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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **U.S. 54 preservation project now begins in August**

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Iola Area office has announced the starting date of the T-WORKS heavy preservation project on five miles of U.S. 54 in Allen County has been pushed back to August 1.

The project will begin on the four-lane section slightly west of the Iola east city limits and continue east to the end of the concrete pavement at LaHarpe. 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 of the bridge over Rock Creek with a silica fume overlay.

The three project phases are: 1) 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; 2) beginning at the east end of Phase One and continuing east to the start of the divided highway through the city of Gas; 3) beginning at the end of Phase Two and continuing east to the end of the concrete pavement.

According to Jerod Kelley, KDOT Iola construction engineer, "The first and third phases of the project will begin August 1 and be completed by November 26, 2013. Following a winter project shut-down, Phase Two activities will start in March 2014. The entire U.S. 54 project has a completion date of November 26, 2014." Kelley said that two-way traffic and access to local businesses will be maintained throughout the project.

KDOT awarded the \$10.4 million construction contract to Koss Construction of Topeka. KDOT will distribute additional information concerning the U.S. 54 project prior to the start of construction. Persons with questions may contact Kelley at (620) 365-2161 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](http://www.ksdot.org/tworks).

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