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5-County Regional Transportation Study UPDATE: Phase 1 Report Available; Phase 2 Begins

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) has completed the first phase of the two-phase 5-County Regional Transportation Study. The primary purpose of Phase 1 of the study, which began in September 2008, was to assess the multi-modal needs for the five-county area including Douglas, Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami and Wyandotte Counties. The final report for Phase 1 can be viewed on the study website at: www.5countystudy.org.

Phase 2 of the study, which begins this month, will involve prioritizing the needs identified in Phase 1 and developing strategies to address them. Just like Phase 1 of the study, this phase will also include extensive stakeholder involvement. A Stakeholder Advisory Panel will develop criteria to evaluate each of the corridors and subsequently recommend priority corridors and strategies to address them. A Corridor Strategies Working Group will apply the criteria to the corridors and assist in developing the strategies. At the conclusion of this phase, expected in the first quarter of 2012, KDOT will have identified priority corridors and established a toolbox with funding alternatives.

Key to the success of this phase is that the study partners reach consensus on the priorities that should be addressed. All study partners will be involved throughout the stakeholder involvement process and will be regularly updated regarding study progress through newsletters, the study website and official briefings.

The purpose of the 5-County Regional Transportation Study is to assess the region's multi-modal needs and develop strategies that are:

- Regionally Based
- Technically Feasible
- Politically Acceptable
- Financially Realistic
- Sustainable

The study partners include all counties and cities in the study area, KDOT, Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), and the Lawrence-Douglas County Metro Planning Organization.

For more information on the 5-County Regional Transportation Study, please contact Kimberly Qualls, KDOT Northeast District Public Affairs Manager at (785) 640-9340; toll-free in Kansas at 1-877-550-5368; kqualls@ksdot.org.

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This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request. For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information, 700 SW Harrison St., 2nd Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice) (TTY).