

# Translines EXPRESS

Jan. 25, 2017

## Weather

The importance of KDOT to the safety and well-being of Kansas families was fully evident Jan. 14-16 when the entire state was impacted by the ice storm. While the storm hit some areas harder than others (and the effects are lingering still in some locations), our road crews were out in every corner of the state before and during the slow-moving event.

Crews combined to log tens of thousands of hours responding to this dangerous storm – most of you on the roads and others attending to important duties in offices. If not for your dedication and hard work, the state literally comes to a standstill.

So we want to thank you for once again performing at your best when conditions are at their worst. The entire state depends on us and judges how we perform in these extreme situations. We are proud of how you responded and proud to be part of such a great organization.

Thank you.

Secretary Richard Carlson  
and State Transportation Engineer Catherine Patrick



***The image from the camera on U.S. 54 west of Liberal on Jan. 15 illustrates the weather conditions many people around the Midwest dealt with for several days.***



***Ice can be seen on U.S. 36 west of Phillipsburg on Jan. 16 at left and on the tree above. During that storm, the Hays and Great Bend areas got nearly an inch of ice and the Dodge City and Liberal areas got at least one inch of ice.***

## In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Leland Kueser who died on Jan. 13 in Garnett. He was an Equipment Operator in the Garnett, Ottawa and Lawrence offices.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Walter Minihan who died

on Jan. 14 in Topeka. Minihan worked in Photo Duplicating for 28 years, retiring in 1998.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Homer Burchess who died on Jan. 16 in Emporia. He worked at the Emporia office, retiring in 1993.

## General

The Kansas Senate confirmed Gov. Sam Brownback's appointment of Richard Carlson as KDOT's Secretary on Jan. 17.

## Trivia!

### Snow

1. What color is snow?
2. Where did the most snow fall in a 24-hour period in the U.S.?
3. Where was the highest snowfall ever recorded in a one-year period in the U.S.?
4. On March 28, 2007, in Bismarck, N.D., 8,062 people set a record for this.
5. How many sides does a snowflake have?

## Retirees

The following employees are retiring in February.

Headquarters

**Gretchen Gleue**, Program Consultant II,  
Transportation Safety & Technology  
District One

**Daniel Romine**, Equipment Mechanic  
Specialist Topeka-Gage  
District Two

**James Koster**, Equipment Operator  
Senior, Minneapolis

## Future City

**Future City:** A total of 52 teams from 31 schools in Kansas, Colorado and Missouri competed in the 2017 Great Plains Regional Future City Competition on Jan. 21 at Kansas State University. Future City is a national competition that focuses on improving student's math, engineering, and science skills, with students in sixth to eighth grades participating. Students take what they learn from a virtual city design and then conduct research for an essay and city models that are created for their presentations. This year's topic was the power of public space. "It's a learning experience," said Kevin Koester, KDOT Engineering Associate III and regional coordinator. "Even the kids who don't win an award still get the experience of making a presentation and seeing a college campus that maybe they wouldn't otherwise get to see." Teratai team, from Southwest Middle School in Lawrence, won the regional event and will go on to compete in the national competition from Feb. 18-20 in Washington, D.C. More than 100 judges from KDOT and other transportation organizations donated their time to assist with the competition. The American Society of Civil Engineers organized the event.



*Above, students from Saint Matthew Catholic School in Topeka compete in the Future City event. Below, the city model created by Liberty Classical Academy students from Colorado.*



## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. It's actually colorless, or translucent, meaning light does not pass through it easily but is instead reflected.
2. Silver Lake, Colorado, with 75.8 inches.
3. Mount Rainier, Washington, between Feb. 19, 1971 and Feb. 18, 1972, with 1,224 inches (31.1 meters) of snow.
4. Simultaneously making snow angels.
5. Six.

## Traffic Safety

**A crash on I-470 on Jan. 23 in Topeka is another example of why it's so important to move over for emergency and highway workers. Two Kansas Highway Patrol troopers were stopped along I-470 and were next to another stopped vehicle when a motorist on the highway struck the KHP vehicle. Fortunately, only minor injuries were reported by the troopers and the motorist. The highway was shut down for about three hours.**



## KTA Briefs

**At left, the new Tallgrass Prairie plaques were installed recently at the renovated Bazaar Cattle Pens scenic overlook, located at mile marker 111 on I-35/KTA.**

Keep up on the latest KTA news by reading the Turnpike Times, KTA's monthly newsletter. This year, Turnpike Times includes new information, including national news and a safe driving series. Read January's issue [here](#).

Teens in grades 8-12 are reminded about the second annual design contest in conjunction with National Work Zone Awareness Week. The winning teen will receive a FitBit Blaze smartwatch or a \$200 gift card. See contest rules at [www.ksturnpike.com/contests](http://www.ksturnpike.com/contests).



## Kansas Transportation

Wednesday, Jan. 25

### #IAMKDOT

This month's #IAMKDOT feature is Traci Ward.

Ward has worked for the state of Kansas for more than 20 years and is the Kansas Department of Transportation's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Officer and ADA Coordinator. As an EEO Officer, Ward helps inform KDOT employees across the state of their rights and who to contact if a

need to file a grievance should arise. Ward's goal at KDOT is to ensure that respect and diversity are upheld in the workplace. She also helps educate and empower people to do their best work. When Ward is not in the office or traveling across the state, she is an author and a motivational speaker. She is also a mother and a nana. #IAMKDOT is an illustration project that recognizes KDOT employees who work hard to ensure Kansans enjoy safe roads, rails and skies. Safe and successful transportation also helps Kansans financially. Some employees of KDOT fill dangerous but necessary positions and this project



also serves as a reminder for travelers to slow down and remember that underneath those neon vests, are individuals with families and hobbies waiting for them at home. Do you know a KDOT worker that deserves recognition? Nominations are open! Email Mallory. Goeke@ks.gov today to get started!

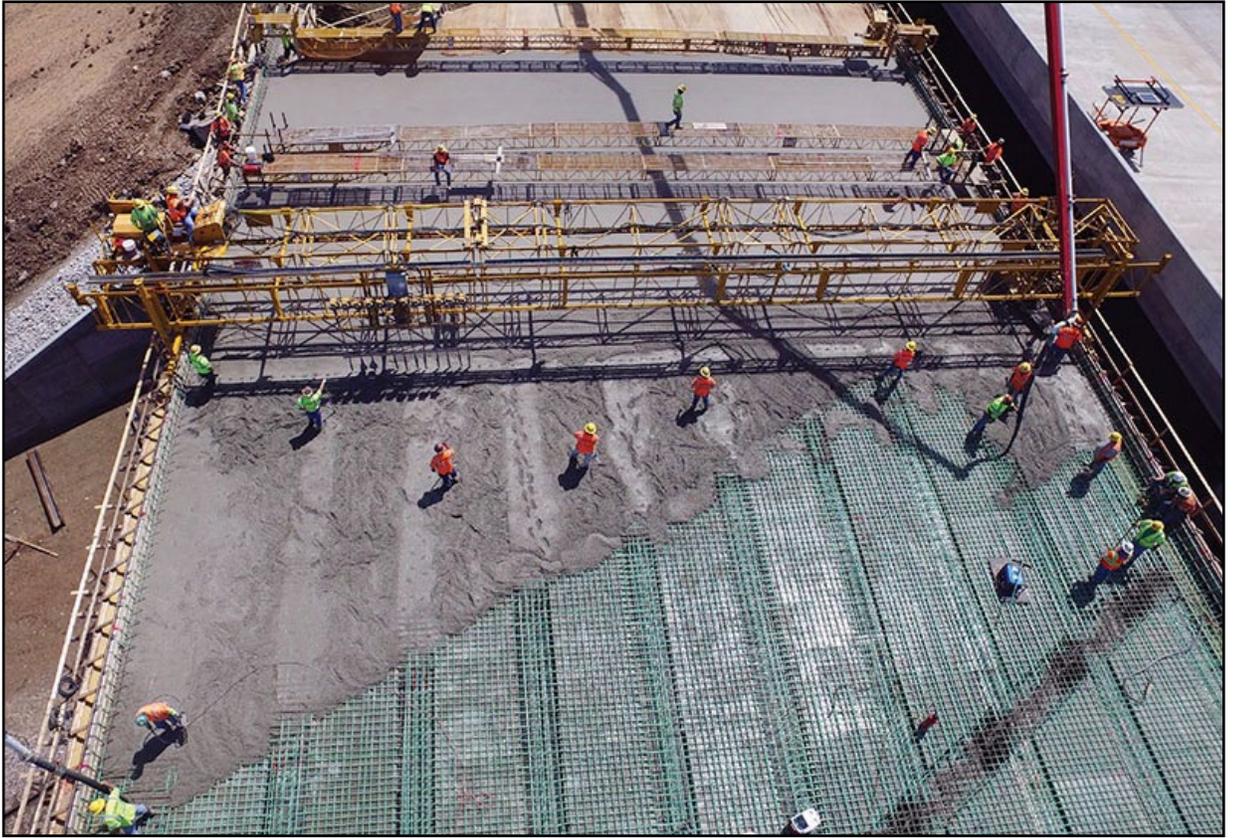
**To see more stories on other transportation topics, check out the regular posts on the Kansas Transportation blog at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>**

**Do you know of a KDOT retiree not receiving the electronic KDOT newsletter Translines?**

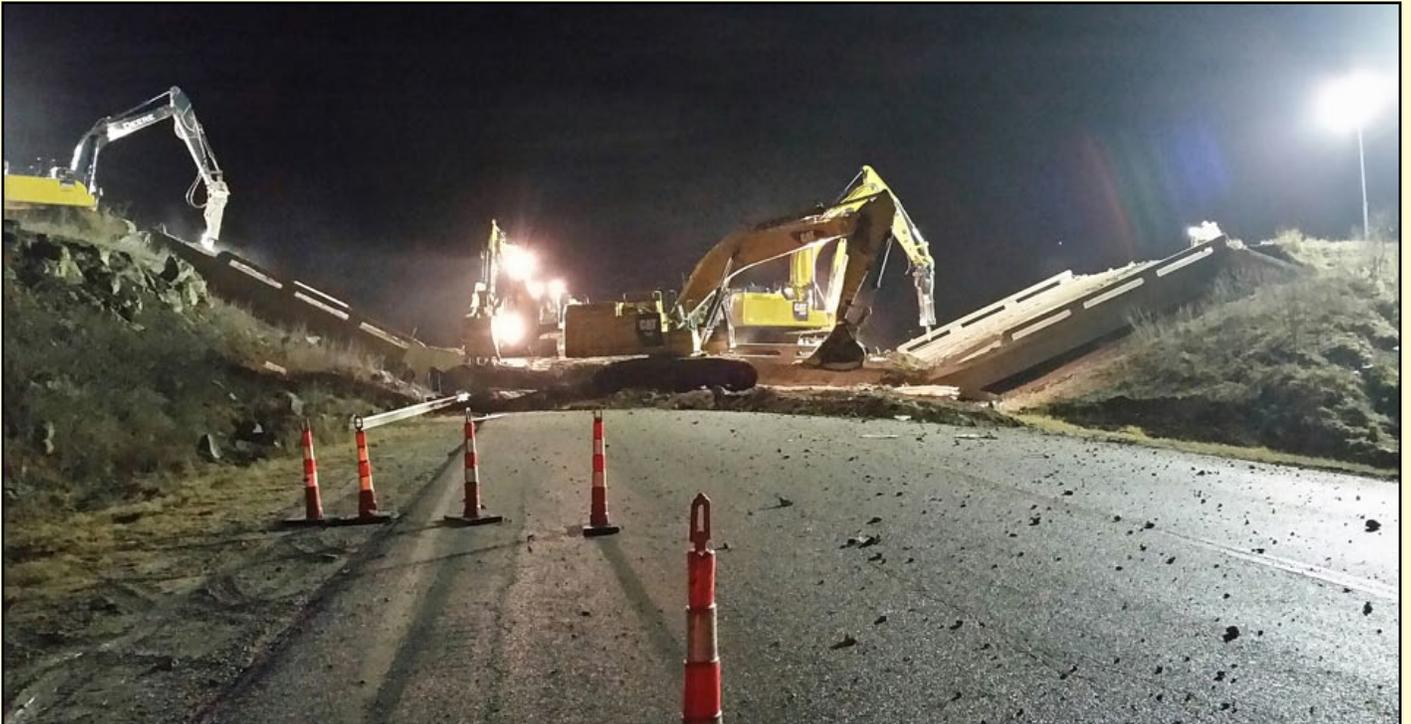
**Please let them know that if they are interested in receiving it, send an email to [Kim.stich@ks.gov](mailto:Kim.stich@ks.gov)**

## General

*Engineering News-Record magazine has an annual photo contest to highlight construction photos taken that year across the country as well as around the world. This photo, by Jason Clarke with Lamb-Star Engineering on the Johnson County Gateway project, was one of the featured photos for 2016. To see all of the winning photos, click [here](#).*

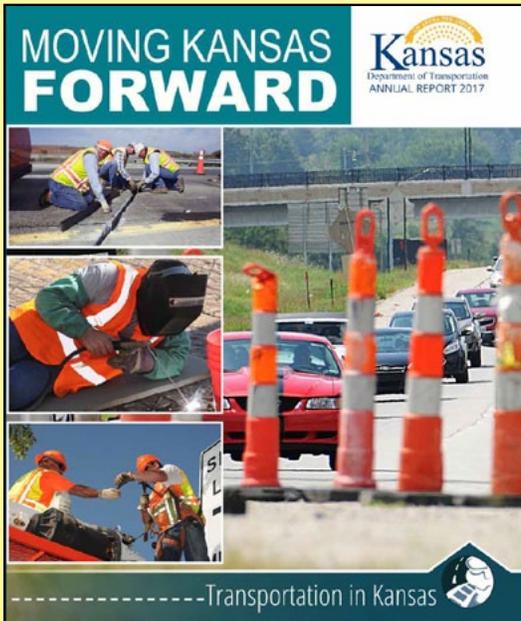


## District Two



*The K-18 bridge over U.S. 77 was imploded about 8 p.m. on Jan. 20. The time was selected to coincide with minimal traffic flow on U.S. 77. Traffic was detoured until about 5 a.m. on Jan. 21 after the debris was clear. This was part of the continued construction along U.S. 77 in Geary County. Debbie Tanking's road squad and Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project.*

## Publications



**Publications updated:** KDOT's annual report and quick facts booklet publications are available to view on the agency's Internet.

The annual report includes performance details, updates and facts from 2016. The quick facts booklet has a variety of information about KDOT and the KTA.

The annual report, along with the accompanying appendix, as

well as the quick facts booklet can be found on the KDOT website, [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org), under the "Projects/Publications" tab at the upper right of the home page.



## SAFE



*Above, State Transportation Engineer Catherine Patrick speaks to a group of 100 people during the SAFE (Seatbelts Are For Everyone) day at the Capitol on Jan. 18. At left, Gov. Sam Brownback poses with those attending the event. Students from several SAFE programs across the state visited the Capitol to share their experiences with legislators. They learned how a bill becomes a law and had a chance to meet state representatives.*



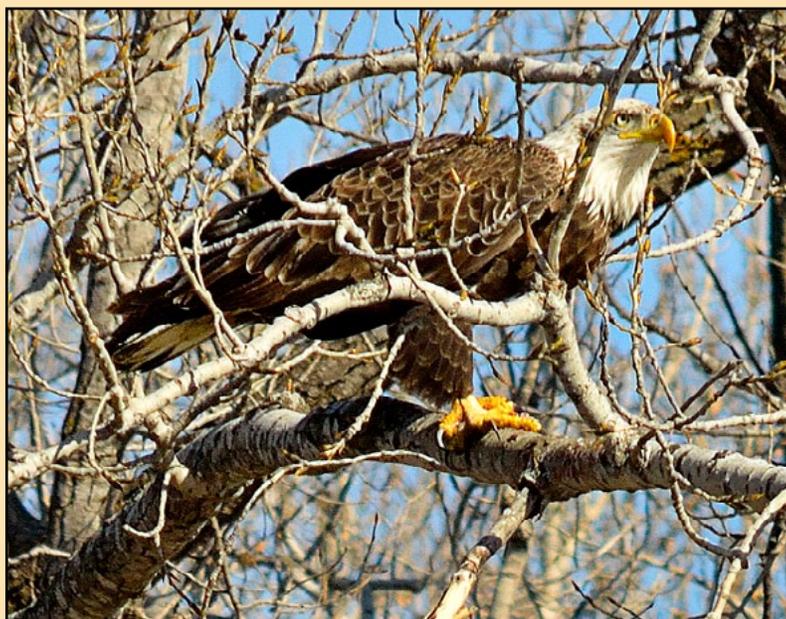
## District One

*I-435 in both directions from Roe Avenue to Metcalf Avenue in Overland Park was closed with traffic detoured on alternate routes for nearly two hours early on Jan. 22 as the Van Trust building, located near the highway, was imploded.*

## Traffic Safety

**People Saving People nominations:** Nominations for the 2017 People Saving People Award are now being accepted by KDOT. The award is presented to a person or organization who advocates safety and has a positive effect in transportation safety behavior. Awards are presented in three categories: community leadership and engineering; education and information; and enforcement, emergency response, prosecution and adjudication. More details and nomination forms are at [www.ktsro.org](http://www.ktsro.org). Nominations must be submitted by email, mail or fax by midnight Feb. 10. The awards will be presented April 5 at the annual Kansas Transportation Safety Conference in Wichita. The 2016 winners include Karen Wittman, Kansas Attorney General's Office; Norraine Wingfield, Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office; Brown County Sheriff's Office: Teen Lifesaver Initiative; and Addie Evans and Katelyn Burkhart, Buhler High School.

## Scenic



*Tod Salfrank, Assistant Bureau Chief of Local Projects, saw lots of birds on Jan. 21 while at Tuttle Creek State Park near the outlet tubes of the dam, including a bald eagle, left, and geese, below.*



## Scenic



*KDOT's John Foster, Engineering Technician Senior, captured this rainbow arching over the Wamego Area Office on Jan. 10.*