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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **KDOT placing solar pavement lights at two U.S.169 interchanges**

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) has started a project to place self-sufficient solar powered LED pavement lights at the U.S.169/Plummer Road and U.S.169/Chanute-Humboldt Road (old 169) interchanges.

According to project manager Chris Pross of the KDOT Pittsburg construction office, the solar lights will add traffic guidance at these interchanges. The two interchanges do not currently meet KDOT standards for tower lighting.

This pilot project is being completed jointly by KDOT and Pittsburg State University (PSU). The KDOT Pittsburg office is managing the project, and PSU is providing the installation expertise. Maintenance employees from the KDOT Iola office are handling traffic control and installation of the lights. Staff from the KDOT Chanute Materials Lab will core the holes for the solar lights.

Flaggers will guide traffic through the work zone, with no significant delays expected. KDOT will notify the public in the event of any ramp closures during later phases of the project. The solar lights are first being installed at the Plummer Road interchange during weekday daytime hours. Work at the Plummer interchange is expected to last for approximately three weeks, after which lights will be installed at the Chanute-Humboldt Road interchange. The entire project should be finished in one month, weather permitting.

Traffic is reminded to obey the signs and flaggers and “Give ‘Em a Brake!” at the work zone. Persons with questions may contact KDOT Southeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager Priscilla Petersen at 1-877-550-5368, or Chris Pross at KDOT-Pittsburg, (620) 231-7560.

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