

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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KDOT Web site provides regional flood info for holiday travels

Just in time for holiday travels, a new regional Missouri River flood information page has been added to the KDOT website. The site can be accessed directly at www.ksdot.org/flood.asp or from KDOT's home page, www.ksdot.org, KanDrive, www.kandrive.org, or directly from the 511 Map at <http://511.ksdot.org>.

With roads closed due to flooding in Kansas as well as Missouri, Nebraska and Iowa, the site provides information for all of these states, including updated information about closed roads, detours, alternate routes, flood safety information as well as phone numbers for flood hotlines and automated 511/traveler information phone systems in the region.

"With the vast impact of flooding on roads throughout the Midwest expected for the next several months, we want to provide information to help travelers plan their holiday and summer trips and to safely reach their destination," said KDOT Secretary Deb Miller. "We want travelers to remember that while finding alternate routes can be inconvenient, they should stay clear of areas where flooding is occurring."

Other KDOT trip planning and travel decision-making tools can assist travelers in planning their trips, staying informed as they travel and in having a safe and more enjoyable trip. The services are free and available anytime.

Summer is the height of road construction and by planning ahead and visiting KanDrive, www.kandrive.org, or using 511 on any phone or mobile device, travelers can find out if their routes are impacted by road work and make other plans as needed. With weather updates provided every 15 minutes, Kansas 511 can also be a resource to help travelers learn about changing weather conditions.

Visit KanDrive, KDOT's traveler information gateway for Kansas and surrounding states, to get enhanced camera views. Camera snapshots of the roadway are updated every few minutes from closed-circuit cameras installed along I-70 and other highways in other parts of the state.

In addition to the camera tour, KanDrive provides all essential information you need to plan your trip, including: an interactive map of Kansas roads, road conditions and work zones and other events impacting traffic; map, camera and roadside electronic sign views; and links to helpful transportation resources, such as KC Scout, Kansas Turnpike information, Kansas Byways, weather information and more.

The 511 Mobile site at <http://511mm.ksdot.org> provides map, camera and electronic message sign views, road conditions, road work and event information as well as links to weather. All content is provided by six regions across the state and three metropolitan areas (Kansas City, Topeka and Wichita).

The site is accessible from multiple devices, including iPhones, Droids and Windows mobile devices, Version 6.0 and higher. Other devices will be able to access text information only for road conditions and road work activity.

Travelers may also call 511 from any phone in Kansas or 1-866-511-KDOT (5368) from anywhere in the U.S. before traveling or as they travel (please don't call while driving) to find out about the latest driving conditions, work zone and travel weather information for the Kansas Turnpike and any Interstate, U.S. or state highway in Kansas and Nebraska. Phone numbers for road conditions in other states adjacent to Kansas are also provided. A phone number is also provided for Motor Carrier Information such as registration, permits and credentials. Information is provided free from a landline phone; however, cell minutes may apply for cellular phone users.

En route travelers will also be informed of road closings and other important information by roadside electronic message signs on I-70, extending from Topeka to Goodland, and on northbound I-135 and southbound US-81 in the north central region of Kansas.

In the Kansas City area, travelers can visit the Kansas City Scout Web site at www.kcscout.org for camera views and incident and message board information for many interstates in the Kansas City area. A link is also provided from this site back to the statewide Web page by selecting "Links" at the top of the page and then selecting "Transportation Resources" – "Kansas Department of Transportation" – and "Closed Roads and Driving Conditions."

While KDOT strives to make travel information available through a variety of services, KDOT reminds travelers not to text or talk on cell phones while driving. In addition, travelers are reminded to buckle up, slow down for work zones and watch out for road workers and motorcyclists and to move over for stopped law enforcement vehicles. Also, don't remove barricades or fences and drive around them on roads closed due to flooding.

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This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request. For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information, 700 SW Harrison St., 2nd Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice) (TTY).