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Richard Carlson, Secretary

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## **Johnson County Gateway named one of nation's top transportation projects**

KDOT's Johnson County Gateway Phase 2 project has been named one of the Top 12 national finalists in the 2017 America's Transportation Awards competition.

The \$288 million project, the first and largest design-build transportation project completed in Kansas, emerged as a finalist out of a record 92 project nominations from 38 states. The Johnson County Gateway project will now compete for the grand prize and the People's Choice Award.

The grand prize will be determined by an independent panel of transportation industry experts. The People's Choice Award will be decided by online popular vote, with votes scaled to state populations. Online voting is now underway and continues through midnight on Thursday, Sept. 21. Kansans are encouraged to cast a vote for the project by visiting the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) website at <http://AmericasTransportationAwards.org>. Individuals can vote once a day.

"The Johnson County Gateway is a vital economic corridor, not only for the region but for the state of Kansas," said Gov. Sam Brownback. "As the improvements achieved through this project encourage new development opportunities and job growth, the economic benefit is expected to exceed \$1 billion over the next two decades. I am pleased to see the Gateway recognized as one of the top transportation projects in the nation."

“We are honored to see this project receive national recognition,” said Transportation Secretary Richard Carlson. “The design-build team worked hard to minimize the impact on travelers, ultimately completing the project six months ahead of schedule. The Gateway improvements address more than 90 percent of the traffic problems in the project area, and we are excited to celebrate its success.”

The Johnson County Gateway included reconstruction and capacity improvements within the I-435, I-35 and K-10 interchange area along with improvements at several major local interchanges. Within the project area, there were 56 new lane miles added as well as 22 new and five rehabilitated bridges, including three new two-lane flyover bridge ramps and widened bridges on I-435 and I-35.

The America’s Transportation Awards competition is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year and is sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, AAA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

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