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KDOT Hosts Public Open House for Lewis & Clark Viaduct I-70 Study

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is hosting a public open house for the Lewis and Clark Viaduct I-70 Concept Study on Wednesday, November 9. The public is invited to attend the open house style meeting anytime between 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Jack Reardon Convention Center, 520 Minnesota, Kansas City, Kansas. For more information visit: http://LCViaductI70.ksdot.org.

At the open house, participants can learn about the existing conditions in the interchange area, review proposed concept alternatives and provide feedback. KDOT staff and study team members will be on hand to answer questions and discuss the study.

The purpose of the Lewis and Clark Viaduct I-70 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, crash information and land use plans in an effort to enhance safety, mobility and efficiency within the interchange area. At this time, there is no allocated funding for any construction.

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 late 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 has analyzed the conditions of the bridges included in the viaduct and determined which structures can be rehabilitated or need to be replaced and the order in which the bridge improvements need to be implemented based on condition.

Once the study is complete, each recommended project will undergo an environmental evaluation to assess potential impacts prior to any construction.

The recommended improvements will be prioritized as phased construction projects that will lead to building the preferred concept if construction funding becomes available. Interim projects and cost-effective solutions to target problem areas will also be developed as needed.

The study will incorporate ongoing stakeholder engagement including: community interviews, electronic newsletters, online surveys, public meetings, community presentations, public officials’ briefings, media relations and study workshops.

KDOT has launched a website, http://LCViaductI70.ksdot.org, dedicated to providing the public with information on the Lewis and Clark Viaduct I-70 Concept Study. The website offers study information, a calendar of events and resource documents developed for the study.

The study team includes KDOT, in cooperation with the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, and the Missouri Department of Transportation. HNTB Corporation is the primary consultant who will work with the study team to complete the three-phase study process.

For more information, please visit the study website: http://LCViaductI70.ksdot.org, email the study team at 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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