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KDOT KICKS OFF ENGINEERING STUDY OF U.S. 400 PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 11

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) invites the U.S. 400 corridor community to attend a public meeting on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2014 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Baxter Springs Community Building (1101 East Avenue) in Baxter Springs, Kansas. The meeting will kick off the ***U.S. 400 Advanced Preliminary Engineering Study*** (KDOT Project No. 400-11 KA-1005-03) in Cherokee County.

It will be formatted as an open house and no formal presentations will be given. During the meeting, the public will be able to review detailed project exhibits that show the U.S. 400 study area, which extends from the Crawford-Cherokee County line on the north to the U.S. 400/U.S.166 junction east of Baxter Springs on the south. Representatives from KDOT and the consultant team will be present to answer questions and discuss issues or concerns. They will be seeking feedback about environmental issues, economic development, potential community impacts, and general concerns. If you are unable to attend the open house you can share your comments 24 hours a day, seven days a week at www.US400feedback.com now through November 30, 2014.

The purpose of the ***U.S. 400 Advanced Preliminary Engineering Study*** is to plan an alignment that expands U.S. 400 in Cherokee County as a roadway similar to U.S. 69 north of Fort Scott, Kansas in the future. During the study process, KDOT and a team of consultants will evaluate impacts and other issues that may affect potential

alignment and access alternatives for the highway. Environmental concerns, economic development activity, and public feedback will also be considered.

Expanding U.S. 400 as a four-lane, divided freeway was recommended in the **U.S. 400 Corridor Study** (www.tinyurl.com/CherokeeCountyUS400) that was completed in 2010. KDOT worked with the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Cherokee, Crawford, and Labette counties, the cities of Baxter Springs, Columbus, Galena, and Parsons, as well as a wide range of other stakeholders to develop the study. However, at this time no funding is available for design and construction of a new highway facility.

For more information about the **U.S. 400 Advanced Preliminary Engineering Study** contact Wayne Gudmonson, KDOT District Engineer, at wayne@ksdot.org and 620-431-1000 or Priscilla Petersen, KDOT Public Affairs Manager, at 620-431-1000 and priscilla@ksdot.org. Attend the open house or visit www.US400feedback.com to share your comments.

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This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact KDOT Public Affairs, 700 SW Harrison St., 2nd Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.

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