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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Open houses scheduled for K-68 expansion in Miami County

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is hosting two public open houses for the *Miami County K-68 Expansion Project*. One will be held in Louisburg; the other in Paola. The same information will be presented at both meetings. No formal presentations will be given.

Open House Schedule			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Address</u>
Monday, May 6, 2013	5 to 7 p.m.	American Legion	403 S. 9 th Street Louisburg, Kansas 66053
Tuesday, May 7, 2013	5 to 7 p.m.	Paola Community Center	905 E. Wea Street Paola, Kansas 66071

The *Miami County K-68 Expansion Project* is funded for \$10 million of construction through T-WORKS, Kansas' 10-year, \$8 billion transportation program. However, the funding is not enough to expand all eight miles of the road from US-169 on the west to US-69 on the east, so only T-WORKS funded improvements will be built. During the May 6 and 7 open houses, the project team will present a \$10 million package of conceptual improvements for public feedback and will encourage meeting attendants to share thoughts about the improvements most important to the community and suggestions for where construction should happen first. KDOT is also collecting comments about the project online at www.k68comments.org.

The project team began working on the ***Miami County K-68 Expansion Project*** in 2012 by sharing initial thoughts about potential K-68 improvements with stakeholders during the spring and summer. Since then the team has combined stakeholder feedback with engineering and field analysis to develop the package of conceptual improvements that the public will view during the May 6 and 7 public meetings. Improvements, such as changes needed for key intersections, development of frontage and/or reverse frontage roads, and more are scheduled to be constructed between spring 2018 and fall 2019.

Improving K-68 with a series of improvements at key locations plus a long-term goal of widening the road overall are recommended in the ***K-68 Corridor Management Plan*** (www.ksdot.org/projects.asp). Funding for the Miami County K-68 Expansion Project is included among several Southeast Kansas highway expansion projects that will be provided through T-WORKS to create jobs, preserve highway infrastructure, and provided multimodal economic development opportunities across the state. KDOT worked with the communities including Ottawa, Paola, and Louisburg, and Franklin and Miami Counties to develop and select projects for the program. The funds will be used to build improvements to K-68 in Miami County. KDOT will continue to work with the community to determine where to construct improvements to K-68 between US-169 and US-69.

For more information, visit the T-WORKS web page at www.tinyurl.com/MiamiCountyK68. You can also contact KDOT Area Engineer Hugh Bogle at hugh@ksdot.org and (785) 448-5446 or provide comments online at www.k68comments.org.

The meeting locations are ADA accessible. Persons in need of a sign language interpreter, an assistive listening device, large print or Braille material, or other accommodation to participate in this meeting should notify Priscilla Petersen at priscilla@ksdot.org or (620) 431-1000.

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This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

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