



# KANSAS

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### SPECIAL EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT (SEP-14) ALTERNATE SURFACING BIDDING

Report Number: FHWA-KS-09-1

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#### **Introduction**

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) has a pavement type selection process that includes the comparison of initial and life cycle costs for different pavement types. Those cost differences and secondary factors are considered when selecting a pavement type. For some projects the estimated initial and life cycle costs are nearly equal for different pavement types.

#### **Project Objective**

When nearly equal cost conditions exist the paving industries are strong in their criticism of KDOT's selected pavement type. To overcome this criticism and to hedge against spiraling costs KDOT chose to let a project using the alternate bid process.

#### **Project Description**

This report presents the contractors bids, a customer survey, and analysis of the various bid components. KDOT received the lowest total bid in the process. The surface type bid by the lowest bidder was Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA). Various analyses of the bids and the major work types are presented.

#### **Project Results**

The results show that separate bids based on major work type, surfacing, grading, and bridges could have saved additional funds. Analysis of the bid items associated only with the mainline surfacing indicates that the lowest life cycle cost pavement was Portland Cement Concrete Pavement (PCCP). The objective to select surface type through the alternate bid process was not realized.

#### **Report Information**

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For a copy of the full report, please contact: KDOT Library; 700 SW Harrison Street, Topeka, Kansas 66603-3754; Phone: 785-291-3854; Fax: 785-291-3717; e-mail: [library@ksdot.org](mailto:library@ksdot.org).