

# Translines EXPRESS

May 10, 2017

## Employee Recognition



***Congratulations to the Dodge City Area Grading Team for being selected as the Example of Excellence for the first quarter of 2017. The team was honored by Secretary Richard Carlson and others at a ceremony earlier today in Dodge City. The team worked together on the grading work of a turning lane project on U.S. 50/U.S. 56 at David Street in Spearville. The project saved money and gave employees training. Those pictured include: first row, from left to right - Galen Ludlow, Dale Luedke, Catherine Patrick, Kevin Jantz and Darren Wright. Second row - George Schulte, Ted Orrison, Willie Phelps, Ron Hall, Larry Thompson and Secretary Carlson. Not pictured are David Temaat and Bob Brown.***

## Weather

***Farmer Matt Lobmeyer took this photo of a KDOT truck clearing snow on U.S. 83 to help the semi that was stuck during the snow storm on April 30 in western Kansas. Other stranded vehicles can be seen in the background. More photos, a story and kudos are in this edition.***



## In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree Ralph Hamilton who died May 2 in Garnett. He worked in District Four for 18 years, retiring in 1990.

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree Louis Kiefer who died on April 4 in Olathe. He served in District Three, retiring in 1994 after 35 years as a Public Service Administrator.

## Trivia!

### Paper

1. In the U.S., paper represents the biggest solid waste item in landfills – which equals about what percent?
2. Every day, U.S. paper makers recycle enough paper to fill this.
3. Who was the first paper merchant in America?
4. When was paper invented?
5. The size of a paper bag was first measured by this?
6. A single tree can absorb this much carbon dioxide each year.

## General

**Nebraska creates state DOT:** Gov. Pete Ricketts has signed into law LB 339, a bill creating the Nebraska Department of Transportation by combining the state's Department of Aeronautics (NDOA) and Department of Roads (NDOR).

Under the new structure, Aeronautics will be a division of the Roads department's existing hierarchy, with NDOR Director Kyle Schneweis serving as head of the new DOT and NDOA Director Ronnie Mitchell managing the Aeronautics division.

"This legislation will create efficiencies, which will allow us to put more money into runways and roads without sacrificing jobs," Ricketts says. "Thanks to Aeronautics Director Ronnie Mitchell and Roads Director Kyle Schneweis for all their work on this merger. Also, thanks to Senator Curt Friesen for sponsoring and championing this bill in the legislature."

Ricketts also signed LB 271 which authorizes the DOT to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the United States Department of Transportation, allowing Nebraska to "assume responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969" to help speed up roads projects.

## KTA/Briefs



♦The KTA reminds drivers to "share the road" to help prevent motorcycle accidents. According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration crash data, motorcycle fatalities occurred 27 times more frequently than any other vehicles. Read the news release [here](#).

♦A bid was approved and contract awarded for the construction of northbound and southbound mainline bridges at mile marker 0.600 I-35/KTA and removal of the existing drainage structure. Full release [here](#).

*At left, KTA crews set a truss at the south Topeka toll plaza.*

## District Four



*K-31 is being resurfaced with a mill and asphalt overlay from U.S. 59 at Garnett northwest to I-35 (above). Shilling Construction of Manhattan is contractor on the 30-mile project.*

## Motorcycle Safety



*Gov. Sam Brownback, center, surrounded by numerous motorcyclists (including KDOT's Phyliss Marotta, at left holding sign, and Brenda Courtois, at right holding sign), signed a proclamation designating the month of May as Motorcycle Awareness Month on April 27 outside the Capitol.*

## Kansas Transportation

Monday, May 8

### iBuild Showcase demonstrates industry careers

More than 1,000 middle school and high school students in the Kansas City Metropolitan area had the opportunity to meet with transportation industry professionals and learn about various construction industry careers at the iBuild Showcase that took place at Bartle Hall in Kansas City on Thursday, May 4. KDOT crew members shared what it is like to work for the agency, what they see on a daily basis in work zones, and how to operate the various equipment and vehicles.

The students learned how the dump truck and attenuator works as well as how the hopper and plow can be used in the event of a snow storm. Staff allowed the students



***Students attending the iBuild Showcase at Bartle Hall in Kansas City got the opportunity to see firsthand some of the equipment and vehicles KDOT crews work with on the highways everyday, in the photos both above and below.***

to see what they see from the driver's seat and demonstrated how to keep the public informed with lights and portable signage.

Students also learned ways to stay safe and keep others safe while on the road, including driving without distractions, slowing down in work zones, and giving KDOT crews the space they need to work. Some students even commented on ways that they could take that safety messaging home to their parents. Other construction interactive programs included forklifts, 3-D printers, various construction materials and augmented reality programs.

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



## District Four

***In April KDOT started a project to reconstruct U.S. 69 Alternate from 3rd to 9th streets in Baxter Springs. Project activity includes mill and overlay, grading, curb and gutter, ADA sidewalk improvements and pavement markings. B & B Bridge Company of St. Paul is contractor on the \$459,618 geometric improvement.***



## General

**FOLLOW TRAFFIC LAWS,  
YOU WILL.**

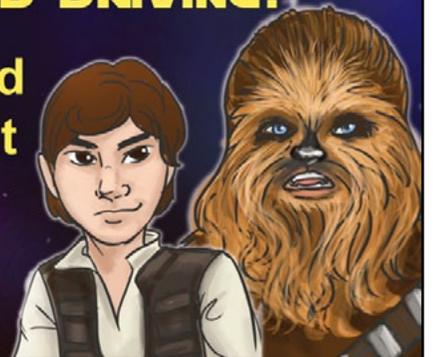
**DO,  
OR DO NOT.**

**THERE IS NO TRY.**



**TEXTING AND DRIVING?**

**I've got a bad  
feeling about  
this.**



***KDOT's social media pages got into the spirit of the Star Wars day on May 4 (May the Fourth Be With You) and took the opportunity to highlight safety. Here are a couple of the Star Wars graphics that could be seen on Facebook and Twitter.***

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. 16 percent.
2. A 15-mile long train of boxcars.
3. Benjamin Franklin.
4. Around 105 A.D. in China.
5. How many pounds of sugar they held.
6. About 10 pounds.

## Weather/District Six

*A heavy wet snow hit western Kansas on April 29-30 with high winds gusting to 50 to 60 mph. The following is a brief recap of interesting happenings in District Six, written by Public Affairs Manager Lisa Knolls:*

KDOT crews worked to clear and treat roads on Saturday, but by Sunday morning visibility was reduced to near zero. Icy and snow packed roads combined with high winds, snow and sleet made roads almost impossible to pass even for snow plows and motor graders. By the end of the storm, a number of snow plows and motor graders would be stuck.

Ron Hopkins, who has been with KDOT for 37 years and plans to retire in June, thought he'd worked his last snow storm. As the crew headed south on U.S. 83, they found themselves dodging not just motorists, but a herd of approximately 100 cows.

"The guys could only go as fast as the cows would let them," Hopkins said. "They'd get around one group of cows and there would be another group of cows and those cows weren't very happy".

Hopkins then spent Sunday night in his KDOT truck blocking U.S. 96 on the west side of Scott City, sending stranded travelers to the local police department and then on to the Methodist Church for the night.

In Morton County where 15-18 inches of snow fell and white-out conditions existed, a snow plow got stuck. A second plow was sent to pull it out. That plow also got stuck. The motor grader was sent to assist. The motor grader got stuck. Rather than risk heading home and getting stuck in the country Sunday night, Mike Hollis, Subarea Supervisor in Rolla, spent the night in a sleeping bag at his wife's barber shop in Rolla. Lakin crews were also dodging cattle along U.S. 50 but were dealing with downed power poles and stranded motorists too. When KDOT crews stopped to check one



***Cows on U.S. 83 made plowing difficult.***

stranded vehicle, they were more than a little surprised to find three teenage girls all in shorts stranded on U.S. 50. With the help of KDOT and the KHP, the girls were rescued and delivered safely to Deerfield.



***A semi ahead is jack-knifed along U.S. 83 south of Garden City.***



***This submitted photo shows drifts of snow on U.S. 50 in Lakin looking west.***

## Weather/District Three



*Site distance was a problem while clearing snow on I-70, as seen at left, but got worse quickly as ice would build up on the windshield, as seen below.*



### **Facebook and Tweets received by District Three during the snow storm -**

- ♦We left Burlington about 5:20 a.m. yesterday back to Hays. Roads were icy in spots but you guys did an AMAZING job clearing them!!! Thank you for all your hard work!!!
- ♦I was stuck in Kansas this week ... And I am so glad because you guys kept us safe. Thank you!
- ♦Shout out to NWKansasKDOT for the awesome job getting I-70 back open this morning!

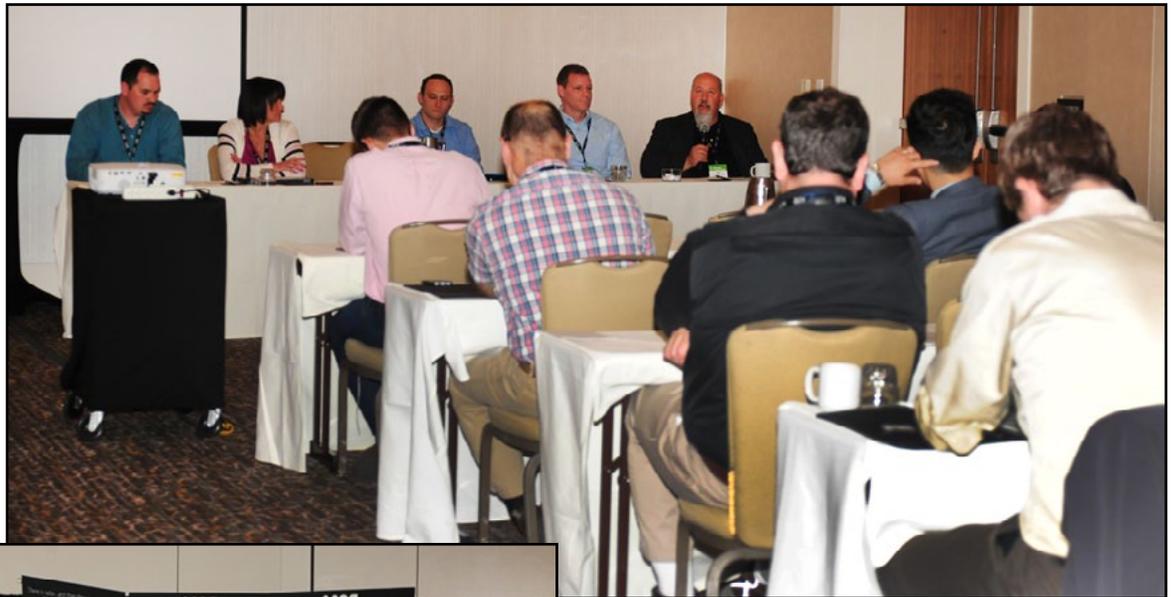
## General/Briefs

**New home:** After 20 years at Turner Field, the Atlanta Braves moved into a new home this spring at Sun Trust Park, according to Better Roads. Construction of the new stadium took American Builders 26 months. EarthCam set up time-lapse cameras all around the job site to chronicle the park's construction and the resulting footage condenses the entire process down to just 90 seconds. Apart from seeing a structure rise from the dirt, this construction time-lapse also gives you a look at the process of how a Major League Baseball playing surface takes shape. Check it out [here](#).

**Georgia bridge work underway:** Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Commissioner Russell McMurray says the I-85 bridge over Piedmont Road reconstruction near Atlanta will be finished and open by May 25, according to Better Roads. GDOT's original estimated completion date had been June 15. The bridge was destroyed by fire at the end of March, shutting down a major artery for commuters in Atlanta. GDOT and local officials have been coordinating to promote alternate routes, encouraging mass transit options and recommending telecommuting or flexible work hours for motorists. GDOT reports the northbound travel lanes are complete and four of the six decks have been poured. Once all the decks are in place for three days, the agency says, the concrete barriers will be poured, along with grinding and grooving of the pavement surface, joint sealing and striping.

## ITS Heartland

*At right, representatives of traffic management centers from (left to right) Nebraska, Oklahoma, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas shared operation details of their respective centers at a roundtable for the ITS Heartland Operations Working Group on May 1.*



*At left, more than 200 professionals and 40 vendors gathered in Wichita for the 2017 ITS Heartland Annual Meeting. Below, Rusty James, formerly the Incident Management Coordinator at Kansas City Scout, presented part of the four-hour Traffic Incident Management (TIM) training at the recent ITS Heartland Annual Meeting in Wichita.*



**Improving communications:** KDOT hosted the annual ITS Heartland in Wichita on May 1-3. Topics for discussion included traffic management center operation, updates from the five states on their ITS program, best practices in Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) and even planning for the Aug. 21 solar eclipse (a complete eclipse over Nebraska and Missouri).

Keynote speakers Patrick Son from the National Operations Center of Excellence, Steven Bayless from ITS America, and John Corbin of FHWA, stressed the importance of the multi-state culture of cooperation and collaboration they see with the ITS Heartland member

states Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma. In addition, 27 first responders to highway incidents completed the national training including a number of KDOT maintenance workers. TIM is a national program that provides first responders with a shared understanding of the requirements for safe, quick clearance of traffic incident scenes; prompt, reliable and open communication; and motorist and responder safeguards. More than 2,500 first responders in Kansas representing law enforcement, fire and rescue, EMS, DOT, local public works, towing services and other related professions have received the training.

## Aviation

### Highlighting UAS:

KDOT's Division of Aviation is visiting Dallas, Texas, this week for the largest gathering of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) industry leaders in the world at the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International's (AUVSI's) Xponential 2017. More than 7,000 industry professionals and 850 exhibitors are participating in the three-day workshop and exhibition.

"This is great opportunity to showcase Kansas as a leader in UAS, continue the growth of this segment and foster strong relationships in UAS,"

said KDOT Director of Aviation Merrill Atwater.

Kansas aviation activity accounts for \$20.6 billion in economic impact. More than 700 aerospace and aviation companies are in Kansas. Aviation activity supports more than 91,000



***KDOT Director of UAS Bob Brock, right, meets FAA Administrator Michael Huerta at the event in Dallas on Tuesday.***

jobs in the state and more than 73 percent of the world's general aviation fleet is manufactured in Kansas.

## Scenic

***KDOT's Neil Croxton found these two turkeys hanging out in Shunga Park in Topeka, just north of S.W. 29th and Oakley streets.***

