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K-47reopens to traffic following August 30 ceremony

On Thursday, Aug. 30, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) will hold a ceremony and ribbon cutting to dedicate the newly reconstructed 10-mile section of K-47 in Wilson and Neosho counties. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. in front of Newton Lumber Company on K-47, located 2¼ miles east of the K-47/U.S.75 junction at Altoona.

The public is welcome to attend the dedication. Message boards will direct motorists to enter K-47 from the project's west end at Altoona. Immediately following the ceremony the barricades at the U.S.75 and U.S.169 junctions will be removed as the highway section is reopened to all traffic. In case of rain, the event will be moved to the Altoona Fire Station, 728 Main Street, Altoona.

Those speaking at the dedication are: Mike King, Kansas Secretary of Transportation; State Senator Dwayne Umbarger; and State Representative Forrest Knox. Mike Stringer, District Engineer of the KDOT Southeast Kansas District, will serve as master of ceremonies.

Construction began in May 2011 to reconstruct K-47 on its existing alignment between U.S.75 on the west and U.S.169 to the east. Koss Construction Company, Inc., of Topeka, is primary contractor on the K-47 project, which has a construction cost of approximately \$11.7 million and is part of the statewide T-WORKS transportation program.

Project activities included removing the old pavement and widening the roadway to two 12-foot driving lanes with eight-foot-wide aggregate shoulders, and installing new culverts and crossroad pipes. During construction the highway has been closed, with K-47 motorists using a signed detour along state routes.

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