

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KDOT Announces Johnson County Gateway Schedule

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) has announced the schedule for the Johnson County Gateway: I-435/I-35/K-10 Phase 2 design-build project. (Phase 1 – the Yellow Project – is currently under construction and is scheduled to be substantially complete by November 2012.) Construction on Phase 2 will begin in 2014, two years ahead of the original T-WORKS schedule announced in 2011. It is scheduled to be complete in 2017. “We want to take advantage of low bid prices for materials and implement these improvements to alleviate congestion for the public sooner. Design-build will allow us to select a design-build team in 2014 and begin construction shortly thereafter,” said KDOT Project Manager Burt Morey.

JOHNSON COUNTY GATEWAY SCHEDULE



Morey will lead the KDOT team through the first design-build transportation project for Kansas. "I am excited for the opportunity to help deliver the first design-build transportation project in the state. It is a new way to deliver projects in Kansas and will allow us to make improvements to the Gateway more quickly."

Design-build streamlines the project delivery process through a single contract between KDOT and the design-build contractor. Combining the skills of the designers and contractors at the beginning of the project allows for positive collaboration and innovation, which can result in a faster project delivery and more predictable costs.

The Johnson County Gateway is one of the most congested interchanges in the state. 230,000 vehicles use the interchange today with that number expected to increase to 380,000 vehicles by the year 2040. Improvements to the interchange are critical to ensure that commuters and commercial traffic can continue to safely and efficiently travel through the area.

KDOT spent 2009-2011 creating an improvement plan to better handle future traffic demands. As part of the current preliminary engineering for the project, utility crews will be out in the project area locating and marking utilities starting July 17, 2012.

KDOT will continue to use design-bid-build as a project delivery method as design-build is a tool to deliver complex projects more quickly. Design-build could be especially effective to address economic development projects requiring a quick turnaround in transportation improvements or for responding after a natural disaster.

For more information on the design-build process or the Johnson County Gateway Project, please contact Burt Morey, KDOT Project Manager, at (913) 764-4525 or bmorey@ksdot.org. Additional project background information can be found on the project website: www.jocogateway.com. (KDOT Project #435-46 KA-1002-06)

For information on other Kansas City Metro Area Projects, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340 or kqualls@ksdot.org.

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