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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 1, 2012

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## **Environmental Assessment document for U.S. 69 Crawford County Corridor available for public viewing**

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, announce the availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for U.S. 69 in Crawford County.

The proposed Crawford County Corridor project would expand an 18-mile corridor of U.S. 69 to a four-lane freeway, starting at the Cherokee-Crawford county line and continuing north to end three miles north of the north city limits of Arma. Currently this project is not programmed for right-of-way acquisition or construction.

The EA will be available for review during a public open house KDOT is hosting from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 16, at Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium, Lower Level, 503 N. Pine, Pittsburg, KS. The public may attend the open house at any time between the hours of 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. to give input and leave comments. No formal presentation is planned.

At 4:00 p.m. on Aug. 16 at the same location, KDOT staff will brief local public officials on the EA and U.S. 69 project.

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 highway improvements.

The EA is also available for public viewing starting Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2012 during regular business hours at the following locations:

- KDOT District Four Office, 411 W. 14<sup>th</sup>, Chanute KS
- KDOT Pittsburg Area Office, 1813 W. 4<sup>th</sup>, Pittsburg, KS
- Federal Highway Administration, 6111 SW 29<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 100, Topeka, KS
- Pittsburg City Offices, 201 W. 4<sup>th</sup>, Pittsburg, KS
- Pittsburg Public Library, 308 N. Walnut, Pittsburg, KS
- Frontenac City Hall, 315 E. McKay, Frontenac, KS
- Arma City Hall, 701 E. Washington, Arma, KS
- Crawford County Courthouse, 111 E. Forest St., Girard, KS

The EA may also be viewed online at <http://tinyurl.com/d5nxrux>

The EA can be viewed at these locations for 30 days. Written comments will be accepted through Friday, Aug. 31, 2012. Questions and comments concerning the EA should be directed to Sue Stringer, KDOT Public Involvement Liaison, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Dwight D. Eisenhower State Office Building, 700 SW Harrison St., Topeka, KS 66603-3745, phone (785) 296-8669, email [stringer@ksdot.org](mailto:stringer@ksdot.org).

The open house location is ADA accessible. Persons in need of a sign language interpreter, an assistive listening device, large print or Braille material, or other accommodation to attend this meeting should notify Southeast District Public Affairs Manager Priscilla Petersen at [Priscilla@ksdot.org](mailto:Priscilla@ksdot.org), phone (620) 431-1000 (Voice), or phone (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711. It would be appreciated if the accommodation request is made at least 10 days in advance of the open house.

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This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information, 700 SW Harrison St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.

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