FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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KDOT releases RFQ for JOCO Gateway Design-Build Project

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) released the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) today, Wednesday, March 20, for the Johnson County Gateway: I-435/I-35/K-10 Interchange Phase 2 Design-Build Project. The RFQ is available at: http://www.jocogateway.com.

In response to the RFQ, prospective design-build teams must submit their Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) by 2:00 p.m. Central Time on Wednesday, April 17, 2013.

KDOT will use a two-step process to select a design-build team. Step 1: KDOT releases the RFQ. They will review and evaluate the SOQs received and will shortlist up to four of the most qualified teams. The shortlist will be announced Wednesday, May 8, 2013. Step 2: KDOT will release a Draft Request for Proposals (RFP) to the shortlisted teams on Wednesday, May 22, 2013. Proposals are due from the shortlisted teams on Monday, December 2, 2013. KDOT will score proposals from shortlisted teams and select a winning team on Friday, January 10, 2014.

Burt Morey, project manager for KDOT’s first design-build project, explained that given the interchange’s importance to Johnson County and Kansas, KDOT has decided to use an innovative process known as design-build to complete the project more
quickly and to maximize the value of the $250 million project investment by Kansas taxpayers. Project construction will take place between 2014 and 2017.

Design-build enables large, complex projects to be delivered more efficiently and with greater cost predictability than is possible through traditional methods. A design-build team combines design and construction firms to allow design and construction elements to happen at the same time, saving time and potentially money. This team approach enables designers and contractors to collaborate early and develop innovative and efficient solutions to meet project goals and better serve the travelling public. And unlike traditional procurement approaches, KDOT has chosen a fixed price/best design procurement approach for this design-build project, where the successful team must work within the fixed price while meeting or exceeding all other project goals, requirements and performance measures.

“Dealing with Johnson County’s transportation issues is a complex undertaking, one that will require looking at many different types of solutions – beginning with significant and fundamental improvements to its existing transportation infrastructure,” said Morey.

Chief among those needed improvements is the Johnson County Gateway, one of KDOT’s largest funded projects ever. It will result in the redesign and rebuilding of the I-435/I-35/K-10 Interchange. Currently, the Johnson County Gateway is one of the most congested interchanges in Kansas; used by 230,000 vehicles a day, it will see traffic increase to 380,000 vehicles a day by the year 2040.

“Improvements to the interchange are critical to ensure commuters and commercial traffic can continue to safely and efficiently travel through the area. If properly addressed, Johnson County will see an economic benefit of $1.3 billion in added economic activity and reductions in accidents, travel time and congestion costs by 2035,” Morey said.

Current annual congestion costs $163 million a year in lost time, a number that promises to grow, threatening Johnson County’s economic prosperity. “By moving ahead now at a time when we can take advantage of historically low construction costs, we help maintain and strengthen Johnson County’s safety, quality of life and economic vitality for decades to come,” said Morey.
The Kansas Department of Transportation urges all motorists to be alert, obey the warning signs, and “Give ‘Em a Brake!” when approaching and driving through the project work zone.

For more information on the design-build process or the Johnson County Gateway Project, please contact Burt Morey at (913) 764-4525 or bmorey@ksdot.org. Additional project background can be found on the project website: www.jocogateway.com.

For information on other Kansas City Metro Area Projects, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340 or kqualls@ksdot.org.

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