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Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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Property Acquisition Steps to Begin on SLT Project

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is beginning the steps necessary to acquire property (also known as “right of way”) for construction of the eastern portion of K-10 in Douglas County, commonly referred to as the South Lawrence Trafficway (SLT).

The project, funded under the T-WORKS transportation program, will connect the economic, educational and residential centers of southern Johnson County, Lawrence, Topeka, and the surrounding areas. Construction of the SLT is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2013. Beginning in December 2011, KDOT staff will start staking properties affected by the construction of the SLT as the first step in the appraisal process. Notification of this staking activity is being mailed to property owners today. Following a review of the initial appraisals, KDOT will present offer letters for property owners’ consideration in the summer of 2012 and then prepare for the negotiation process.

“Even though the approved alignment is currently being challenged and awaiting a court decision, KDOT believes it would be prudent to begin the right of way acquisition process so that construction can begin as currently planned in the fall of 2013,” said State Transportation Engineer Jerry Younger, KDOT’s Deputy Secretary of Transportation. “Certainly if next year’s court decision does not rule in favor of the currently approved alignment, we will then reassess whether to continue with any of the project development activities.”

The six-mile, four-lane freeway section, which was strongly supported by regional stakeholders for inclusion into T-WORKS, is projected to have a regional economic benefit of \$3.7 billion, the greatest of any project under the T-WORKS program. KDOT determines economic benefit through use of a computer-modeling tool called TREDIS, which estimates the number of long-term jobs, increase in Gross Regional Product, added safety benefits and income growth that would result from an expansion project.

Property owners with questions regarding the right of way process can contact Rob Stork, Operations Assistant in the KDOT Bureau of Right of Way, at (785) 296-0305 or RStork@ksdot.org.

For general information about the South Lawrence Trafficway, please contact Josh Powers, Public Involvement Liaison, at (785) 296-6580 or joshuap@ksdot.org; or Kimberly Qualls, Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340 or kqualls@ksdot.org. Additional information can be found at www.ksdot.org/tworks.

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