



Bureau of Transportation Information  
700 SW Harrison  
Topeka, KS 66603-3754

## NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation news release

March 5, 2010

10-014-00

News Contact: Steve Swartz, (785) 296-3585, cell (785) 221-5615; [stevesw@ksdot.org](mailto:stevesw@ksdot.org)

### **Transportation Secretary Miller responds to KDOT budget cuts**

*The following is a statement from Kansas Transportation Secretary Deb Miller regarding Governor Parkinson's announcement to sweep funds from the State Highway Fund into the State General Fund.*

“There are few options left to balance the budget this late in the fiscal year, so I understand the steps the Governor has taken. But in this tough economic time, the \$257 million in cuts this year to the State Highway Fund are beyond stunning.

The burden of balancing the state budget has fallen very heavily on the construction industry. Today I am suspending \$86 million – or 65 percent – of the \$133 million in state-funded projects we'd planned to have under contract for the remainder of the fiscal year. That will eliminate jobs for both contractors and suppliers. The saving grace is that the federal Recovery Act will fund \$112 million in new projects to be under way this summer. We will also continue as planned with projects that involve federal and local dollars.

KDOT's construction spending in real dollars is lower than it was in the 1970s, which means Kansas citizens, communities and businesses won't get the kind of services they've gotten in the past. Considering the winter that we've had, Kansans are going to see rougher pavement and more potholes, and we're going to be very limited in our ability to address them.”

###

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., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711