

Kansas City Metro Office  
1290 S. Enterprise  
Olathe, KS 66061-5355



phone: 913-942-3100  
fax: 913-782-5914  
www.ksdot.gov

Calvin Reed, Secretary of Transportation

Laura Kelly, Governor

**For Immediate Release:**

Dec. 13, 2024

**Contact:**

Delaney Tholen

785-817-9365

[delaney.tholen@ks.gov](mailto:delaney.tholen@ks.gov)

## **KDOT celebrates De Soto Local Road Improvements Project with ribbon-cutting event**

**DE SOTO** – This morning, Kansas Department of Transportation Secretary Calvin Reed was joined by local government and business leaders and guests to celebrate the completion of the De Soto Local Road Improvements Project in Johnson County. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held following a brief presentation at the Flint Commerce Center.

The project converted more than 4 miles of two-lane pavement into a divided four-lane concrete roadway with curbs, gutters and sidewalks. The work area includes West 103<sup>rd</sup> Street between Evening Star Road and the Lexington Avenue/K-10 interchange, and about one half mile of Astra Parkway (formerly Main Avenue) south from West 103<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Part of the KDOT Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program (IKE), the project was delivered by KDOT in partnership with the City of De Soto and Johnson County, to provide the transportation infrastructure improvements necessary to support the Panasonic Energy Co., Ltd.'s electric vehicle (EV) battery manufacturing facility in De Soto.

Panasonic Energy Co., Ltd. announced the selection of the De Soto site location for a new factory in July 2022. Construction of the new Panasonic electric vehicle battery factory in Astra Enterprise Park at West 103<sup>rd</sup> Street/Astra Parkway is the largest economic development project to-date in Kansas and has been a catalyst for rapid development in the area.

The project, which began in June 2023, is the first successful progressive design-build project for KDOT and is substantially complete, with all lanes opened to traffic on Dec. 12, 2024.

“KDOT’s ability to adapt innovative project delivery methods and provide these improvements expeditiously is an accomplishment I’m proud to celebrate today,” Transportation Secretary Calvin Reed said. “Our team and our partners deserve immense credit for embracing innovation and understanding the impact of this work for one of the most transformational projects in our state’s history.”

To support growth and address future travel demands in western Johnson County, KDOT continues to explore transportation needs in the area, including an ongoing K-10 corridor study that will evaluate infrastructure expansion needs.

“Reliable infrastructure is how we continue to attract new businesses and residents to our state,” Kansas Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary of Business Development Joshua Jefferson said. “These improvements will pave the way for a bright, prosperous future for De Soto and for Kansas.”

More information on the De Soto Local Road Improvements Project can be found here: <https://desotoroadimprovements.ksdot.gov>.

###

This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request. For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the KDOT Division of Communications, 700 SW Harrison St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl. West, Topeka, KS 66603-3745, or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice) / 7-1-1 (Hearing Impaired).

**Click below to connect to KDOT’s Social Networks:**

