

# Translines EXPRESS

Aug. 23, 2017

## Solar Eclipse

**Crowds of people wait to view the solar eclipse in Atchison on Aug. 21.**



**Eclipse views - one from Norton, above, and three from Atchison, below. To see a video of the eclipse in Atchison, click [here](#).**



**Leaves on trees in Norton made crescent shapes on the concrete.**



## District Five

**KDOT employee injured:** Nathan Talcott, Newton Highway Maintenance Supervisor, was struck by a vehicle on Aug. 15 while he was working along I-135 in Newton. He has worked for KDOT for 20 years.

Talcott suffered serious injuries to a leg, hip and his pelvis. According an email sent by State Transportation Engineer Catherine Patrick to employees, he has already had one surgery with more likely to come.

“He faces a lot of rehabilitation over the coming months,” Patrick said. “Please keep Nathan in your thoughts and prayers.”



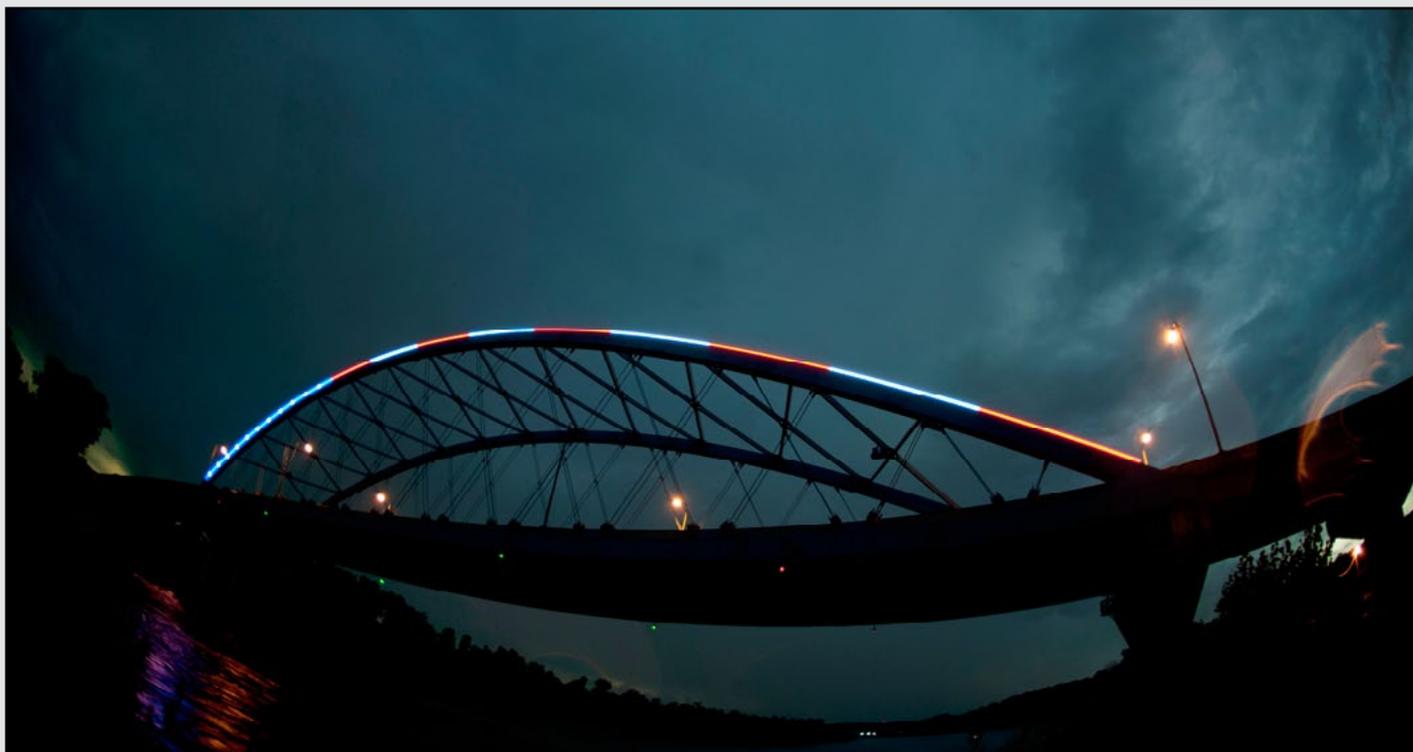
**Nathan Talcott**

Shelly Hancock, Talcott's sister, shared this message on Facebook.

“My family wants to thank everyone for the prayers for my brother Nathan Talcott. We appreciate all the kindness and outpouring of support we have received,” she said.

“We also want to thank the wonderful people at KDOT for installing a wheelchair ramp at his house yesterday so when he is able to go home he will be able to be wheeled inside. He knows about all the love, support and prayers, and he is very touched. Thank you to everyone.”

## Solar Eclipse



**The Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge in Atchison was lit up during the eclipse on Monday.**

## Trivia!

### Musicians

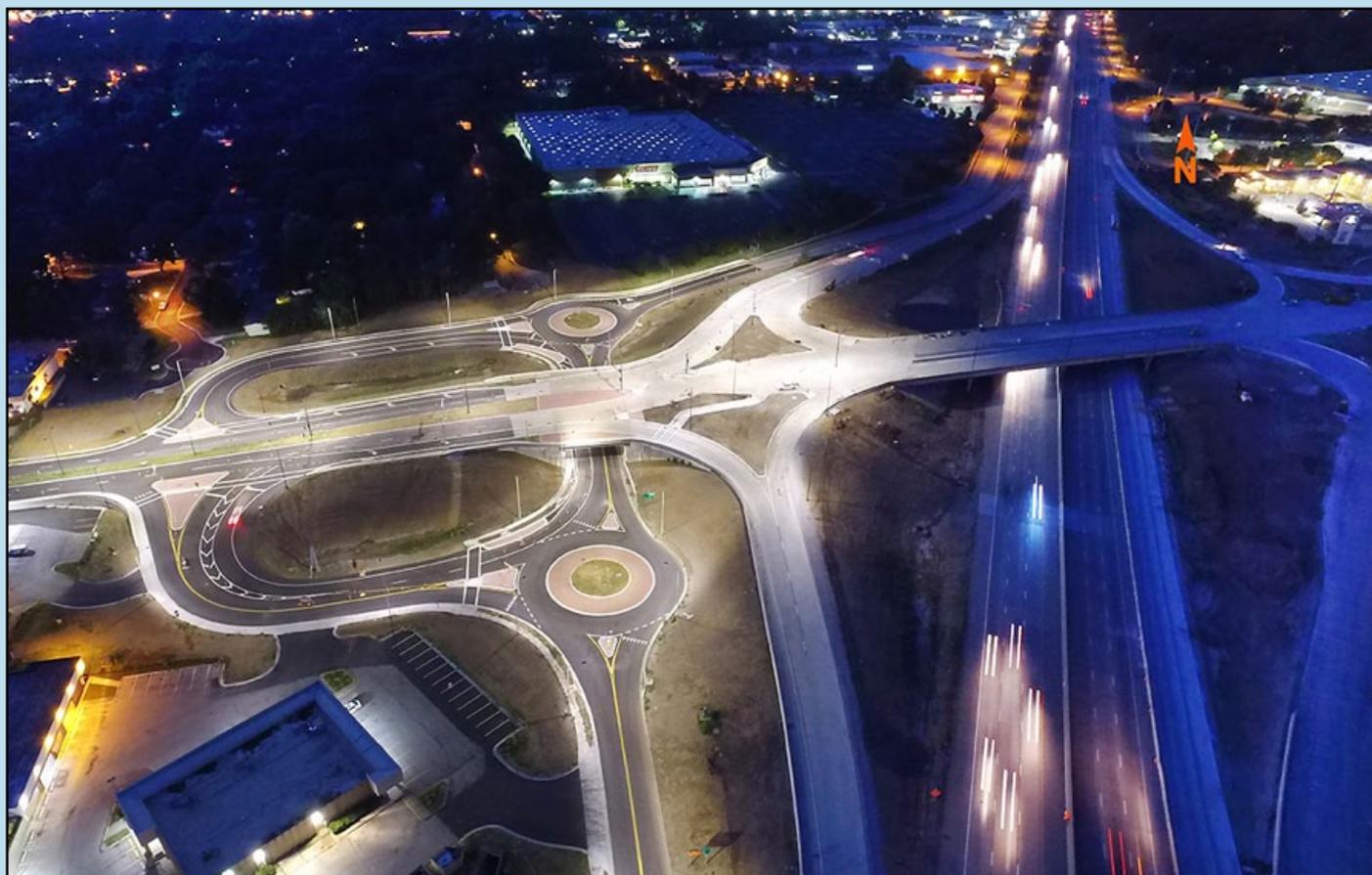
1. This singer has won two Grammy Awards and one Academy award and was born in Leavenworth.
2. This country singer, who was born in Harper in 1979 and raised in Liberal, has had six Top 40 songs and has written numerous others.
3. This singer, who was born in Wichita in 1947, became a member of the Eagles after a founding

member left, and Hotel California was the first album with the band.

4. This singer was a founder member of the rock band Kansas, and was born in Topeka.

5. This singer, who was born in Kansas City in the late 1890s, was the first African American to receive a master's degree in the United States. She also co-founded the National Association of Negro Musicians.

## National Finalist



***The Johnson County Gateway project was the first and largest design-build project completed in Kansas and took 2.5 years to complete.***

**National finalist:** KDOT's Johnson County Gateway Phase 2 project has been named one of the Top 12 national finalists in the 2017 America's Transportation Awards competition.

The \$288 million project, the first and largest design-build transportation project completed in Kansas, emerged as a finalist out of a record 92 project nominations from 38 states. The Johnson County Gateway project will now compete for the grand prize and the People's Choice Award. The grand prize will be determined by an independent panel of transportation industry experts. The People's Choice Award will be decided by online popular vote, with votes scaled to state populations. Online voting is now underway and continues through midnight on Thursday, Sept. 21. Kansans are encouraged to cast a vote for the project by visiting the AASHTO website [here](#). Individuals can vote once a day.

"The Johnson County Gateway is a vital economic corridor, not only for the region but for the state of Kansas," said Gov. Sam Brownback. "As the improvements achieved through this project encourage

new development opportunities and job growth, the economic benefit is expected to exceed \$1 billion over the next two decades. I am pleased to see the Gateway recognized as one of the top transportation projects in the nation."

"We are honored to see this project receive national recognition," said Secretary Richard Carlson. "The design-build team worked hard to minimize the impact on travelers, ultimately completing the project six months ahead of schedule. The Gateway improvements address more than 90 percent of the traffic problems in the project area, and we are excited to celebrate its

success."

The Johnson County Gateway included reconstruction and capacity improvements within the I-435, I-35 and K-10 interchange area along with improvements at several major local interchanges. Within the project area, there were 56 new lane miles added as well as 22 new and five rehabilitated bridges, including three new two-lane flyover bridge ramps and widened bridges on I-435 and I-35.



**Vote daily  
until Sept. 21  
for the Johnson  
County Gateway project  
to win the People's Choice  
Award - [click here](#).**

## District Five



**Big load:** It was a long but successful trip as Lockheed Martin Aeronautics in Fort Worth, Texas, provided an F-35 production aircraft to the National Institute for Aircraft Research in Wichita as part of an aircraft disassembly program.

This is a non-flying production aircraft, and as such, required transportation over the road on a specially-designed fixture/trailer. The aircraft has been disassembled to the smallest dimension possible, but the aircraft still requires an oversize permit for transport through Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. The fuselage and shipping fixture weighs approximately 27,000 pounds. It is 48 feet long, 35.5 feet wide and 9.5 feet high.

The aircraft's travel route started in Ft. Worth on Aug. 19 and entered Oklahoma on Aug. 20. It traveled through Kansas on Aug. 21 along U.S. 77, K-15 and I-135 until it reached its final destination 2.5 miles east of Valley Center before noon.

"They had a pretty good escort from the KHP and some other law enforcement officers, as well as our own KDOT maintenance folks," said Wichita Metro Engineer Don



**The F-35 production aircraft made its way through Wichita the morning of Aug. 21.**



Snyder. "All of the on ramps were properly blocked off to keep the load moving down the road without any interference from other traffic."

### Kudos

*The following email was sent to KDOT.*  
I am from Garden City, my husband and I had car trouble in Dighton, Kansas. Two of your kind associates (Equipment Operators Everett Redburn and David Piedra), assisted us with getting to a mechanic and making sure we were ok. It was so much appreciated. You have great people working for the state department. Thank you much for your kindness and help at the Kwik Shop in Dighton.

### Retirees

*The following employees retired on Aug. 1 from KDOT.*

#### District One

**Larry Price**, Equipment Operator Senior, Marysville

#### District Four

**Kevin Golay**, Equipment Operator Specialist, Chanute

*The following employee will retire on Sept. 1 from KDOT.*

#### District Four

**David Ranes**, Equipment Operator Senior, Fort Scott

## New Coordinate System

**Low-distortion projection:** A coordinate system that minimizes map projection distortion for the entire state will soon be available. This “low-distortion projection” coordinate system will help those involved with GIS, surveys, cartography, road design, bridge design and more.

Due to the spherical nature of the Earth, all maps have some distortion between the distances measured on the surface of the Earth and the distances measured on a map. For the past several years, KDOT surveys have used the State Plane Coordinate System, but it is not accurate enough by itself. Every KDOT project had a combined adjustment factor (CAF) figured in, and it was unique to that project, said Mark Segelquist, CADD and GEOPAK Support Manager.

“Whenever you want to reference a project in GIS maps or aerial photography, you have to get that coordinate system set right so it lays on top of it and locates it properly,” Segelquist said. A low-distortion map projection coordinate

system is being using by several states, including Iowa, and is getting very accurate results, he said. This system is close to being finalized and will be given to software and hardware vendors so it’s part of their default libraries for Kansas, Segelquist said. It’s also available to be downloaded from the Kansas Data Access Support Center - <https://www.kansasgis.org/>

The new system will improve the interoperability and sharing of information on projects between bureaus in Headquarters as well as with the Districts.

“The new system will be more accurate and convenient for employees using this,” Segelquist said. “It’s removing one of the barriers we’ve had for years.”

A final meeting to present the completed project will take place on Aug. 28 in the Eisenhower Building. For more information on the new system or to attend the meeting, contact Segelquist at 785-291-3236 or Mike Dillner at 785-233-8300.

## KTA



*Work continues at the South Topeka KTA toll plaza where crews have poured concrete in the entry lane. Learn about this project and others in our monthly construction update [here](#).*

## Kansas Transportation

Monday, Aug. 14 and 21

### Motoring Monday

The Riverside Park and Ralph Mitchell Zoo is located in Independence. Since the early 20th century, the Riverside Park has been an asset to the community, with amusement attractions and beautiful landscapes.

The park also features the Ralph Mitchell Zoo, which was added to the park in 1925. It features numerous animal exhibits, most notably, Monkey Island, which was famous for being the birth place of Miss Able, the first non-communist monkey launched into space in 1959.

It's a great place for field trips, wedding receptions or just a fun place to go with family or friends to spend the day in nature. The park is open every day from 9 a.m. thru 7 p.m.



*Monkey Island at the Ralph Mitchell Zoo in Independence.*

There are numerous waterfalls located throughout the state.

#### **Elk Falls (Elk County)**

Infamously known for being the “World’s Largest Ghost town,” it also is home to the Elk River and the Elk Falls.

#### **Overland Park Arboretum (Johnson county)**

The waterfall is located in the heart of the park,

surrounded by nature walks and trails –a peaceful place to escape the city.

#### **Drinkwater & Schriver Flour Mill (Chase County)**

Located next to the vintage Flour Mill, the waterfall is surrounded by a forest of greenery.

#### **Cedar Creek Falls (Johnson County)**

In addition to the waterfall’s tranquility, Lake Olathe has great fishing locations directly below the falls.

#### **Soden’s Dam Falls (Lyon County)**

The source of this waterfall is from the Cottonwood



*The waterfall at Pillsbury Crossing.*

River. It is also located near the Soden’s Grove Bridge, a concrete rainbow arch bridge.

#### **Chase Lake Falls (Chase County)**

Cottonwood Falls may be a rural town but it is also home to beautiful waterfalls.

#### **The Deep Creek Waterfall at Pillsbury Crossing (Riley County)**

A hidden gem of Kansas, this waterfall has many surrounding hiking trails and great fishing spots.

#### **Cowley Lake (Cowley County)**

Cowley Lake has been on the “Must See” list of AARP, Yahoo and Most Amazing in the World.

#### **Kanopolis Lake and Waterfalls (Ellsworth County)**

The lake is located in the Kanopolis State Park, where Dakota sandstone bluffs and Horsethief Canyon caves are also main tourist attractions.

To see more stories on other transportation topics, check out the regular posts on the Kansas Transportation blog at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>

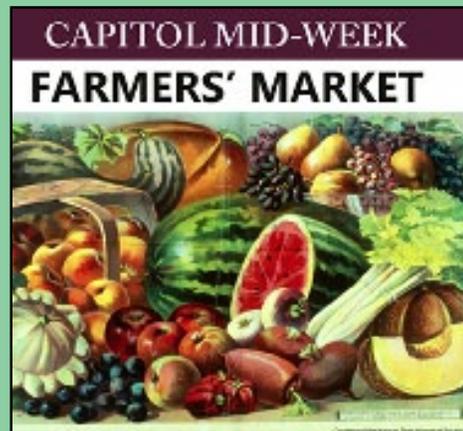
## Headquarters

**Cities to receive funding:** Thirty projects that will improve intersections and streets in Kansas cities have been selected for funding through KDOT's City Connecting Link Improvement Program (CCLIP), which funds improvements to state highways that extend through cities.

Under the CCLIP, a city contributes up to 25 percent of the project cost based on its population. Cities under 2,500 in population aren't required to provide a match. Projects in this program may fall into one of three different categories, including Surface Preservation (SP), Pavement Restoration (PR), or Geometric Improvement (GI).

SP projects involve maintenance work such as

resurfacing and are funded up to \$300,000 per project. PR projects typically involve full-depth pavement replacement without changes to the overall geometric characteristics and may also address drainage issues. GI projects address geometric issues such as adding turn lanes, improving intersections, or modifying the lane configuration to address capacity. The PR and GI categories are funded up to \$1 million per project. Twenty-seven cities will receive a combined total of approximately \$15 million in funding under the CCLIP. This total includes \$7.25 million in state fiscal year 2019 and \$7.75 million in state fiscal year 2020. To see a list of all the cities and amounts awarded, click [here](#).



**Topeka - Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to noon**  
10th Street - south side of Statehouse

To locate/find out more about other farmers markets taking place in Kansas, check out the From the Land of Kansas website at <https://fromthelandofkansas.com/discover-resources/farmers-market-resources>

## KTA

**Winter Expo:** There's still time to sign up for the Kansas Winter Expo. This maintenance event will take place on Sept. 6-7 at Heartland Park in Topeka. For more information, go to [www.kansaswinterexpo.com](http://www.kansaswinterexpo.com).

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Melissa Etheridge
2. Jerrod Neimann
3. Joe Walsh
4. Kerry Livgren
5. Nora Holt

*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 [Kim.stich@ks.gov](mailto:Kim.stich@ks.gov)*



## Scenic

**KDOT employee Ramona Taylor spotted a Junonia coenia, more commonly known as a buckeye butterfly, at Lake Shawnee recently. They often spend summers further north, then migrate to southern states in the winter.**

## Traffic Safety

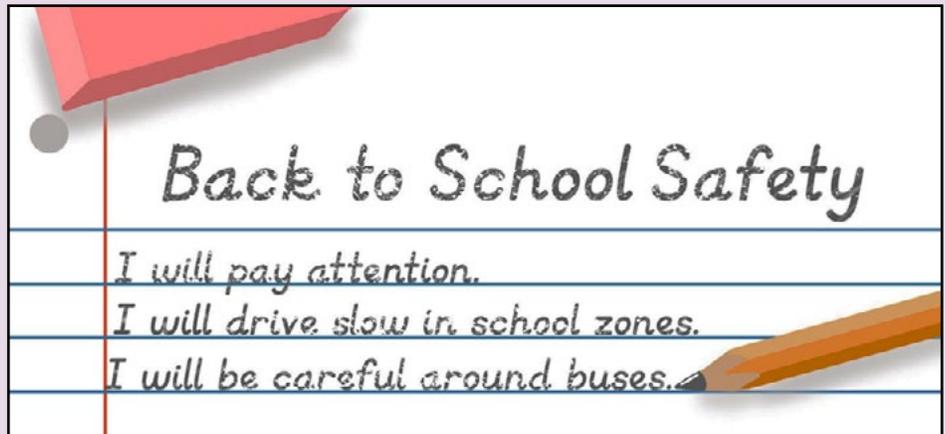
School just started for most students across Kansas. Motorists are reminded that students are walking or biking to and from school, as well as entering or exiting buses and vehicles. Help improve safety for everyone.

### With pedestrians:

- If a vehicle is stopped for pedestrians, don't pass.
- Look out for children who may be playing in playgrounds, parks and residential areas.
- Stop and yield when flashers are blinking in a school zone.
- Don't block crosswalks when stopped at a red light or preparing to turn.

### With bicyclists:

- Leave about three feet between the bicyclist and your vehicle.
- Wait for riders coming from the opposite direction to pass before you turn left.
- If you are turning right and a bicyclist is behind you, let the bicyclist go through the intersection first.
- Use your blinkers to communicate with all travelers, especially bicyclists.
- Young bikers can turn in front of cars with little to no warning - pay attention.



- Check for bikes coming from behind parked cars and driveways.

### With kids and buses:

- Stop far enough away from a school bus to allow the children to enter or depart safely. A 10-foot area around the bus can be the most dangerous for children.
  - Stop if the yellow or red lights are flashing and stop arm is extending.
  - Do not go until the stop arm retracts.
- Parents or guardians of children should try to teach students ways they can improve safety during the school year and any time they need to interact with vehicles.

## Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

**Poster contest:** Kansas kids ages 5-13 are encouraged to enter artwork in the 16th annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day poster contest. Three statewide winners will receive a Kindle Fire Tablet with a case from the KTA, a \$50 gift card from WalMart, a \$50 Amazon gift card from the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association and movie passes from AAA. And 18 regional winners will each receive a bicycle and helmet. Entries must be postmarked by Sept. 22. For more information, go to KDOT's webpage [here](#).

**Video contest:** For the third year, as part of the safety campaign, the KTA is having a video contest for teens in grades 8-12. Winners will receive a GoPro, iPad, or an DJI Osmo Camera. The grand prize winner will also receive \$500 for their school's booster club. Visit: <https://www.ksturnpike.com/contests>



# Poster Art Contest

**Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day - October 10, 2017**

Traffic crashes are a leading cause of death in the U.S. "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day" focuses on reducing traffic fatalities by encouraging motorists to take extra precautions.

**Kansas kids ages 5 through 13** are invited to enter artwork showing their thoughts on "Put the Brakes on Fatalities." Regional winners in the three age categories will be chosen. Then, three statewide winners will be selected from the 18 regional winners!

## Statewide prizes – each winner will receive:

- ◆ Kindle Fire Tablet with case, from the KTA;
- ◆ \$50 Amazon Gift Card, from Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas;
- ◆ \$50 Gift Card, from WalMart; and
- ◆ Movie Passes, from AAA Kansas.

**Cool!!**

## RULES:

◆ Art **MUST** be on 8.5" x 11" paper. Any materials can be used including paint, crayon, pencil, pastel, and collage. No computer-aided drawings.

◆ To be eligible, all entries must be postmarked by **September 22, 2017.**

◆ Winners' names/artwork will be sent to media and posted on the KDOT website.

## Age Categories

5 to 7 years old  
8 to 10 years old  
11 to 13 years old

## Mail entries to

AAA Kansas/Public Affairs  
3545 SW 6th Street  
Topeka, Kansas, 66606

Information on websites - [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org) [www.ksturnpike.com](http://www.ksturnpike.com)

Each regional winner will receive a **BICYCLE and HELMET** from Safe Kids Kansas

Each entry **MUST** have this information on the back;

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone Number ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's First/Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

**One entry per child**

Sponsored by the Kansas Department of Transportation and other traffic safety organizations.