

NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kansas moving quickly on constructing transportation recovery projects

Kansas is well ahead of schedule in fulfilling the intent of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to get money flowing quickly, get people to work and make needed investments in the transportation system.

Since the ARRA was designed to provide an immediate impact to the economy through job creation, it came with strict guidelines to obligate (commit) federal funds to specific projects. One of the key stipulations was that funds must be obligated in 120 days, which is June 30.

By the second week in May, the Kansas Department of Transportation had already obligated approximately \$196.2 million to recovery projects far surpassing the required figure of \$121.7 needed by the deadline.

“We wanted to be sure to hit the ground running with projects that couldn’t have been built in the foreseeable future without the one-time recovery funding,” said KDOT Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger. “The Kansas projects will create jobs, enhance safety

and sustain long-term economic growth.”

Based on estimates from the Federal Highway Administration, Kansas stands to gain more than 10,000 jobs from its projects.

There were five major projects indentified by KDOT to be earmarked for ARRA funding. Bids have already been received and contracts awarded for three of the projects, while one project will receive bids in July and another is scheduled to tentatively receive bids in March of 2010.

The first recovery project in Kansas made possible by ARRA involved the expansion of K-61 to four lanes in McPherson County. In April, Koss Construction Co., Topeka, was awarded a \$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.

A contract was awarded this week to Clarkson Construction Co., Kansas City, to improve U.S. 69 in Overland Park from I-35 to 103rd Street. The \$82.3 million project will address congestion issues by reconstructing the interchange at 95th Street and U.S. 69 and enhancing the corridor’s capacity.

Also awarded this week was a \$7.8 million contract to Venture Corporation, Great Bend, for improvements to 16 miles of K-23 in Gove County. The narrow, 50-year-old road lacks shoulders and has steep side slopes.

The reconstructed K-23 will incorporate components of KDOT’s ‘practical improvement’ philosophy. Asphalt will be added to the outer edge of the roadway as a practical alternative to expensive full width shoulders.

In July, KDOT will accept bids to reconstruct and upgrade the I-135/47th Street interchange in Wichita, which will remove a bottleneck and provide a link to an underutilized area.

In March 2010, KDOT will tentatively accept bids for the initial phase of four-lane construction work on K-18 between Fort Riley and Manhattan. The section of K-18 is one of the fastest growing corridors in the state.

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