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Crawford Architects Releases Approach for KCMO's I-670 "Capping" Project

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (April 10, 2007) – Crawford Architects announced that the firm and its core consultant team interviewed with the City of Kansas City, Missouri, the Missouri Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration for the Truman Road Feasibility Study / Planning Improvements Over I-670 project. The task entails studying the viability of decking over (capping) I-670 between Wyandotte and Oak Streets. The ultimate purpose would be to improve connectivity between the downtown and Crossroads District.

Although the Crawford team was not awarded the work, several creative approaches were presented. According to Crawford firm principal Stacey Jones, "We were told by the City that our site analysis was excellent; our options were creative; and that we presented more potential scenarios and ideas than any other team, some of which were unique and not contemplated previously."

The five scenarios presented by Crawford Architects were:

#1: Imagine a Great Park (at the heart of a downtown neighborhood):

- The neighborhood would be a great place to live downtown.
- There would be loft-style housing surrounding the park.
- The area would abound with residential amenities including shopping opportunities.
- The park would be a showcase for downtown art and culture.
- The area would act as transition place, pulling in influence from other emerging neighborhoods and anchoring a burgeoning district.

#2: Imagine a Great Street:

- Build a great street over I-670.
- Blend into the Power & Light District/H&R Block Headquarters.
- Promote more office and employment downtown.
- Make Truman Road a world-class address.

#3: Imagine a Transit Mall District:

- Free shuttle buses, people movers adding movement and vitality to the district along a strong east-west spine.
- Make connections to the Sprint Center, Performing Arts Center and other future venues.
- Includes parking garages and bus parking under Truman Road to serve new venues and destinations.
- Additional catalytic and infill projects.

#4: Imagine an Arrival Place:

- Parking, Transit, Welcome Center and Regional Attractions.
- More retail and entertainment.
- Accelerated residential development
- Tourism and visitors

#5: Imagine Enhanced Connectivity:

- Great streetscapes, a family of elegant bridge crossings that are pedestrian friendly.
- Reduce ROW to create a more compact street with more development potential on sides.
- Develop land along both edges of the I-670 corridor.
- Focus on Grand and Main Street as primary north/south linkages.
- Hold back the infill of the I-670 until economies of land supply catch up.

Crawford's core consultant team included:

- Crawford Architects (*Kansas City*): Team Leader, Planning, Urban Design, Architecture
- EDAW (*Denver*): Environmental Planning, Urban Design, Landscape Architecture
- DMJM Harris (*Denver/New York*): Tunnel and Bridge Specialist
- TranSystems (*Kansas City*): Traffic, Transportation, Structural
- The Konrath Group (*Kansas City*): Construction Management, Cost Estimating
- Fleishman-Hillard (*Kansas City*): Community Groups & Stakeholder Leadership/Participation
- C.H. Johnson Consulting (*Chicago*): Market Analysis, Feasibility, Financial Advice

Jones continued, “It seems that the RFQ and client team may have peremptorily determined that the solution to the problem lies in decking over the Interstate and this study need only test the feasibility of this solution. We contended that while decking over the Interstate may well be a solution to the problem, it is not the only solution, and this study needs to adjust its parameters to provide latitude for that possibility.”

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About Crawford Architects:

Crawford Architects is a full-service architecture, planning and interior design practice with offices in Kansas City, Mo. and Sydney, Australia.. Crawford offers faster project development timelines by taking advantage of several time zones between the Sydney and Kansas City offices. Simply put, projects can be worked on virtually around the clock with two shifts per day. For more information about the firm, visit www.crawfordarch.com or call 816-421-2640 (Kansas City office) or 61 2 9660 3644 (Sydney office).