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## NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation news release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **KDOT reviewing steel truss bridges**

Kansas Department of Transportation bridge inspectors have begun a review of the state's steel truss bridges following a technical advisory from federal highway officials.

The Federal Highway Administration advisory was issued after the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) identified a design flaw in the gusset plates on the I-35W bridge in Minneapolis that collapsed Aug. 1, 2007. The gusset plate is a large piece of flat metal that ties together steel beams. Because of the design flaw, the gussets on the Minneapolis bridge were only half as thick as they should have been.

KDOT bridge engineers will conduct an extensive review of design plans and perform a structural analysis of the bridges. They will also review what actions, such as an asphalt overlay, have been taken over the years that added weight to the bridges. Inspectors also will identify the critical gusset plates on each bridge and review their specific design details.

“While we have never had reason to suspect a flaw in the design of the gusset plates on Kansas bridges, we think it is prudent to confirm that the gussets are designed appropriately,” said Jerry Younger, Deputy Secretary for Engineering and State Transportation Engineer.

NTSB stated that there is no evidence to suggest that the design flaws of the Minneapolis bridge are widespread.

Ten bridges will be reviewed by KDOT and the process is expected to take about 30 days. Another steel truss bridge, the Amelia Earhart Bridge at Atchison, has already been reviewed. Those bridges to be reviewed include:

Wyandotte County – The three bridges of the I-70 Intercity Viaduct; 7<sup>th</sup> Street Trafficway over the Kansas River; and 18<sup>th</sup> Street Expressway over the Kansas River.

Leavenworth County – K-92 over the Missouri River.

Marshall County – U.S. 77 over the Blue River.

Trego County – K-147 over the Smoky Hill River.

Linn County – K-152 over the Marais des Cygnes River.

Neosho County – K-47 over the Neosho River.

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