



**For Immediate Release
March 14, 2007**

**For more information, contact:
Mary Ann Pease, (907) 569-7070**

KABATA RECEIVES RESPONSES FROM POTENTIAL PRIVATE PARTNERS

Anchorage, AK. March 14, 2007. The Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority (KABATA) reported today that they have received two Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) in response to a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued in December 2006. The RFQ sought qualifications of parties interested in partnering with KABATA to develop, design, build, finance, operate and maintain the proposed Knik Arm Crossing.

Henry Springer, Executive Director for KABATA said, "We are pleased with the private sector interest in partnering with KABATA to deliver the Knik Arm Crossing project." Springer added, "We will be evaluating the qualifications submitted to assess their capabilities to deliver and operate the Project. A thorough and comprehensive review of the SOQs received will begin this week."

This RFQ represents the first step in a two-step process to select a partner for this critical component of economic infrastructure development for the State of Alaska. The second step will be the issuance of a Request for Proposal more focused on the Project, ultimately leading an expected selection of a partner and contract award.

KABATA's enabling legislation provides specific authorization for KABATA to enter into a Public-Private Partnership (P3) Agreement, if such a partnership would be in the best interests of the Project. KABATA has employed a dedicated team, assisted by a number of leading consultants, to work with the selected partner in delivering the Project in a timely and cost efficient manner.

As envisioned by KABATA, the Knik Arm Crossing project is expected to cost between \$400 and \$600 million. The State of Alaska has authorized about \$130 million of public funds for the project. The remainder of the cost is expected to be funded by toll revenues.

The proposed project is an opportunity for the private sector to participate in a major component of Alaska's critical transportation infrastructure, and will provide a new connection between Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough and improved regional transportation infrastructure to help meet existing and projected population and economic growth. Additional information about KABATA and the Knik Arm Crossing can be found on KABATA's website at www.knikarmbridge.com.

###