

## Work Zone Safety

### Watch out for highway workers:

It was a normal work day. KDOT employee Galen Ludlow was helping to set up cones and an arrow board in a work zone on I-70. In an instant, the situation turned dangerous. "My coworker yelled, 'look out!' As I looked up, there was a car headed straight for us," Ludlow said. "I jumped over the tongue of the trailer and we ran for the median. The driver never stopped. After taking a few minutes to catch our breath, we continued with our job."

Ludlow has witnessed many near misses during his 34-year KDOT career. He now serves as the Area Superintendent in Dodge City, working with 40 employees who serve at various offices in the region. Their well-being is a concern, Ludlow said. "I want them to be able to go home every night, safe and sound," he said. Ludlow was one of the speakers at the April 6 safety event in Topeka.

He was joined by State Transportation Engineer Catherine Patrick, Superintendent Col. Mark Bruce, KDOT employee Troy Whitworth and Federal Highway Administration Division Administrator Rick Backlund. The event was one of several



**State Transportation Engineer Catherine Patrick stresses the need for work zone safety at the April 6 event. Other speakers, from left to right, included Rick Backlund from the FHWA, KHP Col. Mark Bruce and KDOT employees Troy Whitworth and Galen Ludlow.**

activities in Kansas as part of National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 3-7, which raises awareness of the dangers highway workers and motorists face in work zones.

Last year in Kansas work zones, 683 people were injured and six people were killed.

**More National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week photos from around Kansas in this edition.**

## In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Richard "Dick" Steele who died on March 25 in Lawrence. He worked for KDOT for many years in the engineering and computer service areas.

## Retirees

The following employees will retire from KDOT in May.

### Headquarters

**Cristy Reichert**, Management Analyst I, Engineering & Design

### District One

**Edward Rosell**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Wamego

### District Two

**David Greiser**, Program Consultant II, Salina

## Trivia!

### The color orange

The color orange is associated with work zone safety. Here are some other fun facts about its unique color.

- ♦Originally carrots weren't orange; the most common color was purple. The orange variety came about by the 17th Century when Dutch growers seemingly crossbred white rooted, mutated yellow and wild carrots.
- ♦In Feng Shui, orange represents fire.
- ♦Nobility were the only ones during the Elizabethan Era who could wear orange.
- ♦The color of the United States Army Signal Corps is orange.
- ♦An orange's skin turns orange as the weather cools but in hotter areas, the chlorophyll stays and the fruit remains green.
- ♦Frank Sinatra had a love for the color orange, once saying "Orange is the happiest of colors."

## KTA



**Congratulations to Davis Bloom of Overland Park who won the KTA's National Work Zone Awareness Week design contest. His work is above and was one of 55 submissions from around the state. See the other finalists' artwork at <http://bit.ly/2nDLAXE>.**

**KDOT retirees interested in receiving Translines - send email address to [Kim.Stich@ks.gov](mailto:Kim.Stich@ks.gov).**

## District Four

**Below shows the old Big Creek drainage bridge and Draw Creek Bridge on K-39, and at right shows the newly-completed structures.**



**Bridges open:** Last summer, KDOT began a project to replace the Big Creek drainage bridge and Draw Creek Bridge on K-39 east of Chanute. The two new bridges were opened to traffic in late March. B & B Bridge Company of St. Paul was contractor on the \$1.6 million project. The highway was closed during construction, with traffic following a detour on state routes. Steve Rocker's road squad and John Jones's bridge squad designed the project.

## District Six

**Concrete for the deck was placed recently on the new bridge being built on U.S. 160 in Meade County.**



**New bridge on U.S. 160:** A bridge replacement project is underway on U.S. 160 in Meade County. Work began last fall to remove the existing structure over Gyp Creek. The old bridge was 24 feet wide and 130 feet long. The new structure will be 32 feet wide and 160 feet long.

The bridge, grading and surfacing are expected to be completed in June. L & M Contractors of Great Bend is the contractor on the \$1.9 million project. Stephen Bass's road squad and Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project.

## General

**Repairs in Georgia:** According to Better Roads magazine, crews with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) began demolition recently on the collapsed portion of Interstate 85 following a fire March 30. It was believed to have been set intentionally. Officials estimate the repairs, which will include 350 feet of interstate in both northbound and southbound directions, will take months to complete. The Federal Highway Administration released \$10 million in emergency relief funds to be used for the reconstruction.

The bridge was originally built in 1953 and updated in 1985. Roughly 400,000 vehicles travel across this section of I-85 each day. Construction materials, including PVC piping, were being stored underneath the overpass that extended over Piedmont Road in the Midtown section of Atlanta. The space, which is fenced in, has been used for storage for roughly 10 years. Three people have been arrested in connection to the fire, with one individuals being held on \$200,000 bond in Fulton County and charged with arson in the first



**Demolition of I-85 after fire (Photo courtesy of Better Roads).**

degree and criminal damage to property in the first degree. GDOT says the demolition is difficult because workers need to work around stable roadway and bridge columns to avoid additional needed work. "Once demolition is completed, an accurate scope of needed work and a more exact timeline for expected completion can be estimated," the department reports.

## Transportation Safety Conference



*The Kansas Highway Patrol's Tweeting Trooper were one of five groups or people honored with the 2017 People Saving People Award for their efforts to improve transportation safety in the state.*

**People Saving People:** Winners of the state's 2017 People Saving People Award were honored on April 5 as part of the 23rd Kansas Transportation Safety Conference in Wichita. This year's award recipients were:

**AAA Kansas Traffic Safety Fund Trustees**

-The AAA Kansas Traffic Safety Fund Trustees are an important partner in educating the driving public and have provided funding for materials on various traffic safety issues.

**Sheriff Sandy Horton, Retired** - Sheriff Horton has been a traffic safety advocate throughout his law enforcement career and began the SAFE program in 2009.

**Undersheriff John Koelsch** - Undersheriff Koelsch volunteers his time to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety in Lyon County as well as teaching children in elementary school the fundamentals of walking and biking.

**Kristin Nichols** - Nichols spends time educating the community, law enforcement, and other professionals on safe driving. She is one of nine people in the United States to hold the certification of American Occupational Therapy Association Specialty Certification in Driving and Community Mobility.

**Tweeting Troopers** - Through Twitter, the Tweeting Troopers disseminate safety messages on a daily basis, reaching thousands of drivers daily - they are an integral part of the public outreach effort of the Kansas Highway Patrol. The award highlights efforts of a person or organization



*Susan deCourcy, Regional Administrator for National Highway Traffic Safety Administration/Region 7, was one of several speakers at the 23rd Kansas Transportation Safety Conference that took place in Wichita on April 4-5.*

that has a positive effect on transportation safety behavior. KDOT sponsors the award along with the Federal Highway Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration.

## Kansas Transportation

Wednesday, April 12

### #IAMKDOT

When people first think of work zones, most think of summer construction taking place on the highways. But motorists need to use extra caution all year long, including the winter, when workers are clearing the roadways of snow and ice.

This month's #IAMKDOT feature is Tom McCartney, Area Superintendent in El Dorado, and he knows this all too well. His truck has been hit twice

- once when a vehicle slid into the side of his truck and once when he got rear-ended during white out conditions on the Interstate.

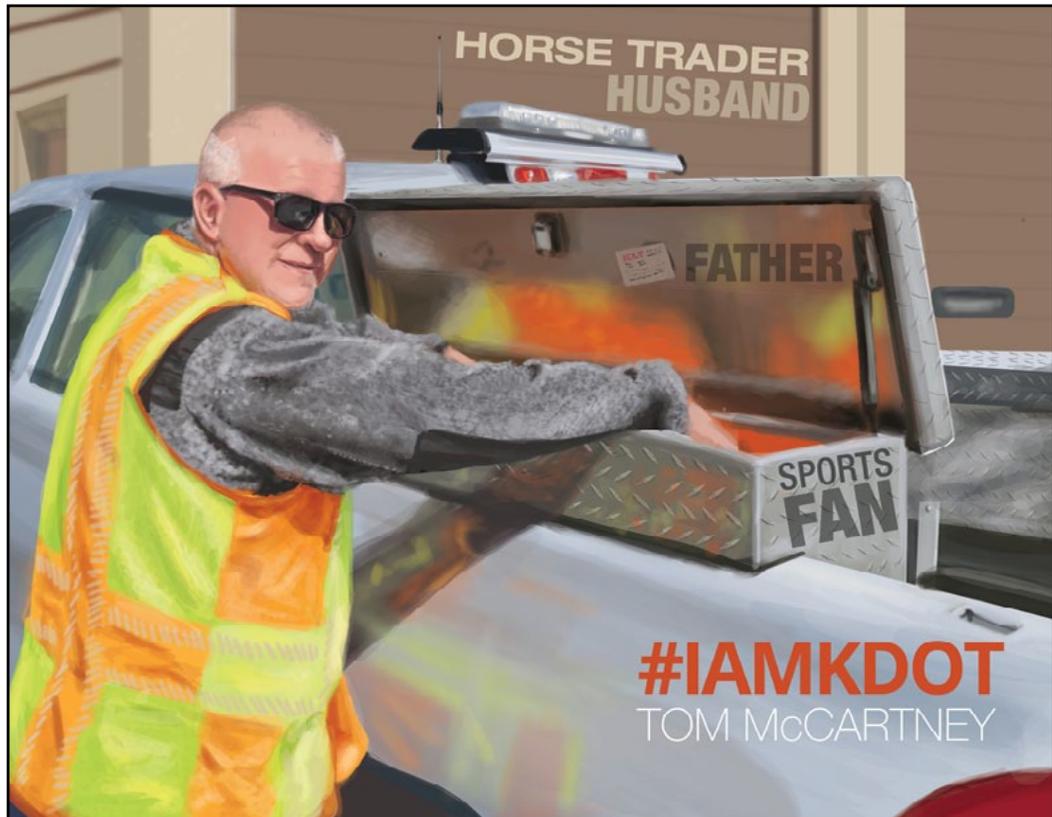
"Snow and ice is a whole different experience. Working north of Wichita – people passing on both sides in blinding snow," he said. "Then a half mile down the road, there they are in the ditch."

McCartney has spent his 23-year career working along the highways. He has worked in Marion and Newton, then was promoted to Supervisor at the Hutchinson Subarea Office. He's been in his current position for the past two years.

He said it's also very different working along a two-lane highway with lower traffic volumes versus a multi-lane divided Interstate.

"Coming from Marion, that was an eye opening experience. There were times I had to wait 10 minutes to safely cross the road to get in the median," he said. "If it was rush hour, it could take longer.

"I don't think drivers understand what it's like to have traffic come by at a high rate of speed and

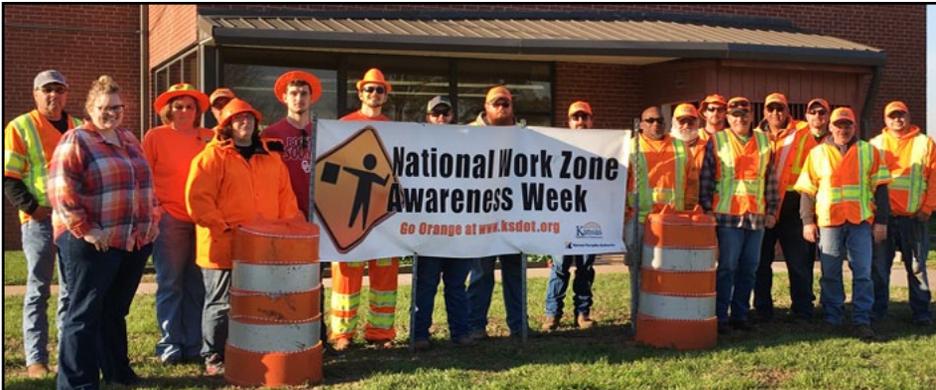
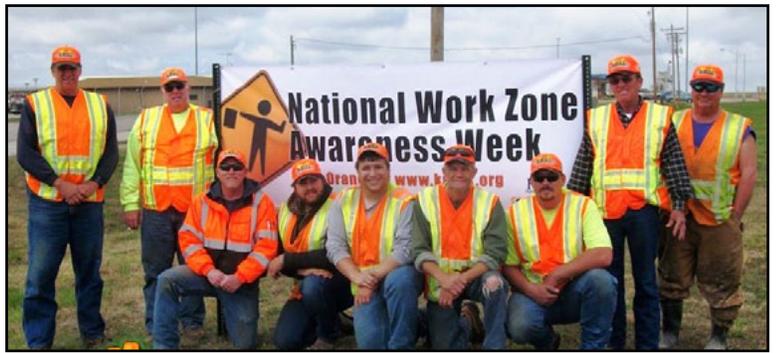


how quickly something tragic can happen," McCartney said. "It can get bad in a hurry." When not working, he likes to spend his time with his wife and four grown children. He also is an avid sports fans and a horse trader. McCartney grew up training horses and sustained numerous injuries in the process – he broke his neck when he was 14, has had multiple concussions, has broken all his ribs and separated a shoulder. Now he lets his oldest son train the horses most of the time.

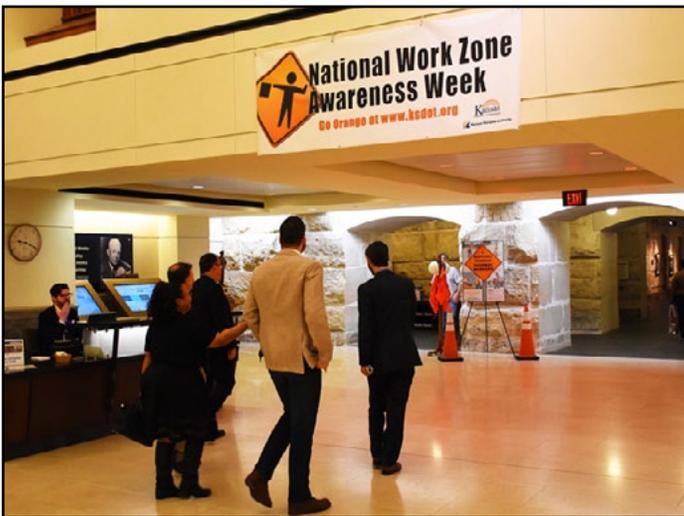
*#IAMKDOT is an illustration project that recognizes KDOT employees who work hard to keep Kansans moving. This series also serves as a reminder for travelers to slow down and remember that underneath those neon vests are individuals with families, friends and hobbies waiting for them at home.*

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

# Go Orange/Work Zone Safety



People and places going orange: top left, Governor's Mansion; top right, Emporia employees; above, Winfield employees; right, Headquarters employees; below left, Visitor's Center in Capitol; below right, Hutchinson employees, bottom, KDOT Pittsburg office.





**Above: Safety partners display vehicles at the April 6 work zone event. Far left, Galen Ludlow speaks about his experiences while, at left, attendees listen to all of the speakers.**



**Above, left: A cone display honors KDOT and KTA employees killed in work zones since 1950. Above, right: Transportation partners who donated to the Give 'Em A Brake program are recognized - at the event with Catherine Patrick, right, from left to right; Dan Scherschligt, Kansas Asphalt Pavers Association; Jamie Lane, Kansas Contractors Association; Todd LaTorella, MO/KS Chapter American Concrete Pavement Association; and Scott Uhl, American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas. Below, a large crowd attended the event.**



**For highlights of the news conference click [here](#). To see the entire news conference, click [here](#).**

## KTA



**KTA crews remove the bridge deck of eastbound Kellogg bridge in Wichita, near 127th Street, that crosses over the Kansas Turnpike.**

## Aviation

### **Airport improvement projects announced:**

Twenty-six airports have been selected for Kansas Airport Improvement Program funding to repair or improve facilities and enhance air ambulance access.

The projects selected for this KDOT program will receive a combined total of more than \$4 million in fiscal year 2018. KAIP requires airport sponsors to share in the project costs by paying a minimum of 5 percent of the total project costs up to a maximum of 50 percent. The combined total value of the approved projects is estimated at \$4.45 million.

“These projects will help us make critical air services available to more Kansans all across the state,” said Secretary Richard Carlson.

“Improvements currently underway at rural airports will help ensure that 93 percent of our population has air ambulance access.”

KAIP receives \$5 million annually through the T-WORKS transportation program. KDOT’s Division of Aviation considered 123 applications for projects totaling \$31.7 million.

“The applications we receive each year for KAIP projects are very competitive, indicating the value local officials attach to maintaining and developing their airports,” said State Aviation Planner Greg Chenoweth. “KAIP allows us to advance the effectiveness of our airport system on a state-wide basis.”

To see all the selected aviation improvement projects, click [here](#).

## General

### **Little bird gets second chance:**

After the work zone safety event at the KDOT Area Four office on April 6, a little bird was in distress in the parking lot and was picked up by KHP Trooper J.W. Cripe. KDOT employee Mallory Goeke later took the bird to University Veterinary Care Center where they helped him and it was set free.

