



September 25, 2009

09-098-01

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News Contact: Kimberly Qualls, (785) 640-9340 or kqualls@ksdot.org

New Web Site Launched for I-70 Topeka Polk-Quincy Viaduct Study

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) recently launched a web site for the I-70 Topeka Polk-Quincy Viaduct Study, <http://I70PolkQuincy.ksdot.org>, to provide residents, stakeholders and anyone interested in the study with current information and ongoing study efforts.

The I-70 Polk-Quincy Viaduct Study will determine the future of the 3,800-foot long bridge located in downtown Topeka. After more than 50 years, the condition of the Polk-Quincy Viaduct has deteriorated, traffic volumes have increased, highway design criteria have changed and the area around the viaduct has undergone new development and redevelopment.

KDOT began the two-phase study earlier this summer, involving residents, community leaders and stakeholders to assess the needs and possible solutions in the study area. During Phase I, the study team will identify a location and design concept on which to base future design work. The study team will consider feasible alternatives to improve traffic flow and safety and recommend the preferred alignment and improvements for the Polk-Quincy Viaduct. Stakeholders will identify issues and opportunities in the study area, as well as help evaluate possible improvements. Phase I is expected to be completed by mid-2010. During Phase II of the study, engineers will conduct preliminary work to add detail to the location and design concept identified in Phase I.

The new web site offers valuable information about the study, including study background, answers to frequently asked questions, current news, and ways that anyone interested in the study can get involved and stay informed.

Stakeholder and citizen input will be a critical component of the Topeka I-70 Polk-Quincy Viaduct Study. In addition to collecting input through the study web site, there will be other opportunities for stakeholder participation including several public meetings.

The first public meeting for the I-70 Topeka Polk-Quincy Viaduct Study will be held on Tuesday, October 13 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the City of Topeka Offices located in the Holliday Building at 620 SE Madison in Topeka. Meeting participants will learn about the study, review preliminary information regarding the study, and provide feedback on community needs in the study area.

An Open House will be held on Thursday, October 1 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the City of Topeka Offices located in the Holliday Building at 620 SE Madison in Topeka. There will be no formal presentations, but stakeholders are invited to stop by at anytime to learn more about the study, ask questions, provide their thoughts and opinions, and talk with study planners and engineers.

The I-70 Polk-Quincy Viaduct Study partners include the KDOT, the City of Topeka and the Metropolitan Topeka Planning Organization.

###

This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact KDOT Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, Kan., 66603-3754, or (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired - 711.