

KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN
Form FWP
March 23, 2009

Free Writing Prospectus

Registration Statement No. 333-155601

Dated March 23, 2009

Rule 433

Kansas City Southern

\$75,000,000 Common Stock

The following information supplements the prospectus dated November 21, 2008, filed as part of Registration Statement Number 333-155601 relating to certain securities of Kansas City Southern (KCS). This information was included in a current report on Form 8-K filed by KCS in connection with a proposed private placement of debt securities of its wholly owned subsidiary, and a proposed equity offering of its common stock.

Kansas City Southern (KCS) is filing this free writing prospectus to provide investors with information concerning certain developments relating to its subsidiary, Kansas City Southern de México, S.A. de C.V. (KCSM), and KCS planned steps, in light of current economic and business conditions, to increase the liquidity position of KCSM and The Kansas City Southern Railway Company (KCSR).

The Weekly Railroad Traffic reports published by the Association of American Railroads have noted that total carload volumes for both KCSR and KCSM have declined to date during the first quarter of 2009 as compared to the same period in 2008. Through the ten-week period ended March 14, 2009, total carload and intermodal unit volumes for the 2009 first quarter have declined 5.9% and 25.9% for KCSR and KCSM, respectively, compared to the same period in 2008.

Revenues (on a U.S. Dollar denominated basis) for both KCSR and KCSM are expected to decline in the first quarter of 2009 at a rate greater than these percentage volume decreases due to product mix, shorter length of haul and reduced fuel surcharge revenue. KCSM revenues have also been negatively affected by the continued devaluation of the Mexican peso against the U.S. dollar. Cost containment measures are expected to partially offset the impact of reduced volumes. The consolidated operating ratio for the first quarter of 2009 is expected to be in the mid to upper 80s as compared to 81.5% for the first quarter of 2008. In addition, KCSM's operating ratio for the first quarter is expected to be higher than KCSR's operating ratio. Historically, the first quarter has been the weakest quarter of the year in both the U.S. and Mexico.

Steps that KCS plans to take to increase the liquidity position of KCSM and KCSR include the issuance of \$200 million of unsecured debt by KCSM in a private offering exempt from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the implementation of a program giving KCS the option of issuing equity of up to an aggregate amount of \$75 million from time to time at its discretion, including through a public offering. KCSM intends to use the net proceeds of its debt issuance to pay all amounts outstanding under its credit facility. These actions are expected to provide sufficient liquidity for both KCSR and KCSM through the end of 2010. KCS does not have any significant debt maturities until 2011.

As previously announced, KCS has undertaken and continues to undertake cost reduction measures with the stated goal of controlling operating expenses and capital expenditures in a manner which will allow KCS to be neutral or slightly free cash flow positive in 2009 (free cash flow is defined as net cash provided by operating activities, less cash used for capital expenditures, investing activities and preferred dividends). These undertakings and the planned capital-raising initiatives described above are currently expected to provide KCS sufficient liquidity to effectively manage its operations for at least the next two years, even if the North American economy does not materially improve from its present level in the near term.

In connection with the proceeding before the Secretary of Communications and Transportation (SCT) related to KCSM's dispute with a Mexican subsidiary of a large U.S. auto manufacturer initiated in May 2008 as reported in KCS's 2008 Form 10-K, in February 2009 the SCT ruled that KCSM had bundled international rail services and engaged in discriminatory pricing practices with respect to services provided to the auto manufacturer. The SCT, however, did not impose any penalties on KCSM. Nonetheless, KCSM intends to challenge the decision of the SCT by means of an annulment suit.

This free writing prospectus shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy nor shall there be any sale of these securities in any state in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any state.

The issuer has filed a registration statement (including a prospectus) with the SEC for the offering to which this communication relates. Before you invest, you should read the prospectus in that registration statement and other documents the issuer has filed with the SEC for more complete information about the issuer and this offering. You may get these documents for free by visiting EDGAR on the SEC web site at www.sec.gov.

You should read this free writing prospectus together with the prospectus dated November 21, 2008, as supplemented by any prospectus supplement relating to the securities being offered. You may access these documents on the SEC Web site at www.sec.gov.