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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. 54 preservation project will begin July 15

Monday, July 15, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) expects to start a heavy preservation project on 5.4 miles of U.S. 54 from Iola to La Harpe.

Project activities are: replacement of the concrete pavement; replacement of curb inlets and curb and gutter as needed; replacement of bridge approach slabs; grading; and sodding. The U.S. 54 project also includes resurfacing the Rock Creek Bridge deck with a silica fume overlay.

The three project phases are: **Phase One**) beginning 826 feet west of the east Iola city limits and continuing approximately 3,000 feet east past the U.S. 54 and U.S. 169 ramp termini; **Phase Two**) from the end of Phase One, east to the start of the divided highway through the city of Gas; **Phase Three**) from the end of Phase Two or the beginning of the grass median, east to the end of the concrete pavement.

Phases One and Three of the project will begin July 15 and be finished in 2013. Phase Two, along with any remaining work in Phase Three, will begin in March 2014. The entire project has a completion date of November 26, 2014.

Each phase will be completed in two sections. The contractor will replace concrete in the westbound lanes while placing two-way traffic on the eastbound lanes. The process will then be reversed with head-to-head traffic on the westbound lanes while concrete is replaced in the eastbound lanes. Phases One and Two will incorporate the replacement of all curb and gutter, with sod placed behind the new curb. Additional

work during Phase Two consists of replacing the approach pavement at the Rock Creek Bridge and placing a silica fume overlay on the bridge deck.

KDOT awarded the \$10.4 million construction contract to Koss Construction of Topeka. Traffic will be head-to-head through construction with the speed limit reduced to 45 miles per hour or less. According to Jerod Kelley, construction engineer at the KDOT Iola office, "The purpose of this project is to replace the concrete pavement that has exceeded its service life and to provide motorists with a smooth, safe ride." Persons with questions about the U.S. 54 work or other KDOT projects may contact Kelley at (620) 365-2161 or Jerod@ksdot.org, or KDOT Southeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager Priscilla Petersen at 1-877-550-5368. For information concerning T-WORKS, visit the website, www.ksdot.org/tworks.

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