

Tragedy Delays Local Project

The Kansas State Highway Patrol says a collision between a pickup truck and a van carrying an eight-member construction crew on there way to Seneca killed two people and injured seven others.

The accident Monday morning one mile north of Junction City killed the drivers of the two vehicles. The seven injured passengers in the van, all from Wichita, had to be cut from the wreckage.

Two passengers with serious injuries were airlifted to Topeka, two were taken to a Manhattan hospital and three were taken to a Junction City hospital.

The Patrol says a southbound pickup driven by 39-year-old Lancy Davis II of Palmer crossed the center line and struck the van driven by 52-year-old Juan Perz of Wichita head-on.

Seneca City Administrator Tammi Haverkamp said those in the van were with Bryant and Bryant Construction of Halstead, contractor on the city's Main Street re-construction project. Haverkamp said crews will not be on site for a period of time as the company focuses on the needs of its employees and their families. She said the city's thoughts are with them at this tragic time. Haverkamp said the city asks for the public's patience and understanding while work on the Main Street project is temporarily put on hold.

A 15-mile stretch on U.S. 77 was closed Monday morning after the accident, which was reported shortly after 7:15 a.m., and didn't re-open until shortly before 2 o'clock Monday afternoon .