



Kingman County Commission

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Kingman County to benefit from used bridge beams

In 2006, when plans were being finalized for new construction on Highway 54 west of Kingman, the Kansas Department of Transportation approached Kingman County with an offer. Would the county like to have the used steel beams from the Ninescah River bridge west of Calista?

Charles Arensdorf, Kingman County director of public works, said KDOT is dismantling the bridge, which is located about nine miles west of Kingman. The county is in the process of receiving approximately 3,000 feet of steel I-beams that it can use in a future bridge project.

“We have a good working relationship with KDOT in this area,” Arensdorf said. “That includes Scott Mullen and Nick Squires of the Pratt Area Office. They didn’t have to offer us the beams. We greatly appreciate that.”

Arensdorf said if the county had to purchase the beams new, they would cost between \$200,000 and \$225,000 for the same amount of steel. Even used, the value remains high.

“They are the same as new to us,” he said. “They’ve still got a lot of life in them, especially on a county traffic count roadway. They are more than adequate in a rural setting.”

The beams might be used when the county replaces the Smoots Creek bridge, which is south of the intersection of K-14 and 54 and north of Midway. The county plans to replace that bridge in the near future. If not there, Arensdorf said he is confident the beams will be put to use on another project.

“There may have to be some re-doing of beams or we could make the new bridge design to accommodate the beams,” he said. “It’s just a question of the site we pick.”

The beams will be stored at the county’s old mixing facility south of Kingman.

G.8-1 bridge update

Work is on schedule on a bridge replacement project southeast of Cunningham on SW 130th Ave. Arensdorf said piling has been driven and construction is about 40 percent complete.

He said the new bridge should be open for traffic by Thanksgiving at the latest. King Construction is the contractor on the project.

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