



Deb Miller, Secretary

Department of Transportation

Sam Brownback, Governor

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## **U.S. 69 expansion, safety improvement projects planned for Southeast Kansas**

FORT SCOTT – Continued expansion of U.S. 69 and safety improvements to enhance other Southeast Kansas roads are among the highway projects announced here today by Gov. Sam Brownback.

Speaking at the Kansas Department of Transportation subarea office, the Governor said a four-lane, upgradable expressway will be built from Arma to Fort Scott at an estimated cost of \$47 million. Other projects include reconstruction of K-7 from Columbus to Cherokee, reconstruction of the U.S. 166/U.S. 400 interchange and dollar-stretching practical improvement projects such as the construction of passing lanes – an important safety feature – on U.S. 400.

“These projects are the result of a wise, well-thought-out, innovative process to maximize our limited dollars. Taken together, they balance the need to continue building on earlier investments on U.S. 69, improve other important corridors in the region – and create immediate construction jobs as well as infrastructure for long-term economic growth,” he said.

Other speakers at the announcement included Fort Scott Mayor James Adams and Kansas Transportation Secretary Deb Miller, who is accompanying the Governor on the four-day, five-city tour that started Tuesday in Wichita.

“We have designed to a budget rather than the full-blown scopes of past projects, recognizing that some improvement is better than no improvement at all,” said Secretary Miller.

“We selected lower-cost options, such as expressways instead of freeways. Or we may have chosen passing lanes rather than a four-lane highway expansion.”

The list of expansion and modernization projects announced today can be viewed on the T-WORKS website at <http://www.ksdot.org/t-works/>. Projects for other regions of the state also will be posted on the T-WORKS website and updated daily after announcements.

The Governor’s announcement schedule for the rest of the week is:

- **Today** – McPherson, 3:30 p.m., park across from S&R Warehouse, 1442 N. Centennial Drive. Projects for North Central Kansas will be announced.
- **Thursday** – Dodge City, 10 a.m., United Wireless Arena, 4100 W. Comanche. Projects for Northwest and Southwest Kansas will be announced.
- **Friday** – Kansas City, Kan., 10 a.m., Kansas Speedway administrative offices, just north of the I-70/110<sup>th</sup> Street interchange. Projects for Northeast Kansas will be announced.

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700 SW Harrison St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.