Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

March 31, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News Contact: Kimberly Qualls, (785) 640-9340 or kqualls@ksdot.org

**Signed FONSI Now Available for I-35 SW Johnson County Interchange Project**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has approved the selection of a new interchange at Homestead Lane on I-35 between the cities of Gardner and Edgerton in Johnson County, Kansas. Homestead Lane will also be improved between the interchange and 199th Street and extended on a new location between 199th Street and 191st Street. The FHWA issued and signed a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the I-35 Interchange, Johnson County, Kansas on Monday, March 21, 2011.

The signing of the FONSI is the final action in FHWA’s decision-making process under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The signed FONSI opens the possibility for the state to use federal funds to fund the construction of the new I-35 interchange. The FHWA’s FONSI is available on the interchange project website at: [http://i35swjohnsoncointerchange.ksdot.org](http://i35swjohnsoncointerchange.ksdot.org).

A copy of the FONSI will be available for viewing at the following locations on Thursday, March 31, 2011, during their normal business hours:

- City of Edgerton, 404 E. Nelson Street, Edgerton KS 66021;
- City of Gardner, 120 E. Main Street, Gardner KS 66030;
- Johnson County Public Works Department, 1800 W. Old 56 Highway, Olathe KS 66061;
- Johnson County Offices, 111 S. Cherry, Suite 3300, Olathe KS 66061;
- KDOT Olathe Metro Office, 1290 S. Enterprise, Olathe KS 66061-5355;
- KDOT, Dwight D. Eisenhower State Office Building, 700 S.W. Harrison Street, Topeka, KS 66603-3745; and
- FHWA Kansas Division Office, 6111 S.E. 29th Street, Topeka KS 66614.

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. Public comments on the EA were accepted through Tuesday, February 22, 2011. 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.

The purpose of the I-35 SW Johnson County Interchange project is to define a new interchange location on I-35 that that will provide improved access to future development planned in southwest Johnson County including the BNSF Intermodal Facility, Logistics Park and warehouse facilities. Expected completion date for final design of 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.