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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Open houses scheduled for K-68 expansion project in Miami County

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is hosting two public open houses for the *Miami County K-68 Expansion Project*. One will be held in Louisburg; the other in Paola. The same information will be presented at both meetings. Comment online at k68.digicate.com through February 29, 2016.

Open House Schedule			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Address</u>
Mon., Jan. 25, 2016	5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Miami County Admin. Bldg.	201 Pearl St. Paola, KS 66071
Thurs., Jan. 28, 2016	5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	American Legion	403 S. 9 th St. Louisburg, KS 66053

Detailed meeting materials will display KDOT's progress to date on the development of right-of-way plans for the project. The plans will show improvements to K-68 from US-169 on the west to US-69 on the east and those for Somerset Road on the south side of K-68 in Miami County. No formal presentations will be given. The open house style format will allow area residents, businesses, and commuters to review project maps and provide comments during the evening. KDOT staff, along with consultant team members, will be on hand to answer questions and discuss issues and/or concerns.

Upgrading K-68 with a series of improvements at key locations plus a long-term goal of widening the road overall are recommended in the *K-68 Corridor Management*

Plan (www.ksdot.org/projects.asp). KDOT and the consultant team began developing conceptual improvement plans for the **Miami County K-68 Expansion Project** in 2012. They have since modified the plans to respond to community feedback, field surveys, and detailed engineering analysis. The changes will be reflected in the plans on display during the public open houses.

T-WORKS, Kansas' 10-year, \$8 billion transportation program, designed to create jobs, preserve highway infrastructure, and provide multimodal economic development opportunities across the state, is funding \$10 million of construction for the project. However, the funding is not enough to expand all eight miles of the road from US-169 to US-69 in Miami County as a four-lane expressway. For more information, visit the T-WORKS web page at www.tinyurl.com/MiamiCountyK68. You can contact Donna Schmit, KDOT Area Engineer, at donnas@ksdot.org and (785) 448-5446.

The meeting locations are ADA accessible. Persons in need of a sign language interpreter, an assistive listening device, large print or Braille material, or other accommodation to participate in this meeting should notify Priscilla Petersen, KDOT Public Affairs Manager, at priscilla@ksdot.org or (620) 431-1000. You can also contact Kristy Kelly, KDOT Community Affairs Manager, at kristyk@ksdot.org and (620) 431-1000.

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This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information, 700 SW Harrison St., 2nd FL West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.

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