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Calvin Reed, Secretary of Transportation

Laura Kelly, Governor

## **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **KDOT hosts groundbreaking for South Lawrence Trafficway**

Kansas Department of Transportation Secretary Calvin Reed joined community leaders to celebrate construction beginning on the K-10/South Lawrence Trafficway (SLT) west leg expansion project. The event took place at the Lawrence Memorial Hospital West Campus, with speakers highlighting the importance of the SLT to Lawrence and the entire region.

“The long-term partnership between the community and state on this project represents the power of Kansans working together to address needs that provide a huge benefit to the local community and all travelers,” said Governor Laura Kelly. “The transformation of the South Lawrence Trafficway is a win for the community and our state to improve safety, promote economic growth and reduce congestion.”

The SLT extends along a 9-mile stretch of K-10 and surrounding roadways in Lawrence. Expansion of the corridor will be done in two parts: the south project, from U.S. 40/6<sup>th</sup> Street south to U.S. 59, and the north project, from U.S. 40 north to I-70. Both are part of KDOT’s Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program (IKE).

The first part is the south project, which will expand K-10 to a four-lane, median divided highway and reconstruct the Wakarusa Drive/27th Street, Clinton Parkway and U.S. 59 interchanges.

“The South Lawrence Trafficway project will improve access to new residential and commercial developments on the west side of Lawrence and increase safety for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians in the community,” said Secretary Reed. “This project positions Lawrence and our state for future growth and helps keep Kansans moving forward.”

KDOT approved the \$170.6 million bid from Emery Sapp & Sons Inc., of Columbia, Mo., in the June bid letting for the south project. Emery Sapp & Sons Inc. was also the contractor on the eastern portion of the SLT that was completed in 2016. The public may notice minimal right-of-way and utility work currently happening. Greater impacts are expected to begin in early 2025.

In addition to the groundbreaking, KDOT is hosting a public open house from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, Oct. 9, at Southwest Middle School**, 2511 Inverness Drive, in Lawrence. The open house will allow attendees to review project and construction information and speak one-on-one with staff. There will be no formal presentation, and attendees can come and go at any time during the event.

Information presented at the meeting will be available online on Thursday, Oct. 10. To view the materials, learn about the project and sign up for project updates, go to <https://slt-ks.ksdot.gov>. For special assistance, hard copies of the presentation or to talk with a project team member, call 816-527-2468 or email [info@slt-ks.org](mailto:info@slt-ks.org).

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