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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Online Survey Now Available for I-70 Lewis & Clark Viaduct Concept Study**

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) has launched an online survey to gather information from motorists who travel on the I-70 Lewis & Clark Viaduct. Access to the survey is available by visiting the study website at: <http://LCViaductI70.ksdot.org> or by clicking on this direct link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LewisClarkViaductI70Survey>. The online survey will be available through Wednesday, August 10, 2011.

“It is important to understand what concerns people have when driving through the interchange area,” said Debbie Tanking, KDOT Road Design Leader. “The input gathered in the survey will help the engineers as they develop improvement alternatives for this interchange area and for replacing or rehabilitating the bridges.”

The purpose of the I-70 Lewis & Clark Viaduct Concept Study is to develop a plan for replacing or rehabilitating the nine bridges included in the Viaduct. Additionally, the study team will review traffic needs, accident information and land use plans in the area to determine what other improvements will enhance the safety, mobility and efficiency of the interchange area.

The online survey is one of several initial outreach activities for the study. A Listening Session was conducted in late June to gather input from the public and a public meeting to gather input on alternative improvement concepts will be held in the fall.

The 16-month study has three phases: (1) document existing conditions and develop alternatives; (2) select a preferred concept, and (3) develop a master plan that will prioritize

improvements and identify interim, cost-effective solutions for identified problems. Expected completion date for the study is later summer 2012.

The study began in March 2011 with bridge inspections and data collection efforts including initial traffic and land use evaluation to understand how the existing interchange area is being utilized. The study team is now analyzing the conditions of the bridges included in the viaduct and determining which structures can be rehabilitated or need to be replaced and what type of investment is most needed in the interchange area.

The study will incorporate on-going stakeholder engagement including: community interviews, electronic newsletters, on-line surveys, public meetings, community presentations, public officials' briefings, media relations, and study workshops.

Any improvement recommendations will be prioritized as phased construction projects that will lead to building the preferred concept. Interim projects and cost-effective solutions to target problem areas will also be developed.

Once the study is complete, each recommended project will undergo a thorough environmental evaluation process to assess potential impacts prior to any construction. At this time there is no allocated funding for any construction.

For more information, please visit the study website: <http://LCViaductI70.ksdot.org> or email the study team at [LCViaductI70@hntb.com](mailto:LCViaductI70@hntb.com), or contact Josh Powers, Public Involvement Liaison, at (785) 296-6580, or Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340. (KDOT Project # 70-105 KA-2130-01)

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