

Translines EXPRESS

March 8, 2017

Transit

Transit Day at the Statehouse: KDOT and the Kansas Public Transit Association hosted Transit Day at the Statehouse in Topeka this morning. The event, in its second year, highlighted the work that more than 150 different agencies from across the state do to provide reliable, clean and useful transit and paratransit services to the people of Kansas.

Attendees met with state's service providers, toured new transit and paratransit vehicles and learned about new technologies being used. Secretary Richard Carlson, Rep. Richard Proehl, Sen. Jake LaTurner and Susan Duffy, Chair of the Kansas Public Transit Association, gave a briefing on public transportation in Kansas during the event.

"Public transit is here for us all – rural, urban, young and old alike – but we don't spend much time talking about it," KDOT Public Transit Manager Mike Spadafore said. "We hope that Transit Day gave everyone the opportunity to ask questions and learn about transit and paratransit services available in Kansas. Our goal is to keep people living in and connected to their communities as long as possible."

At top, Rep. Richard Proehl, who also serves as the House Transportation Chairman, discusses the importance of transit in Kansas at the event this morning at the Capitol. At right, visitors stop by one of the many booths highlighting agencies that provide transit services.



In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree Willie Lee "Bill" Sullivan, formerly from northeast Kansas, who died on Feb. 19 in Mountain View, Mo. He retired from the KDOT Horton office in 1996.

Kudos

Dear KDOT:

Thank you so much for promptly filling my request for your state's road and bicycle maps. They are exactly what I was looking for and will greatly assist me and the other riders when planning and enjoying our bicycle trip in Kansas this spring.

Sincerely,
Peter Graf of Missoula, Mont.

Wildfires



Signs and guard rails across the state have been damaged or destroyed along highways where wildfires have burned since March 4. At left and bottom photos are on K-34 in Clark County; the photo below shows U.S. 160 in Clark County. Some areas still had active wildfires as of this morning. Fires can spread from one side of the roadway to another. Several highways have been closed at times because of this.

Damage across the state: According to a Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) news release issued this morning, more than 659,000 acres in the state have burned so far during the course of multiple wildfires that have plagued Kansas since March 4, causing one death and destroying numerous homes and other buildings.

Clark and Comanche Counties have been the hardest hit, with estimated 351,000 acres and 151,000 acres affected, respectively. Complete damage estimates may take several weeks. In addition to property destruction, the fires have killed an unknown number of livestock in several counties.

As of this morning, there were still active fires in Clark, Comanche, Ellis, Reno, and Rooks Counties. Regional coordinators and emergency operations support teams have been dispatched by KDEM to Clark, Comanche, Reno and Rooks counties. Local fire departments and mutual aid are assisting with fire suppression across the state.

KDEM urges anyone wishing to contribute to ongoing disaster relief efforts to donate cash to reputable disaster relief organizations rather than donating goods.



Trivia!

Musician Bob Dylan

1. What was Bob Dylan's given name when he was born on May 24, 1941?
2. What name did he go by for a time after high school?
3. Who did he consider one of his biggest influences?
4. He was an opening act for this group in 1960, before they got him fired.
5. Dylan has won how many Grammy Awards?
6. What well-known song did Dylan write in 1965?

Leave Overages

Annual leave: The last day to use annual leave that is over the maximum is June 17, 2017.

Up to 40 hours of vacation leave that is over the maximum allowed is converted to sick leave at the end of the fiscal year.

Hours accrued during the June 4 to June 17 pay period are not affected.

Accumulation limits are based on length of service.

Length of Service	Maximum Accumulation
Less Than 5 Years	144
5 Years and Less Than 10	176
10 Years and Less Than 15	208
15 Years and Over	240

For more information, contact your personnel or payroll office.

Retirees

The following employees will retire from KDOT on April 1.

Headquarters

James Burns, Engineering Technician Specialist, Structures & Geotechnical Services

William Haverkamp, Land Surveyor II, Right of Way

District One

Jerry Bueker, Equipment Operator Senior, Holton

Carl Kostman, Equipment Operator Senior, Troy

Richard Reigle, Equipment Operator Senior, Wamego

Duane Roeder, Equipment Operator Specialist, Seneca

Kent Rosdahl, Engineering Technician Specialist, Topeka

District Four

Charles Clay, Equipment Operator Senior, Fort Scott

Ronnie Driskill, Equipment Operator Senior, Chanute

Sandra Everly, Senior Administrative Specialist, Chanute

District Five

Bonnie Bryant, Administrative Assistant, Winfield

Shelley Charles, Human Resource Professional, Hutchinson

Brenda Cikaneck, Human Resource Professional II, Hutchinson

Benjamin Koerner, Engineering Technician Senior, Wichita

Edward Niemczyk, Engineering Technician Senior, El Dorado

Bruce Smith, Equipment Operator Specialist, Winfield

Benny Tarverdi, District Engineer, Hutchinson

KTA

2017 NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK
DESIGN CONTEST

GET YOUR DESIGN IN VYPE MAGAZINE!
WIN A FITBIT BLAZE!
OR \$200 (WINNER CHOOSES)



The deadline to enter the KTA's Work Zone Awareness Week design contest is March 26. Students in grades 8-12 can submit a print design regarding work zone safety for a chance to win a FitBit Blaze smartwatch or \$200. Additionally, they will have their work printed in VYPE Magazine, a high school sports magazine for the south central Kansas area.

District Four



KDOT is designing a roundabout to replace this T-intersection at the U.S. 160 and U.S. 59 junction a mile east of Altamont. Federal funds have been secured to proceed with the design and right-of-way phases. The roundabout could potentially be let for construction in 2019. Kelly Keele's road squad is assisting with the design.

District One

Cattle roundup takes place on I-435: A semi carrying 89 head of cattle overturned on the westbound I-435 to westbound K-10 ramp around noon on March 3. Crews worked to get the semi removed, roadway cleaned and the ramp reopened to traffic before the evening commute. All related incident highway closures were reopened to traffic by 4 p.m. However, the roundup continued until March 6 as the cattle escaped from the overturned semi and ran alongside motorists down the Interstate.

According to District Public Affairs Manager Kimberly Qualls, a deceased cow was reported over the weekend along the highway right of way. The animal was gone when the KDOT crew went to remove it on Monday, she said. Also on March 6, KDOT received a call that four head



Loose cattle are rounded up on I-435 after a semi overturned on March 3.

of cattle were in a field adjacent to the K-10/Renner Boulevard interchange. Lenexa Animal Control was dispatched to round up the strays. To see a video news coverage about the cattle, click [here](#).

Kansas Transportation

Wednesday, March 8

#IAMKDOT: Kevin Jirak

This month's #IAMKDOT feature is Kevin Jirak who has worked at KDOT for more than 31 years in Marion. Jirak began his career as an Equipment Operator I and over the past three decades he has been promoted several times. Twenty four years later, Jirak now serves as Area Superintendent. Among his many duties, Jirak oversees four Subarea crews and one Area crew.

"I have a group of good supervisors and employees that do a great job," Jirak said. "My Area Engineer has been very helpful to me since becoming the Area Superintendent. This makes my job easier. I also take care of permits, visit with and listen to the public about their concerns and keep an eye on maintenance issues." When Jirak is not at work he enjoys a variety of activities that include coaching kids in sports. He is also an avid Jayhawks and Chiefs fan. Jirak thrives in the great outdoors as a hunter and fisherman. He enjoys spending time with his wife and four children.

#IAMKDOT is an illustration project that recognizes KDOT employees who work hard to ensure Kansans enjoy safe roads, rails and skies. 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.

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

TRIVIA ANSWERS

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Robert Allen Zimmerman | 3. Charlie Chaplin |
| 2. Elston Gunn - with three N's in the last name. | 4. The Smothers Brothers |
| | 5. 10. |
| | 6. "Like a Rolling Stone." |

District One



Above, a crash occurs in a work zone on I-435 on Feb. 28, while below, Public Affairs Manager Kimberly Qualls reacts as a car drives through a closed lane and narrowly misses her and a cameraman on March 3.

I-435 Work Zone Safety

Incidents: District One Public Affairs Manager Kimberly Qualls conducted interviews with Kansas City media on Feb. 28 and March 3 for the I-435 reconstruction project in Overland Park. The interviews took place on westbound I-435 within the coned off work zone.

Work zone safety reminders were part of the story, and became a bigger part of the story as Qualls and the media experienced work zone incidents each day.

“One happened just a couple hundred feet from where the cameraman and I were standing,” Qualls said.

“Fortunately both drivers were not injured, though one of the vehicles was totaled. I assisted as a first responder to the incident until law enforcement arrived on scene.”



In addition, multiple vehicles attempted to travel around the cones into the work zone where the interviews were being conducted.

On March 3, a driver came into the work zone and drove in the closed lane, just missing Qualls and the cameraman.

“We were standing between

vehicles with safety vests on in the work zone, when the vehicle came towards us, just missing the cameraman and I by inches,” Qualls said. To see the news clip, click [here](#).

“Work zone safety is for drivers and workers alike,” Qualls said. “Stay fully focused on the road, take it slow and obey all traffic control when traveling through the work zone.”

KTA

Construction to convert the Eastern Terminal toll plaza, located at mile marker 216 I-70/KTA, to open road tolling has begun. Open road tolling is a method of toll collection which allows electronic customers who have K- TAGs or other compatible transponders to move through the toll plaza at highway speeds. Travelers who prefer to pay with cash can slow and pull to the right, well out of way of highway traffic. View a video simulation [here](#) and see the full release [here](#).



Awards

Projects recognized: Three KDOT highway projects were honored at the 37th annual Portland Cement Concrete Pavement conference Kansas Paving Awards on March 1 in Kansas City, Mo. The event was sponsored by the MO/KS Chapter of the American Concrete Paving Association.

The Kansas paving awards were presented for the following projects:

- ♦ Johnson County Gateway Design-Build - divided highways (urban) category
 - ♦ South Lawrence Trafficway (K-10) - divided highways (rural) category
 - ♦ U.S. 56 reconstruction (Engin and Montezuma) in Gray County - state roads category
- Nine projects in Kansas as well as nine projects in Missouri received paving awards.

U.S. 56 recipients - from left to right, Brad Pohlmeier, Koss Construction Company; Matt Graham, KDOT; Bruce Remsberg, Professional Engineering Consultants; and Greg Adams, KDOT. Not pictured, Brett Latkowski, TranSystems Corporation.



Johnson County Gateway - from left to right, Pat Weaver, Clarkson Construction Company; Cory Imhoff, HDR; Chad Hall, HDR; Paul Gripka, KDOT; Sean Gellhaus, HNTB; and Clarence Munsch, GBA.



South Lawrence Trafficway - from left to right, Caleb Baugh, Lochner; Marcus Geist, HNTB; Ryan Robinson, HNTB; Tyler Myers, Emery Sapp & Sons; Michelle Anschutz, KDOT; Jim Brewer, KDOT (retired); and Clint Suhr, Lochner.

District One

Two-year I-435 project underway: A concrete pavement replacement project began on March 5 on a 2.5-mile stretch of I-435 from half-mile west of U.S. 69 to east of Metcalf Avenue in Overland Park.



Project work includes concrete pavement replacement on I-435 mainline lanes, bridge deck patching and resurfacing and reconstruction of approach slab pavement for the bridges over Indian Creek and Metcalf Avenue. The concrete pavement in this area is at least 30 years old. This portion of I-435 has an average daily traffic count of 144,000 vehicles. Project construction will be done in phases. During 2017, reconstruction work will take place on the eastbound I-435 lanes and in 2018 on the westbound

I-435 lanes. Eastbound and westbound I-435 will be reduced to three lanes of traffic throughout the project. For more information on the project, click [here](#) for a project fact sheet. Clarkson Construction Company of Kansas City, Mo., is the primary contractor on the \$16.34 million project. The project is scheduled to be completed in November 2018, weather permitting. Shawn Schwensen's bridge squad and Kelly Keele's road squad designed the project.

General

Learning about transportation: KDOT's Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) members coordinated the Kansas City Chapter's Garrett A. Morgan Shadow Day on Feb. 8.

The annual Garrett A. Morgan Shadow Day takes place on any day during the month of February in observance of Black History Month. The program is designed to educate students about career opportunities in transportation.

High school students interested in transportation from the metro area are given a chance to learn about the different facets of local transportation as well as the careers involved. This year's tours included stops at the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority, the KC Streetcar – RideKC headquarters, a tour of the Charles B. Wheeler Airport and an engineering panel session at Burns & McDonnell.



Engineers in various transportation careers answer questions from students participating in the Garrett A. Morgan Shadow Day.

The students received hands-on experience while learning about what makes the transportation industry flourish.

"The transportation industry is future-oriented, and to plan for today would mean we are behind the curve," said KDOT Civil Rights Compliance Administrator Doria Watson. "KDOT takes pride in investing for the future."

District One

A special connection:

Story from KMBC news in Kansas City - A Gardner woman believes a little divine intervention can explain how her lost Bible was returned to her after it was found off a highway.

"This is a beautiful mess," said Rhonda Thompson. "It's amazing."

Thompson's Bible held a special place in her heart because it belonged to her husband, Mike. It served as the guestbook at his funeral. Thompson carries the Bible to church every weekend, putting it in the seat right next to her in the van until two weeks ago.

"I just set the drink and the Bible up there (on top of the van)," Thompson said. "I went around and drove off."

Two days later, trash duty brought KDOT worker Rodney Wright to the side of Highway 56.

"I noticed right away that it was a Bible," Wright said. But what Wright didn't know at the time was that the Bible had a personal connection for him.

"I didn't put two and two together that it was my old



KDOT Equipment Operator Trainee Rodney Wright was in the right place in the right time as he found an item with a personal connection along U.S. 56 while picking up debris.

friend Mike's Bible," Wright said.

One of those days at work dealing with trash became treasure for one of Mike's dearest friends.

"He was ... he was there for me in a time of my life when I really needed somebody to hold onto," Wright said.

"Sometimes things that just do not make sense — it

doesn't make any physics sense that a car hit it and it didn't just blow all over the place. We're right by the highway," Thompson said.

"But God is definitely the one that put me there to find it," Wright said.

It's a story of amazing grace.

"Explain this stuff to me then, because this feels like Jesus Christ to me," Rhonda Thompson said. "No matter what, God just kept bringing it back together."

To see KMBC's video on the story, click [here](#).



KTA

Crews pour pavement at the low water crossing beneath the Osage County Bridges, located at mile marker 157 on I-335/KTA. This is part of a two-year project, which began in 2016, and is scheduled to be completed in late November, weather permitting.

Future Cities

National recognition:

According to a Lawrence Journal-World article, Southwest Middle School's eighth-grade Future City team recently took home the fifth-place prize at the national Future City competition in Washington, D.C.

The Southwest team, guided by co-coaches Danielle Lotton-Barker and Jamie Shaw, competed against 42 teams from across the country at last month's contest, which took place Feb. 17-21. The project-based competition encourages middle schoolers nationwide to "imagine, research, design and build cities of the future." The challenge for this year's competition was "The Power of Public Space."

As part of Southwest's fifth-place win, the school's team will receive \$750 from Ohio University and the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying. The students also nabbed a special award, "Protecting the Public's Safety and Welfare Through Competent and Ethical Engineering Practices," which comes with a \$300 check from the National Society of



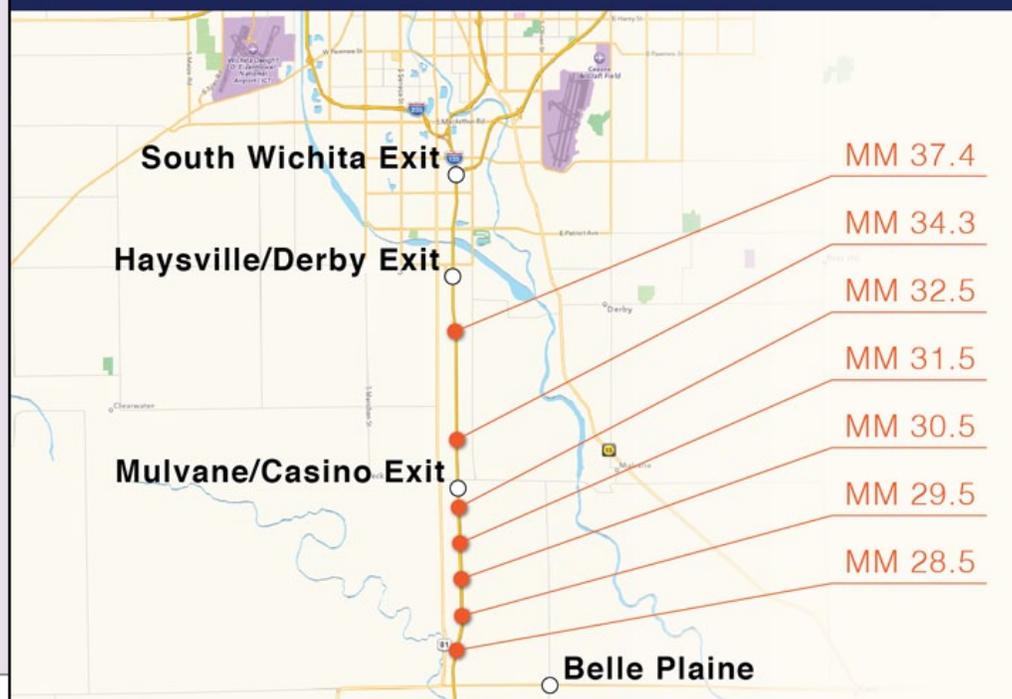
Teratai team photo from the Great Plains regional competition that took place in January in Manhattan.

Professional Engineers. The award is meant to honor students who thoroughly explain "what it is about their city that ensures the health, safety and welfare of its residents and what specifically will guarantee for them an improved quality of life."

Southwest's city, a re-imagined Jakarta, Indonesia, called "Teratai," earned the team first place at the regional Future City competition in January. KDOT engineers assist in hosting the Future City regional event each year.

2017 Bridge Elevating

Mile Markers 28 - 38



KTA

A 2016 project to raise 10 bridges from Wichita to the Oklahoma border has resumed, starting with the bridge located at mile marker 28.5 on I-35/ KTA (100th Ave. South, Sumner County). Seven of the 10 bridges remain, between Haysville/ Mulvane toll plaza and the Belle Plaine service area, with work scheduled to be complete by late summer 2017, weather permitting. Read the full release [here](#).