

NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation news release

June 1, 2009

09-065

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News Contact: Steve Swartz, (785) 296-3585

Celebration on June 8 to mark completion of state transportation program, start of recovery work

A celebration to mark both the successful completion of the Comprehensive Transportation Program (CTP) and the beginning of the first American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project in Kansas is scheduled at two sites on June 8 at 4 p.m.

Gov. Mark Parkinson along with city and county officials will mark the occasion with a K-61 sign unveiling just north of the McPherson-Reno county line in McPherson County. A \$64.2 million project to expand K-61 to four lanes in McPherson County completes KDOT's commitment to the CTP and will begin the first major Recovery Act project in Kansas.

Simultaneously at 4 p.m., Kansas Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller along with legislative and government officials will watch the sign unveiling via closed circuit TV from the Grand Prairie Hotel and Convention Center in Hutchinson.

Gov. Parkinson will then return to the hotel where he and Secretary Miller will be among the dignitaries speaking at the event.

Other speakers will be Mary Turkington, Chair of the Transportation 2000 Study Group; Dennis McKinney, State Treasurer and former Minority Leader in the Kansas

House; Dave Kerr, former president of the Kansas Senate and current President/Executive Director of the Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce; Rep. Paul Davis, Kansas House Minority Leader and Sen. Steve Morris, Kansas Senate President.

Former Gov. Bill Graves, who signed the CTP legislation in May of 1999, will not be able to attend the event, however, he will provide a video message during the ceremony.

“We faced many roadblocks during the CTP, but we showed amazing resolve and overcame them all to keep the program moving forward,” said Secretary Miller. “Not only did we have to be competent and professional in delivering the program, we also had to be resourceful, flexible and creative.”

More than 5,700 projects were completed during the 10-year, \$13.2 billion state transportation program. Reaching the end of the program wasn’t easy for KDOT, which dealt with inflation, recessions, cost increases caused by natural disasters and agency budget challenges.

“It’s been a struggle, but with the help of good policies and priorities we have managed to deliver what was promised,” said Secretary Miller.

In April, Koss Construction Co., Topeka, was awarded the \$64.2 million contract for the McPherson County expansion work. The project is part of construction that will four-lane the entire section of K-61 between McPherson and Hutchinson by early 2012. Total construction cost of the 23.1-mile expansion is \$105.3 million.

“The expansion of K-61 from Hutchinson to McPherson was the last remaining CTP project we had not let to construction,” said Secretary Miller. “The project was temporarily removed from our letting schedule and without Recovery Act funds, completing this commitment would not have been possible.”

###