Traffic Updates for K-7 & 55th Street/Johnson Drive Interchange Project

Weather permitting, the week of March 7 or March 14, new traffic changes are scheduled to take place on the K-7 and 55th Street/Johnson Drive interchange project in Johnson County. The new traffic changes that are scheduled to occur are as follows:

1) Northbound and southbound K-7 traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction and placed on the new northbound lanes, so crews can complete construction work on the new southbound lanes. **This closure will be in place through late fall 2011, weather permitting.**

2) East leg of Clear Creek Parkway to close for construction work on the new bridge that will span over K-7 at Clear Creek Parkway. The east leg of Clear Creek Parkway will not reopen to direct access to K-7; instead this east leg will travel over the new Clear Creek Creek Bridge when finished.

   **Detour:** Traffic wishing to access southbound K-7 will detour south on Silverheel Street to Shawnee Mission Parkway then west on Shawnee Mission Parkway back to southbound or northbound K-7. Drivers on the east side of K-7 can also use the existing marked detour provided via Woodsonia Drive to Silverheel Street to 47th Street (blue detour route).

3) Access from southbound K-7 to 55th Street will close so crews can complete construction work on the new southbound lanes. **This closure will be in place through late April 2011, weather permitting.**

   **Detour:** Traffic wishing to access 55th Street from southbound K-7 will need to use the existing marked detour located at 47th Street to Old K-7 (red detour route).
Advance message boards will alert drivers to the road closures. Marked detours will be provided as stated above. Updated traffic information for this project can be viewed online at: www.ksdot.org/kcmetro/lane-close.asp. Project detour route map located at: http://www.ksdot.org/kcMetro/pdf/2011-03DetourMap_FINAL.pdf.

**Existing closure:** Johnson Drive access to and from southbound K-7 will continue to remain closed for construction work on the east side of the interchange project. During the Johnson Drive closure, drivers will continue to detour via 47th Street to Silverheel Street to Woodsonia Drive (blue detour route) or use Silverheel Street to Shawnee Mission Parkway then west on Shawnee Mission Parkway back to southbound or northbound K-7. Johnson Drive access to from southbound K-7 is scheduled to reopen to all traffic in mid-2011.

**Existing closure:** In addition, access to 55th Street from northbound K-7 and vice versa will be closed. During the 55th Street closure, northbound K-7 traffic will continue to detour via 47th Street to Old K-7 Highway (red detour route) or via Clear Creek Parkway to Hedge Lane Terrace (green detour route).

The interchange project includes construction of a roundabout to merge the K-7 on- and off-ramps with 55th Street/Johnson Drive and a second roundabout will be constructed west of K-7 at the intersection of Hedge Lane Terrace and 55th Street, which are now completed. Also included with the project are the construction of a side-road overpass at Clear Creek Parkway and K-7 and the already completed construction of Hedge Lane Terrace from 55th Street south to Clear Creek Parkway. When the interchange project is completed, 55th Street/Johnson Drive will run under K-7.

Miles Excavating, Inc. (Basehor, KS) is the primary contractor on the interchange project with a total contract cost of $21.4 million. The K-7 & 55th Street/Johnson Drive interchange project is a cooperative effort, funded in part by the Kansas Department of Transportation and the City of Shawnee. The entire K-7 & 55th Street/Johnson Drive interchange project is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2011.

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 project information, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340, or Amy Pope, Bonner Springs Construction Engineer, at (913) 721-2754. ###