

# THE KANSAS CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

316 SW 33RD · PO BOX 5061  
TOPEKA KS 66605-0061



TEL (785) 266-4152  
FAX (785) 266-6191  
[kca4@ink.org](mailto:kca4@ink.org)  
[www.kansascontractors.org](http://www.kansascontractors.org)

Contact: Karen Wagaman  
Director of Marketing  
Kansas Contractors Association  
785-266-4152 or 785-817-0555 (Cell)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Contractors Address Bridge Conditions in Kansas Fall KCA Days Bring Contractors and Others to Salina from Across the State

**Salina, KS** (September 25, 2007) – Kansas highway and bridge builders from around the state will be meeting in Salina September 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the conditions of the state’s bridges. Members of the Kansas Contractors Association along with officials of the Kansas Department of Transportation, the Kansas Turnpike Authority and the Federal Highway Administration will be discussing the critical conditions of our state’s infrastructure in a panel discussion to be held Thursday at the Salina Country Club. The bridge discussion is part of Fall KCA Days, an annual meeting designed to foster business relationships within the heavy, highway and utility construction industry.

The program “Bridges in Kansas: Structures, Strategies and Safety” is pertinent because twenty-one percent of the bridges in Kansas are considered deficient in some way. Of 26,000 public bridges across the state, 3,040 structurally deficient; 2,396 functionally deficient. Structurally deficient is the term used for a bridge that is inadequate for today’s design loads, whether by obsolete design standards or structural deterioration. A structurally deficient bridge requires closer monitoring, repair work or load posting. Perhaps surprising to some, Kansas ranks fourth highest in the number of public bridges in the nation and the fifth highest in total miles of roads.

Bridge design and construction experts will discuss the state of bridges across Kansas and the strategies in place to ensure a safe and viable transportation system. Panelists include Richard Schlitt, P.E., Civil-Bridges/Transportation Division Engineer for PEC, P.A.; Jim Werst, P.E., Bridge Project Manager for HNTB; Steven E. Toillion, Structures and Hydraulics Engineer for Federal Highway

Administration; and Don Whisler, P.E. Bridge Management Engineer for the Kansas Department Of Transportation.

Highway construction round table discussions will include topics such as: flexible paving, rigid paving, structures and grading. Contractors and suppliers dealing with environmental issues including water supply, wastewater treatment and utilities will interface with government officials from the Kansas Corporation Commission, the Kansas Department of Agriculture and KDOT.

The purpose of the event is to provide members of KCA, the Kansas Department of Transportation and others with information, guidance and training resources that will help them protect worker's health and safety and share ideas to work more effectively toward common goals.

"This gathering of construction experts from public and private entities is an example of KCA's commitment to find cooperative ways to improve safety and business relations the heavy, highway and utility construction contractors in Kansas," said Mike Morrand, president of Carrother's Construction Company, Paola, Kansas and president of the Kansas Contractors Association. "This event brings together KCA members, government bodies and industry experts while providing informational support services and safety training for the construction industry."

For information about Fall KCA Days or the Kansas Contractors Association, please contact the KCA office at 785-266-4152 or visit [www.kansascontractors.org](http://www.kansascontractors.org).

## **ABOUT THE KANSAS CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION**

The Kansas Contractors Association represents 300 members of the heavy, highway and utility construction industry serving as a liaison between its membership and government bodies. As the state's largest full-service association, KCA is also committed to constantly improving the industry offering lobbying, construction industry training programs, networking events, education and safety programs, insurance and worker's compensation products and industry publications.

###