Study Underway for I-435 & Roe Avenue Bridge Replacements

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) plans to replace the I-435 and Roe Avenue Bridges in 2014/2015, if funding is available. The existing reinforced concrete box girder bridges were built in 1970 with the original construction of I-435. The eastbound and westbound I-435 bridges are safe for today’s traffic demands; however, they are experiencing some deterioration due to age and deicing chemicals used during winter storm operations. The existing block retaining wall located under the south end of the bridge is also showing some deterioration in isolated areas due to excessive groundwater seepage.

KDOT plans to make a significant investment to reconstruct the bridges, so it is essential that the impacts of existing and future traffic growth at this location be considered so that the most appropriate interchange and bridge configuration and all the associated geometric improvements can be incorporated to provide the most cost-effective solution. The bridge study also includes a look at:

- Improving the drainage system behind the retaining wall along the eastbound collector-distributor road and building a new retaining wall as appropriate.
- Removing the existing pedestrian bridge just east of the Roe Avenue Bridge and adding sidewalks onto the new Roe Avenue Bridges.
- Analysis to address existing safety concerns.
KDOT has spent the past three months analyzing traffic patterns and future growth to determine what type of interchange will work best at this location. The I-435 and Roe Avenue bridge replacement study is scheduled to be completed in late April 2011.

Once the interchange and bridge configuration are determined, it will take approximately two years to develop the design plans for the new Roe Avenue Bridges and associated roadway improvements. Construction would likely begin in late 2014 or early 2015 and is anticipated to take approximately 18 months. Traffic on Roe Avenue will be maintained during construction with potential brief closures of ramps.

You can find more information on the study on KDOT’s Kansas City Metro page at: http://www.ksdot.org/kcMetro/projectstudytest.asp. For questions on the study, please contact Kimberly Qualls, KDOT Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager at (785) 640-9340 or e-mail the study team at RoeBridge@hntb.com.

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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.