrub seal? Nick Squires, District Construction and Materials Engineer, explains:

Oil sprays onto the road from a truck that pulls brooms behind the sprayer. The brooms push the oil into cracks. Then rock is spread over the oil. The second part of the process is to add another layer of oil and rock, this time without the brooms.

Tech Tip: VPN issues

1. If your computer is running slowly or having trouble connecting to the VPN, try rebooting it.
2. If your home network is running slowly, rebooting the router often can fix the issue. You do that by unplugging the router for 30 seconds and plugging it back in.
3. Try connecting device directly to your router with an ethernet cable.

Secretary Lorenz joined U.S. Representative Sharice Davids on Friday, July 24, to discuss the IKE program and other transportation topics that impact Kansas. Secretary Lorenz said that transportation is the connecting fiber in our lives.

“IT’s not about what we build, it’s why we build,” Secretary Lorenz said. “It’s about getting people back to work and making those investments that stand the test of time.”

Check out the replay here: https://www.facebook.com/RepDavids/