

## NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation news release

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **First Kansas economic stimulus project awarded**

The first economic stimulus construction project in Kansas made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 has been awarded to Koss Construction Co., of Topeka.

On Monday, the Kansas Department of Transportation announced Koss was awarded a \$64.2 million contract to expand K-61 to four lanes in McPherson County. In February, Koss was awarded a \$41.1 million related project to expand K-61 to four lanes in Reno County.

“The K-61 expansion is one of five stimulus projects in Kansas that will help create thousands of jobs, enhance motorist safety and support economic development,” said KDOT Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger.

Total construction cost for the four-lane expansion between Hutchinson and McPherson is \$105.3 million. The entire 23.1-mile project is tentatively scheduled to be completed in early 2012. The K-61 work will complete KDOT’s commitment to projects under its 10-year Comprehensive Transportation Program.

“The low bid on K-61 came in 27 percent under the \$88 million estimate,” said Younger. “The extra funds will be applied to the initial phase of a stimulus project expanding K-18 to four lanes between Fort Riley and Manhattan.”

More than 10,000 jobs will be created or sustained in Kansas from economic stimulus projects. The K-61 work alone is estimated to support more than 2,900 jobs and generate \$220 million in annual economic output during construction.

Kansas was awarded \$378 million under the ARRA, with \$348 million dedicated for road and bridge work and the remaining \$30 million to be used for transit projects. Besides the K-61 economic projects selected by KDOT include:

- \$91 million for US-69 in Overland Park for the corridor from I-35 to 103rd Street to address congestion issues and support economic development. Bids will be accepted for this project in May.
- \$11 million for K-23 in Gove County to enhance safety on 16 miles of a narrow, 50-year-old road that lacks shoulders and has steep side slopes. Most of the traffic on this stretch are trucks hauling agricultural commodities and implements. Bids will also be accepted in May for this project.
- \$23 million for I-135/47th Street in Wichita for the reconstruction and upgrade of the interchange to remove the bottleneck and to provide a link to an underutilized area. Bids will be accepted in July for this project.
- The initial phase of expanding K-18 between Fort Riley and Manhattan to four lanes. KDOT hopes to accept bids on this project in late spring of 2010, but no firm date for a construction letting has been set.

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