

NEWS RELEASE

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Recovery Act produces hundreds of jobs in first year

Road projects to generate many more in 2010

Hundreds of Kansans worked on transportation projects during the first year of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and many more will have jobs this season as ongoing projects ramp up and others get under way.

The entire \$378 million Kansas received for transportation projects has been committed ahead of the March 1 deadline. Nearly 150 projects ranging from an urban interchange to county road resurfacing will be completed or under way this construction season.

The Recovery Act was signed into law on Feb. 17, 2009, and three days later the Kansas Department of Transportation announced five major state projects and a plan to share about \$32 million with local governments. Other Recovery funds were allocated for Wichita and Kansas City, for transit and Transportation Enhancement projects, which include cultural, aesthetic, environmental and bicycle/pedestrian projects.

“The Recovery Act did exactly what it was supposed to do – put people to work and improve the state’s transportation infrastructure,” said Kansas Transportation Secretary Deb Miller.

“Our state projects are truly game-changers that couldn’t have been built in the foreseeable future without this one-time funding. These projects create jobs during construction, enhance safety and support long-term job growth,” she said.

Construction spending so far has totaled \$42 million and jobs reached 1,096 in October.

“As these projects ramp up to full speed this season, I expect them to generate nearly 3,300 construction jobs,” said Deputy Secretary and State Engineer Jerry Younger. “There will also be jobs created or sustained by the purchase of construction materials and services and the spending of paychecks.”

Kansas and other states have been able to stretch their Recovery dollars thanks to favorable bid prices during the recession. The winning bids on the four major state projects now under contract came in an average of 17 percent below estimates. The savings will be used to fund more work on the K-18 expansion between Ogden and Manhattan, which will be under way in early spring.

To see a list of all Recovery projects in Kansas and related information, visit KDOT’s Web site at http://www.ksdot.org/Economic_Recovery/. Information about other states and national Recovery spending can be viewed in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials’ Projects and Paychecks report, recovery.transportation.org.

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