



For Immediate Release

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**Wilbur Smith Associates Chosen to Provide Traffic and Toll Revenue
Consulting Services for Knik Arm Toll Bridge Project**

The Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority (KABATA) today announced that Wilbur Smith Associates, a transportation infrastructure-consulting firm with 65 offices worldwide, has been selected to join the team of engineers, planners, economists, financial consultants, and environmentalists working on the Knik Arm toll bridge project. Wilbur Smith Associates (WSA) will prepare a comprehensive traffic and toll revenue study in anticipation of KABATA entering the financial capital markets to fund the project. WSA has completed over 1,000 toll traffic and revenue studies, many of which have been used in support of over \$61 billion in toll facility finance throughout the United States and the world. WSA previously prepared a preliminary traffic and toll revenue study for KABATA to determine the financial feasibility of the project.

The traffic and toll revenue study is an important element of raising capital, and will be relied upon by KABATA's finance team to determine the ability of any proposed capital structure to be supported by toll revenue. The capital markets, including ratings agencies, underwriters and investors, will also rely on the report prepared by WSA in making a decision to participate in the project. WSA is one of a very few recognized transportation infrastructure consultants developing credible traffic and revenue forecasts for the toll industry. Under their contract with KABATA, WSA will also prepare a conceptual toll collection design and aid KABATA's finance team with the development of a tentative Public-Private Partnership agreement to finance, design, build or operate/maintain the Knik Arm toll bridge.

About KABATA - The Alaska Legislature established the Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority in 2003 under Alaska Statute 19.75 to “develop, stimulate, and advance the economic welfare of the state and further the development of public transportation systems in the vicinity of Upper Cook Inlet with construction of a bridge to span Knik Arm and connect the Municipality of Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.” The Knik Arm Crossing Project is expected to cost \$400 to \$600 million to construct and could be completed by 2010.

About Wilbur Smith Associates - Financial feasibility studies have been a hallmark of WSA dating back to the first efforts undertaken by its founders, including Wilbur S. Smith himself. Over fifty years later, the Transportation, Finance and Technology Group of WSA, dedicated specifically to the toll industry continues this tradition. WSA also provides planning, engineering, design, financial, economic, construction, engineering, and inspection services for transportation, community development, and water and sewer systems infrastructure projects. Established in 1952, WSA has completed more than 30,000 projects throughout the world. Wilbur Smith Associates has worked in all 50 states and in 117 countries on six continents. WSA is an independent, debt-free, 100% employee-owned (ESOP) corporation.

You can learn more about this project at www.knikarmbridge.com.

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