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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 29, 2018

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Agencies make data available for safety contest entries

TOPEKA—Under the direction of Governor Jeff Colyer M.D., two Kansas state agencies are offering data support to Kansas innovators that compete in the U.S. Department of Transportation’s “Solving for Safety Visualization Challenge” to reduce injuries on roadways.

The Kansas Department of Revenue and Kansas Department of Transportation stand ready with data and statistics to assist entrants in to the national competition that will award a \$350,000 top prize to the best developed tool designed to help inform decisions about how to decrease injuries and fatalities from car accidents.

“As a surgeon, I’ve seen the devastation caused by car crashes, and reducing injuries and fatalities deserves the best of our innovative thinking,” Governor Colyer said. “The State of Kansas will assist any Kansas group with the data it needs to design a tool that could ultimately save lives on our roadways.”

The challenge is designed to thwart a one-year nationwide increase in the number of injuries on roadways. Though injuries from motor vehicle crashes had been declining in the last decade, they rose by 5.6 percent in 2016 over the previous year nationwide. In Kansas, there were 1.34 fatalities on public roads in 2016 for every million vehicle miles traveled, which was up from 1.13 in 2015.

The U.S. Department of Transportation created the challenge to collect safety solutions that can be used by policymakers, transportation providers, and operators to gain insight in to preventing fatalities and serious injuries.

“Kansas boasts some of the best, most creative thinkers in the nation, and my goal is to make sure they know the State of Kansas is ready and available to provide the data support they need,” Governor Colyer said.

More details can be found at <https://www.transportation.gov/solve4safety/challenge>. Innovators entering the contest can request data by emailing kdor_media@ks.gov.

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