



Utilizing practical improvement methods, workers lay asphalt to reconstruct 11 miles of K-25 in Logan County. Photo by District Three Public Affairs Manager Kristen Brands.

T-WORKS

K-25 Reconstruction: District Three is overseeing another pavement replacement project, which utilizes “practical improvement” methods. Work is ongoing to rebuild 11 miles of K-25 in Logan County from Russell Springs to U.S. 40. Modeled after a successful American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project on K-23 in Gove County, this project uses a similar approach. The scope includes removing the old roadway, stabilizing the soil/road base, and constructing a new, wider pavement. Edge-line rumble strips will be an added safety feature to complete the new roadway. This project does not include major grading operations or acquiring new right of way. “This is an affordable improvement that fits our regional needs,” said District Three Engineer Jeff Stewart. Close coordination and communication occurred between KDOT and local stakeholders prior to the start of the project with two public meetings informing the public how the project would affect them. The work is expected to be complete by the end of this month. Venture Corporation of Great Bend is the primary contractor on the \$5.6 million project.

KDOT Attaboys

Note: The e-mail below addressed to Gary Moulin, Area Superintendent at Osage City, was sent to KDOT’s Facebook account on Thursday.

Dear Gary Moulin:

My husband Harlan and I would like to express our sincere thanks for the efforts of two KDOT employees. Steve Williams and Ron Swogar stopped to check on us as we were experiencing problems with the trailer we were pulling behind a rented truck heading north on I-35 outside Emporia Wednesday afternoon, June 6, 2012. They provided my husband a workable solution to our problem and made sure we were kept safe from traffic as my husband worked the solution on the trailer he was pulling. They even lent a hand and tools needed to get the job done! Believe me, it would have taken my husband much longer to get us “on the road again” safely had it not been for the efforts of these two gentlemen. Please recognize these gentlemen for their efforts in keeping Kansas highways safe, keeping users of Kansas highways safe! Thank you! The Hocketts, Adrian, Mo.



Photo of the Week

A truck hauling a drone for the military slowly made its way through the U.S. 77/U.S. 166 roundabout at Arkansas City. Photo by Greg Dixon, Winfield Area Maintenance Superintendent.

District News

Slow Going: The strange-looking shipment hauled across parts of southern Kansas on June 6 had people doing double-takes in Arkansas City, Butler County and elsewhere. Although it drew comparisons to a B movie flying saucer, it was really a drone being hauled for the military from California to Maryland. The oversize load required a police escort and some prep work to remove signs through at least one roundabout as it passed through the state. At least one other drone has been transported through the state in the past seven months.

Condolences

Bramlage Family: KDOT staff was saddened to learn of the tragic death of Rebecca Bramlage, her husband Ronald, and their four children last week due to a plane crash in Florida. Mrs. Bramlage was a member of the Task force for improvements to U.S. 77 in Geary County, and gave generously of her time in helping KDOT to identify priorities for the project. KDOT would like to convey our most sincere condolences to the Bramlage family and to the community of Junction City, where Mrs. Bramlage was president of the Geary County USD 475 Board of Education.



Steve Lackey, center, a consultant for TranSystems, along with KDOT's Tom Hein, left, and Bob Cook, watch during a WICHway demonstration on Monday.

WICHway Open House: Over 100 visitors came to the Wichita Traffic Management Center (TMC) for an Open House on Monday. WICHway is the new Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) that began full operation in late-2011. Phase 1 included 28 cameras, 36 traffic sensors, 21 dynamic message signs, the TMC and a website, WICHway.org. Plans are under way for the second phase of Wichita's ITS with a project letting in June that will monitor another six miles of freeway with cameras and sensors. Then, in late-2012, bids will be accepted on another project to fill in some of the gaps that could not be covered in Phase 1.

Have an idea for a news brief or picture that could be featured in an upcoming edition of Translines Express? Please e-mail your suggestions to translines@ksdot.org

Texting

Texter Headed to Jail: A Massachusetts teenager was sentenced June 6 to spend a year in jail for a fatal traffic accident that happened while he was texting. Aaron Deveau of Haverhill, Mass., was sentenced to 2 1/2 years behind bars with a year to serve and the remainder suspended for the February 2011 crash that took the life of Donald Bowley Jr., 55, of Danville, N.H., and seriously injured Bowley's girlfriend. Prosecutors say the then-17-year-old high school student sent 193 text messages the day of the crash, including some just a minute or so before impact and dozens more after it. He was among the first people convicted under a law that took effect in September 2010 that created the criminal charge of texting while driving negligently and causing injury. Now 18, Deveau, who had faced a maximum of four years behind bars, also was ordered to perform 40 hours of community service and surrender his driver's license for 15 years.



Speaking of texting, a homeowner in Manhattan put up this sign after an accident June 3. The police report said the 27-year-old driver was talking on her cell phone, but neighbors said an eyewitness saw her head down like she was texting. After the car left the roadway, it traveled into the driveway, went completely through the garage and into the backyard of the home.



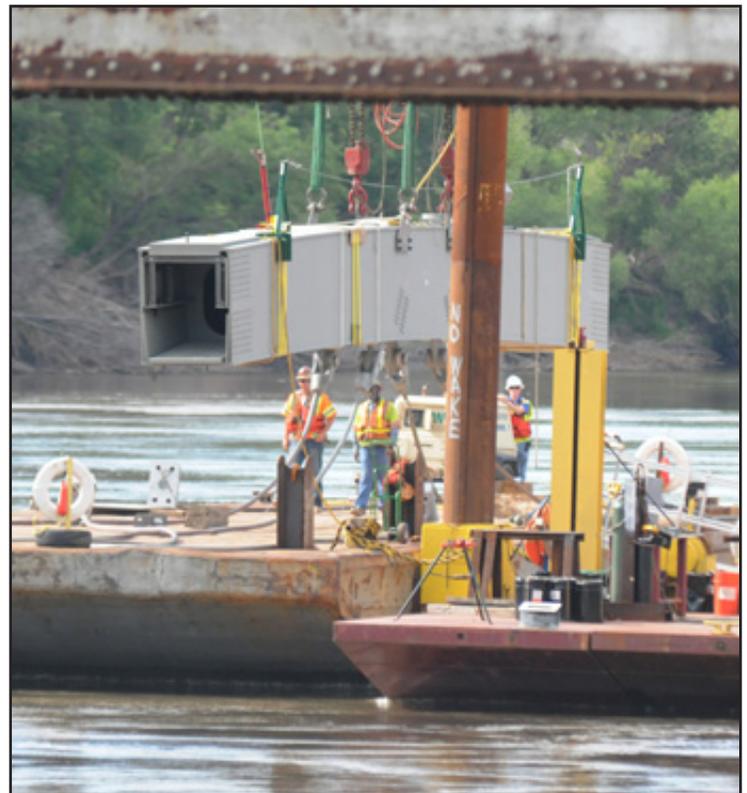
Perennial Red Hot Pokers and Foxtail Lilies are part of the landscaping in a flower bed at Public Affairs Director Sally Lunsford's residence in Tecumseh. Photo by Sally Lunsford. Send us a photo you have taken of arts, museums, nature, restaurants, etc. to translines@ksdot.org



Working precariously over the Missouri River, ironworkers prepare to secure the last arch span on the Amelia Earhart Bridge at Atchison. Below, workers prepare to lift the final span to the top of the bridge. Photos by KDOT Photographic Services.

Christmas in June

Amelia Milestone: Seen any Christmas trees on bridges lately? If you were traveling in the vicinity of Atchison recently you did. No it's not an early Christmas, but an ironworkers "topping out" tradition to celebrate the last arch span of the Amelia Earhart Bridge being set in place. Last Wednesday the first of double steel arches on the bridge connecting Kansas and Missouri was installed and Friday the final arch was set. On top of the final arch was a Christmas tree representing pride of workmanship and the fact that no injuries or fatalities have occurred on the project. Workers then began the process of securing the arch in place with 800 bolts. The new bridge, a four-lane, tied arch structure will stretch nearly 2,500 feet and is distinguished by the double steel arches on the main river span and special aesthetic lighting. It will replace the existing two-lane structure, which was completed in 1938 and is too narrow to handle some of today's traffic. The replacement is a cooperative project funded by KDOT and the Missouri Department of Transportation. The new structure is scheduled to open to traffic in September 2012. Check out the photo album on recent bridge construction [here](#).



District News

Wind Towers Across The Plains:

It's become a common sight across southwest Kansas and much of the rest of the state as well. Pilot cars leading trucks pulling long trailers carrying components for wind towers have been crossing the state in seemingly greater numbers every day. The District Six office in southwest Kansas grants dozens of permits every week for the transporting of these components, which can be as long as 175 feet when carrying the blades for a wind tower. The hundreds of permits the district offices have granted in recent months don't even include the heaviest tower components, which are classified as super loads. As long as the current wind farm construction boom continues, these loads will remain a common sight.



An increasingly common sight across southwest Kansas, a long trailer carrying components for a wind tower, heads east out of Garden City en route to a wind farm. Photo by Kirk Hutchinson, District Six Public Affairs Manager.

Five Stars from MADD

Targeting Repeat Offenders: Beginning July 1, Kansas will become one of a handful of states that mandates jail time for repeat offenders who refuse breath or blood tests after being stopped for suspicion of driving drunk. The law was designed to correct a common scenario involving test refusals by motorists who knew their way around the legal system and thus refused the tests, leaving prosecutors little evidence for convictions. Currently in Kansas, refusing the tests can result in a driver's license being suspended. But that fails to deter many chronic offenders who continue to drive with or without a license. The new law carries the same penalties as a DUI conviction — up to a year in jail for those with multiple convictions — and takes away the incentive to refuse the tests. Even before this law, Kansas was one of the top states in the country in implementing laws to counter drunken driving, according to data compiled by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Under MADD's rating system, Kansas received five stars, its top mark. Only four other states rated that highly. Missouri, which considered but did not pass a similar refusal law in 2010, rated three stars from MADD.

Partnering a Fort Fix

Partnering among KDOT, Fort Riley, Geary County and the consulting firm of Parsons Brinkerhoff has developed a solution to traffic congestion at a busy fort exit. With the return of the Big Red 1, up to 1,800 vehicles were entering the fort between 5 and 7 each morning using I-70 exit 301 on to Henry Drive. This has led to traffic backing up on the I-70 exit ramps. In January, Traffic Engineering conducted a traffic study and developed a temporary plan to alleviate the traffic backup. The plan called for both lanes on Henry Drive to be northbound during peak hours controlled by troops directing traffic. Doubling the number of inbound lanes was the starting point for a permanent fix. Plans now call for a total of three northbound lanes on Henry Drive. A new outside lane will carry traffic entering from the westbound I-70 exit ramp north, while a new inside lane will carry the traffic entering from eastbound Cannon View Drive; and the existing center lane will handle traffic from eastbound I-70. The new configuration allows the Henry Drive southbound lane to remain open.

Have an idea for a news brief or picture that could be featured in an upcoming edition of Translines Express? Please e-mail your suggestions to translines@ksdot.org



Danielle Brunin, Right of Way, watches as her seven-year-old son Noah makes a cardboard canoe during KDOT's Bring Your Child to Work Day. Photo by KDOT Photographic Services.

Bring Your Child to Work Day

A KDOT Lesson: Nearly 60 KDOT children had a great time this morning learning about different areas of the agency during Bring Your Child to Work Day. During the morning event, children and adults saw how highway signs are made at the Sign Shop, climbed on equipment at the Area Four complex, created images on computers and built cardboard canoes as part of a road design learning project. Afterward, KDOT's Employees' Council hosted an ice cream social – a nice way to cool off after participating in the activities.

No Way KKK: The Georgia Department of Transportation rejected a Ku Klux Klan group application that was submitted to adopt a one-mile section of highway as part of the state's Adopt-a-Highway program, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (AJC). The International Keystone Knights of the KKK applied last month to adopt a stretch of Route 515 in the Appalachian Mountains. One of the reasons the state DOT rejected the application, said the AJC, seeing signs with the group's name and coming across group members along a roadway "would create a definite distraction to motorists." State officials reached their decision after consulting with Gov. Nathan Deal and the chairman of the state transportation board, the AJC said.

KDOT Kudos

Note: The following e-mail was received by Amy Smith, Office of Chief Counsel, from Kirk Lowell, Executive Director of CloudCorp, the economic development unit for Cloud County and Concordia.

Hi Amy:

Thank you for your professional and prompt help with this important project. I have always found it very refreshing to work with KDOT because of the professional, prompt and caring assistance that our community receives from a governmental agency. Have a GREAT day!

Kirk



Bales of wheat straw landscape a field off K-140 and Burma Road in Saline County following a recent wheat harvest. Photo by KDOT Photographic Services.



A Scodeller Construction Company employee sees a joint between the mainline and the shoulder in preparation for sealing the joint as part of the K-96 project taking place in northeast Wichita. Photo by Engineering Technician Dean Hess.

Greetings



Kent Olson



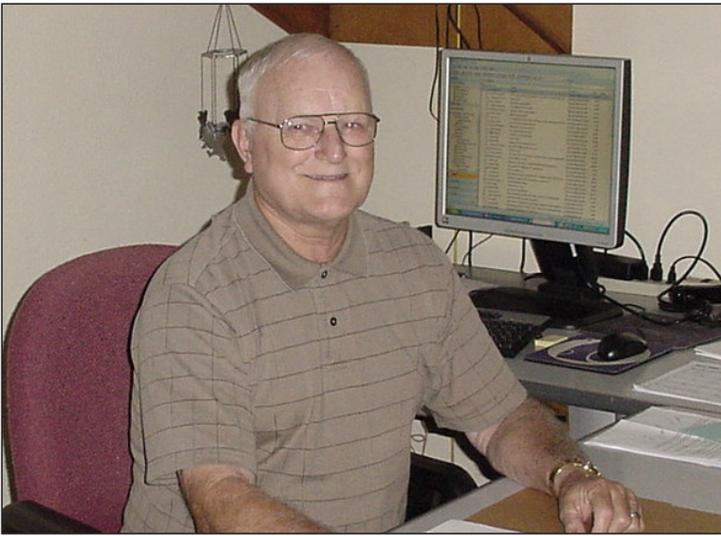
Wade Wiebe

New KDOT Employees: KDOT welcomes two new members of the management team. Wade Wiebe is our new Director of Partner Relations, which will involve both internal (our KDOT employees) as well as external partnerships. Wiebe says, "I'm thankful for the opportunity to work at KDOT. I look forward to meeting the staff and am excited to get started and move forward together." Kent Olson is a familiar face to some KDOT employees. The agency's new Director of Fiscal & Asset

Management was employed at KDOT from 1992-96. Olson says he's excited to be returning to the agency where his state service began. "KDOT has always been a special place for me, not only because of the important mission of the agency, but also because of the commitment and pride that is demonstrated by employees. To see the news release, click [here](#).

Prestigious AASHTO Award

Andy Gisi recently received the 2012 AASHTO Region Three Design Award from the Subcommittee on Design for outstanding achievement in the field of highway and transportation design. He has been involved with and served on numerous AASHTO committees and panels for nearly 30 years. Gisi was KDOT's Geotechnical Engineer at the Materials and Research Center in Topeka and just retired on June 8 after 38 years of service to the department. As a side note – Jim Brewer, Engineering Manager for the State Road Office, accepted the award on Gisi's behalf at the conference in Portland, Maine, and then presented it to him in his front yard since the two are neighbors.



Allen Grunder

KDOT Kudos

Half a century of service: Congratulations to Allen Grunder who is celebrating a major milestone – 50 years of service to the Kansas Department of Transportation. Grunder started as summer help for the agency in 1959 while he was attending Kansas State University for his civil engineering degree. After graduation, he joined the department as an Engineering Associate and was promoted to Resident Engineer, then to the Winfield Area Engineer, a position he has held since 1979. Grunder said one of the highlights for him was the Comprehensive Highway Program. Big projects for him during the program included the reconstruction of U.S. 166 from Ark City to Sedan and the Ark City and Winfield bypasses. At one period during the program, his office had 68 active contracts going – “it was a pretty busy time,” he said.

District News

A Release in Two Languages: Recently, District Six sent out a news release inviting people to public open house events regarding a planned a four-lane expansion project on U.S. 50 from Cimarron to Dodge City. There’s nothing unusual about that. What was unusual was that the district sent out the release in both English and Spanish. Southwest Kansas has multiple Spanish-language media outlets. According to the United States Census Bureau, more than 57 percent of the population of Dodge City is of Hispanic or Latino origin. That number emphasizes the importance of reaching out to the Spanish-speaking population in southwest Kansas when designing a project of this magnitude. This was the first time District Six sent out a release in Spanish, which was produced by the consulting firm Vireo. As a side note, another first on the project was the use of a Quick Response (QR) code to drive people to the U.S. 50 survey taking place on the T-WORKS website.

Around the State

Pavement Testing: Annual testing to measure pavement strength on highways throughout the state got under way earlier this month. Two crews will survey in every district, with a goal of testing 300 miles in each district. Ken Hallgren, Engineering Technician Senior in Pavement Evaluation, said the Falling Weight Deflectometer (mercifully shortened to FWD) survey tests for flexibility on asphalt surfaces and load transfer on concrete. The testing is done by a pickup truck hauling a trailer equipped with sophisticated equipment. The testing applies 9,000 pounds of force on the pavement, simulating an axle load for a large truck. The information collected during the survey is entered into a database and is used in decisions about road maintenance and construction. The survey, which requires a pilot car operation for traffic control, takes several months.



Information Technology

External web access: KDOT employees who access KDOTWEB from outside KDOT’s network (home, on the road, etc.) will need to switch to KDOTXTRA (<https://kdotxtra.ksdot.org/>) by Sept. 1 when external access to KDOTWEB will be turned off. Employees who rely on KDOTWEB for access to KDOT’s Outlook Web App Email link, the State Employee Service Center (to access Employee Self Service or Healthquest), KanRoad, or other websites will find all these same links on KDOTXTRA under the “Helpful Links” tab. Sites available under the Helpful Links tab of KDOTXTRA include RCRS, DTNWeatherSentry, Employee Info, GIS maps, 511 Road conditions, KDOT Email, Self Service, HealthQuest and General Employee info page. Please review the KDOTXTRA home page for more information. Helpful hint: To directly access KDOT’s Outlook Web App Email link, go to <https://email.ksdot.org> in the URL of your browser.

At left: this trailer is used to help measure pavement strength in the testing process.



District Three Engineer Jeff Stewart speaks with local residents at an open house meeting in Alma on June 13. The meeting was held to discuss the design and reconstruction of a 26-mile T-WORKS project on K-383 east of Norton north to near the Nebraska state line in Norton and Phillips counties.

Flooding

Feast or Famine: Many parts of the state have been very dry for the past few weeks, but that hasn't been the case in part of Marshall County. The same section of K-87 between the city of Vliets and the K-9/K-87 intersection was closed to traffic on June 15, then again on June 21, because of flooding. Both closures lasted less than a day. Before you travel, be sure to check KDOT's KanDrive by phone, online or mobile for details on closures or lane reductions caused by flooding as well as road construction.



Liberal Construction Engineer Greg Adams took this photo of a young fawn standing along K-51 recently.



To all our KDOT employees, family and friends – have a safe and happy 4th of July! The next edition of Translines Express will be Wednesday, July 11.

Have an idea for a news brief or picture that could be featured in an upcoming edition of Translines Express? Please e-mail your suggestions to translines@ksdot.org