Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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I-35 SW Johnson County Interchange Project Environmental Assessment Document Available for Public Comment

The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are pleased to announce the availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the I-35 Interchange, Johnson County, Kansas. The proposed interchange project includes the construction of a new interchange at Homestead Lane on I-35 between the cities of Gardner and Edgerton in Johnson County, Kansas. In addition, Homestead Lane would be improved between the interchange and 199th Street and extended on a new location between 199th Street and 191st Street. The EA will be available on Friday, January 7, 2011 for public review.

The EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality, to provide guidance in determining the appropriate actions needed to perform the improvements. Please visit the project link at: http://i35swjohnsoncointerchange.ksdot.org, where you can review and/or comment on the EA, find public locations where the EA can be viewed and see details on how public comments may be submitted. Written comments for the EA will be accepted through Monday, February 7, 2011.

The EA will also be available for review at the public open house KDOT is hosting for the I-35 SW Johnson County Interchange project on Thursday, January 27, 2011 at Mildale Farm, 35250 West
199th Street in Edgerton. The public is invited to stop by the open house style meeting anytime between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. There will be no formal presentations.

At the open house, participants can review the findings of the EA and learn more about the proposed interchange design. The proposed I-35 at Homestead Lane interchange draft design layout includes a Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) which is the first of its kind in Kansas. Participants will learn more about the DDI and will view a video simulation of this new proposed interchange type. KDOT staff along with project team members will be on hand to answer questions and discuss issues or concerns.

The purpose of the I-35 SW Johnson County Project is to define a new interchange location on I-35 that will provide improved access to future development planned in SW Johnson County including the BNSF Intermodal Facility, Logistics Park and warehouse facilities. Expected completion date for final design on the interchange project is fall 2011. KDOT is undertaking this project in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Cities of Edgerton and Gardner, Johnson County and the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC).

For more information on the I-35 SW Johnson County Interchange project, please visit the project website at http://i35swjohnsoncointerchange.ksdot.org. If you require a sign-language interpreter or other communication aids at the meeting, please call Kimberly Qualls, KDOT Public Affairs Manager at (785) 296-3881 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

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NOTE: 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.