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KDOT Launches New Website for I-70 Lewis & Clark Viaduct Concept Study

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

The purpose of the Lewis and Clark Viaduct Concept Study is to develop a plan for replacing or rehabilitating the nine bridges included in the viaduct located on I-70 in Kansas City, Kansas. Additionally, the study team will review traffic needs, crash history and land use plans in the area to determine what other improvements will enhance the safety, mobility and efficiency of the interchange area.

The website is one of several initial outreach activities for the Lewis and Clark Viaduct Concept Study. On Tuesday, June 28, the study team will conduct a Listening Session to understand what concerns residents and business owners in the study area might have. The Listening Session will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Reardon Convention Center, 520 Minnesota in Kansas City, Kan. Additionally, in the fall, the study team will host a public meeting to gather input on potential improvement alternatives.

The 16-month concept 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 later 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 is now analyzing the conditions of the bridges included in the viaduct and determining which structures can be rehabilitated or need to be replaced and what type of investment is most needed in the interchange area.

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.

The improvement recommendations will be prioritized as phased construction projects that will lead to building the preferred concept. Interim projects and cost-effective solutions to target problem areas will also be developed.

Once the study is complete, each recommended project will undergo a thorough environmental evaluation process to assess potential impacts prior to any construction. At this time there is no allocated funding for any construction.

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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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.