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Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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Survey Work Underway for US-24 & Topeka Boulevard Project

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), along with the City of Topeka, have selected ETC Institute (Olathe, KS) to conduct a phone survey with randomly selected businesses and residents on a preferred alternative for the future US-24 and Topeka Boulevard project in north Topeka. The survey process is two-fold. The first step includes a statistically valid phone survey with randomly selected businesses and residents to see what their preferred option would be for the future of the US-24 & Topeka Boulevard Project. The second step in the survey process will offer the general public with an opportunity to provide their input on the preferred option as well.

The public portion of the survey will be available online on **Tuesday, October 18** at: www.US24TopekaSurvey.org. The phone survey is expected to be completed in late October, while the public portion of the survey will be available online through Tuesday, November 2.

The results from both surveys will be utilized by the KDOT and the City of Topeka in determining the final preferred alternative for the US-24 & Topeka Boulevard project. A final preferred alternative selection will be determined in late 2011.

KDOT began a study, in early spring 2006, to look at options for replacing the aging cloverleaf interchange at US-24 and Topeka Boulevard with an intersection project. The two options that KDOT evaluated in the study were traffic signals and a roundabout. In June 2007, a

public open house was held to present the study findings on the two options and obtain comments from citizens, stakeholders and businesses on the preferred alternative.

KDOT had originally planned to repair the overpass bridge; not remove the interchange. After considering the nature of repairs that are needed, the age of the bridge, the outdated interchange design, and the expected increase in traffic, engineers decided it would be more cost effective to replace the interchange with an at-grade intersection. KDOT will continue to maintain the bridge so it can remain in service until construction of the final preferred alternative begins.

The US-24 and Topeka Boulevard intersection project is a cooperative project with KDOT and the City of Topeka. Construction for the intersection project will be funded through federal dollars and \$1.5 million from the City of Topeka, subject to Council approval. The preferred alternate is tentatively scheduled to begin construction in early 2013 with a completion date of late 2013.

For more information on this intersection improvement project, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340.

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