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Winfield to receive \$2 million in KDOT economic development funding for Rubbermaid plant expansion

The Kansas Department of Transportation has awarded Winfield \$2 million in economic development funding to help facilitate an expansion of the Newell Rubbermaid plant that will create hundreds of jobs.

The funds will be used to provide roadway access improvements to U.S. 160 and make significant rail improvements. The Rubbermaid Corporation is closing a facility in Texas and will transfer manufacturing operations to their facility and distribution center in Winfield. The city of Winfield sought the economic funding to assist the Rubbermaid expansion.

“We’re thrilled Rubbermaid will receive economic development funding, which will help stabilize our city workforce and allow it to grow,” said Warren Porter, Winfield City Manager. “These funds will target both roadway and rail needs assisting Rubbermaid to expand its operation with the construction of a new 500,000 square-foot distribution center.”

KDOT’s estimates a total of 417 jobs will be created and a capital investment of \$26 million will be realized through the Rubbermaid expansion.

Funding will be provided under the state’s transportation program T-WORKS, which was passed by the Kansas Legislature in 2010. KDOT’s Economic Development

Program was significantly enhanced under T-WORKS to bring new jobs to Kansas and increase capital investment.

“Providing transportation funding to assist Rubbermaid will allow us to seize an immediate economic opportunity and help create jobs,” said KDOT Acting Secretary of Transportation Barbara Rankin. “Thanks to KDOT’s retooled economic development program we are now more flexible, more responsive and more strategic than in the past to address emerging economic opportunities.”

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