Public Comment Period Extended for I-35 SW Johnson County Interchange Project Environmental Assessment

In response to public interest, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has extended the review and comment period for its Environmental Assessment (EA) for the I-35 Interchange, Johnson County, Kansas from Monday, February 7, 2011 to Tuesday, February 22, 2011.

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 announced the availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the I-35 Interchange, Johnson County, Kansas on Friday, January 7, 2011. 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 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.

The EA was also available for review at a public open house that KDOT held for the I-35 SW Johnson County Interchange project on Thursday, January 27, 2011, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Mildale
Farms, 35250 West 199th Street in Edgerton. At the open house, participants reviewed the findings of the EA and learned 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 learned more about the DDI and were able to view a video simulation of this new proposed interchange type. KDOT staff along with project team members were 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, or contact Kimberly Qualls, KDOT Public Affairs Manager at (785) 640-9340 or via e-mail at kqualls@ksdot.org.

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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.