

# Translines EXPRESS

Nov. 20, 2019

## Transcontinental Railroad anniversary celebration



By Priscilla Petersen

Big Boy No. 4014, Union Pacific's old steam locomotive pulled into the Coffeyville depot the evening of Nov. 16 as part of the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad.

In 2013, UP brought back No. 4014 from the RailGiants Museum in Pomona, Calif. The train was then relocated to Cheyenne, Wyo., for restoration and returned to service last May.

Big Boy is 132 feet long and weighs 1.2 million pounds. The frame of the locomotive is 'hinged' to more easily negotiate curves in the tracks. It has 24 wheels. The first four wheels serve as pilots to guide the engine, followed by two sets of eight driver wheels and another four wheels to support the back of the locomotive.

Big Boy No. 4014 is traveling through Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and Wyoming as part of the UP's Great Race Across the Southwest. It has been in Kansas since this first stop and will visit other locations across the state until Nov. 23. View the schedule [here](#).

***Above**, hundreds of people waited for the arrival of Big Boy No. 4104 at the Coffeyville depot on Nov. 16. **Below**, Big Boy is Union Pacific's old steam locomotive that is traveling across the country celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad completion. Photos by Priscilla Petersen*



*Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving*

All state offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28 and 29.

## Trivia!

### 50th anniversary of “Scooby-Doo”

1. What were the five characters’ names?
2. What was Velma’s catch phrase?
3. Who has voiced Fred Jones for the entire time?
4. Who was the original voice of Shaggy?
5. What character joined the gang in 1979?
6. What is Scooby’s full name?
7. How old is Scooby?
8. The Saturday morning cartoon was the first to do this.

## U.S. Bicycle Route signs

### New signs will highlight

**USBR 76, 66:** Highway signs that will help show the way for U.S. Bicycle Routes (USBR) 76 and 66 throughout Kansas were unveiled on Nov. 14 at an event along Historic Route 66 in Riverton as part of the sign initiative currently underway. “Signage is beneficial because it provides wayfinding for cyclists and it alerts motorists to diligently be aware of and respectful to cyclists sharing the road,” said KDOT Planning and Development Director Chris Herrick. Other speakers included Bourbon County Economic Development Director Jody Hoener, Cherokee County Sheriff Groves and Joplin Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Patrick Tuttle.

More than 900 new road/highway signs will be placed across Kansas marking the two bicycle routes. These routes in Kansas were approved by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), as a result of collaborative efforts between KDOT and the Adventure Cycling Association (ACA), beginning in 2015. The USBR system connects bicycle routes across the country for safer, long-distance cycling. USBR 76 is also known as the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail. It extends more than 480 miles and runs from Greeley County on the Colorado border to Crawford County on the Missouri border. The Kansas stretch of USBR 66 is 13 miles long and runs through the southeast corner of the state.

“Thousands of cyclists ride these routes through Kansas every year offering great tourist opportunities for the over 30 communities they pass through, especially rural towns,” said KDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator Jenny Kramer. “Many towns take advantage of this opportunity for economic growth and development by making their towns more bicycle-friendly and creating attractive resting and overnight spots for travelers.”

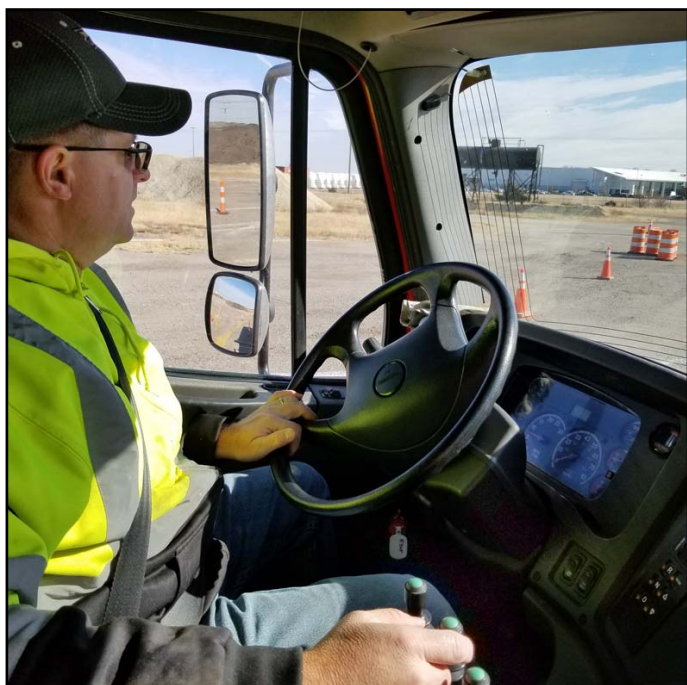


**Above:** From left to right, Cherokee County Sheriff David Groves, Bourbon County Economic Development Director Jody Hoener and Joplin Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Patrick Tuttle unveil one of the new signs that will mark U.S. Bicycle Route 66 in Kansas at an event on Nov. 14 in Riverton. **Below:** KDOT Planning and Development Director Chris Herrick shared some of his personal biking experiences while speaking at the event. Photos by Support Services





## 'Snow fighters overcome obstacles



**At left:** Craig Kenyon, Equipment Operator Senior, is an instructor for the snow fighters obstacle course. **At right:** A plow truck maneuvers along the obstacle course at the Hutchinson Subarea yard. Photos by Tim Potter, District Five

By Tim Potter, District Five

You could tell Craig Kenyon was proud of the obstacle course for snow-plow trucks.

That's where KDOT snow-and-ice (SNICE) crew operators learned or practiced skills needed to keep Kansas highways open this winter.

It was part of two days of annual "snow fighters" training Nov. 13 and Nov. 14 at District Five facilities in Hutchinson and at the Hutchinson Subarea yard.

It was the second year the obstacle course has been set up. Kenyon was an obstacle course instructor. "I dreamed this course," said Kenyon, Equipment Operator Senior with the District Bridge Crew.

On a brilliantly sunny, obnoxiously windy, bitter-cold morning, Kenyon explained that the course is designed to help KDOT drivers get the feel of operating a snow plow in all kinds of situations.

There were many how-to's: how to line up the plow as it rolls down the road, how to clear a bridge deck without shoving snow onto traffic below, how to lift the

plow before crossing railroad tracks, how to retract the wing plow on the passenger side when encountering a broken-down car on a shoulder, how to be prepared if the plow suddenly snags on something.

The obstacle course was outlined with traffic cones, stretching about a half a mile, round trip. Barrels were used at one spot to simulate a stalled car on a shoulder to be avoided. Trainees also encountered a simulated railroad crossing, complete with an RR sign.

"They (the trainees) enjoy the hands-on," Kenyon said.

He showed how controls in the truck cab operate the front plow, wing plow and other functions. "There's a lot of things you need to keep focused on," Kenyon said.

At other spots, crews learned from other teachers how to mix brine in a brine maker used to treat ice and how to plow wet snow using sand as the practice material.

Equipment Operator Steven Dvorak explained how to service a brine maker. "The really complicated part," he said, "is when you start shutting it down and you winterize it. Once you get the hang of it ... ."

### TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Fred, Daphne, Velma, Shaggy and Scooby.
2. Jinkies!
3. Frank Welker.
4. Casey Kasem.
5. Scrappy-Doo, Scooby's nephew.
6. Scoobert-Doo.
7. He is forever 7 years old.
8. Feature a laugh track.



## Division of Safety

**Safety First:** I am honored to be leading the Employee Safety Program for KDOT as the Division Director for the Division of Safety. Our main goal is to help protect our workers, minimize risks and maintain a safe workplace as we develop a strong safety culture. Safety culture is the collection of the beliefs, perceptions and values that employees share in relation



Catherine Patrick

to risks within an agency. It requires specific, intentional actions aimed at avoiding and preventing potentially harmful situations. It is about sending people home safely every night.

As we look toward our goal of reducing fatalities, lost time injuries, personal injuries and inappropriate incidents and talk about the causes and preventative measures, we are one step closer to zero.

And we occasionally can report that there are zero recordable and zero lost time incidents for an entire week at Headquarters and all the Districts. In fact, we were able to report this for the week ending Oct. 5. It's a great thing to see and your efforts make this possible.



I look forward to more and more of these incident-free weeks with the goal of achieving this every week. We continue to enhance and improve our safety program, with the support of our Executive Management and the leadership from all of you. Protecting our greatest asset is something we all have a passion for doing; so, let's make employee safety everyone's top priority across the state.

For Your Family and Mine,  
Catherine Patrick

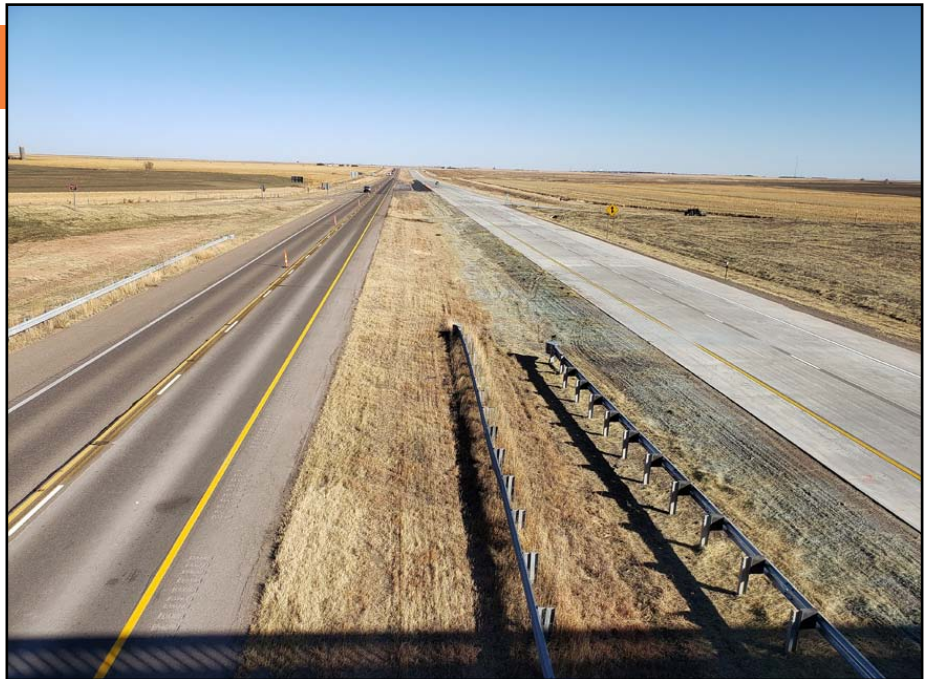
## District Three

By Lisa Mussman

Work is winding down for the season on the reconstruction project along a nine-mile stretch of I-70 in Gove County. The pavement replacement on the eastbound lanes is complete and traffic has been shifted back to a normal configuration. Crews also finished work on one of two new span bridges that are replacing the box structure carrying Gove County Road 62 under I-70.

Additional project work included repairs to the bridges over I-70 at the K-23 spur and K-211 junctions and pavement replacement on the exit 95 and exit 99 ramps. Work will shift into the westbound lanes for the 2020 construction season, with an estimated project completion date of November 2020. *Deb Tanking's road squad and Brad Rognlie's bridge squad designed the project.*

**Top:** A view of the newly-paved eastbound lanes looking east. **Bottom:** The new eastbound span bridge that carries I-70 over Gove County Road 62. Photos by Rob Percival, District Three



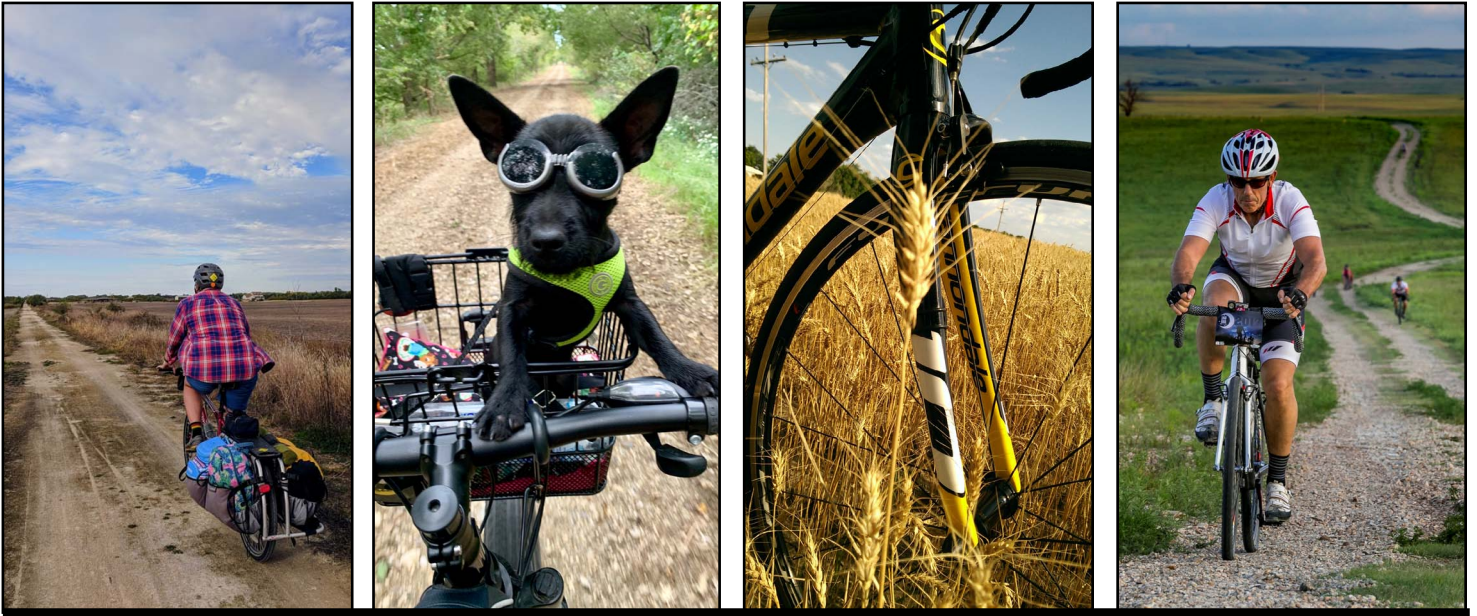


## Vote for cover of new bike map

### Vote for your choice of these photos to be on the cover of the 2020-21 Kansas Bicycle Map.

To vote - please go to the KDOT HQ Facebook page or the KDOT HQ Twitter page (on your own personal devices).

Deadline to vote is this Friday, Nov. 22.



## Meeting state/national standards

By Kelly Kultala, District One

KDOT has several labs that conduct experiments and research on the materials used in construction and maintenance activities. The District One Materials Lab in Topeka and the Holton Area Materials Lab are part of the effort to improve and maintain the more than 5,700 miles of highways throughout the 17 counties in northeast Kansas.

These two labs have various responsibilities. The District lab conducts the verification and testing of asphalt, making sure that the composition of the asphalt meets state and national standards. They are responsible for the independent assurance witnessing of anyone who is testing the asphalts, aggregates and concrete. This helps make sure that anyone out in the field conducting tests is conducting them according to state and national procedures.

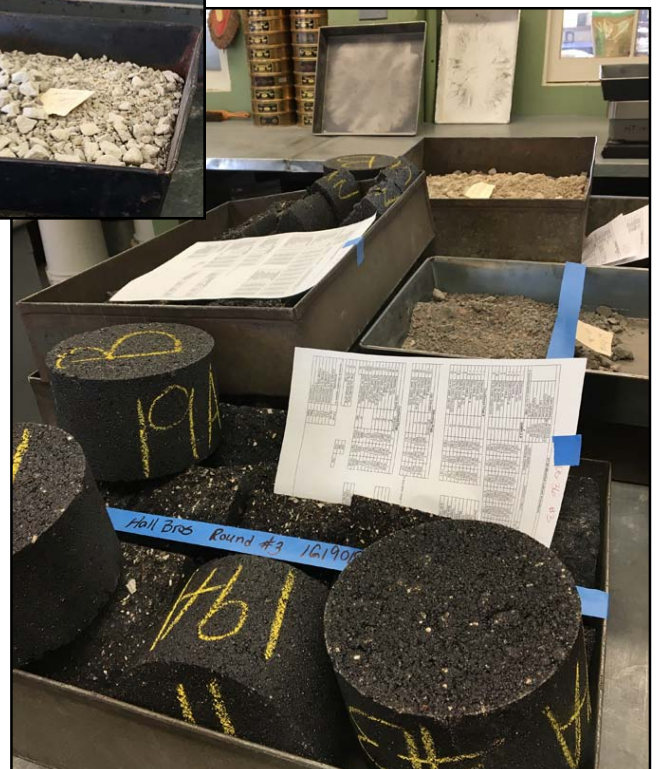
The District lab also performs core drilling on projects to determine the condition of the roads. This checks the thickness of the concrete establishes corrective factors if needed.

The Holton lab monitors the quarry rock samples, conducting tests on all the rock from quarries that want to sell their rock for KDOT-approved projects. The rock is tested every year and sand is tested every five years.

Testing is critical to the success of District One's projects. District Materials Supervisor Tammy Wilson said, "KDOT has strict standards about what's acceptable to go into our roads and bridges. As it should be."



*At left and below, the District One Materials Lab conducts the verification and testing of asphalt and other materials. Photos by Kelly Kultala, District One*



## Deer-crossing signs

By Tim Potter, District Five

It's deer season in Kansas – deer are extra active. And a motorist passed a deer-crossing sign the other morning and wondered: What determines when and where the signs get installed?

KDOT's Steven Buckley, State Highway Safety Engineer, helped with an explanation:

First, there's a threshold for adding a deer-crossing sign: Five deer-vehicle collisions within a quarter mile per year, or 15 crashes per mile in a year. The corresponding threshold used to be lower -- three crashes in a quarter mile or 10 crashes in a mile -- before the current policy went into effect on May 1, 2012. KDOT determined that the previous threshold led to too many signs.

Meeting the threshold doesn't automatically guarantee that a sign will be installed. Under KDOT policy, "New signs will be installed when brought to our attention and if shown on the most recent deer crash map."

**"Anywhere":** Although the signs alert drivers to a possible higher potential for deer, Buckley said there's an important safety guidance: "The reality is deer can be anywhere. They're not just going to cross by the signs. We don't want people to be just looking for deer when they see a sign."

**"Don't swerve":** If a motorist does encounter a deer, he said, he or she should remember not to swerve to avoid the animal, because it could send the car dangerously out of control.

**How KDOT learns of deer crashes:** From law enforcement reports. But motorists don't always report



*Several factors are involved in determining where deer-crossing signs will be placed. Photo by Tim Potter, District Five*

collisions.

**Where a sign gets planted:** Under the KDOT's sign manual, deer crossing signs are to be installed 650 feet in advance of where deer have crossed where the speed limit is 65 mph, and 750 feet where the speed limit is 70.

### Scenic

*KDOT employee Ramona Taylor photographed a crane recently while she and her husband were at Lake Shawnee in Topeka recently.*





## First UAS flight without visual observers

By Kim Stich, Headquarters

It's another first in the U.S. for KDOT as the Division of Aviation conducted its first unmanned aircraft system (UAS) flights without visual observers and using only onboard detect-and-avoid systems. The event was celebrated on Nov. 8 in Salina.

"Kansas has a proud tradition of recognizing the opportunities that can be achieved through the skies," said Lt. Gov. Lynn Rogers. "Implementing new technology is never easy, but KDOT is up to the challenge."

Aviation is a vital mode of transportation in Kansas that supports thousands of jobs, transports goods across the state and improves safety through access to air ambulance service.

"The investments we make in aviation are not only important for our economy today, but they're critical for future success," Secretary Lorenz said. "I look forward to working with all of you to build transportation infrastructure that will propel our state to the next level."



Secretary Julie Lorenz highlights the economic importance of aviation in Kansas on Nov. 8 in Salina while celebrating the first UAS flight without visual observers. Photo by Ashley Perez, District Two



## New tanks at District Two

*At left, Equipment Operator Senior Tim Hays is in the bucket truck and hooks the lift chain onto the brine tank so it can be lifted off of the trailer while a KBK Industries employee (left) and Larsen (right) assist.*

By Ashley Perez, District Two

Tim Hays and Bruce Larsen, Equipment Operator Seniors from Ellsworth, lent a hand in unloading the new brine tanks on Nov. 14 at the Lindsborg and Salina subareas.

"The old tanks only held 10,000 gallons of brine but the new brine tanks will hold 20,000 gallons of brine," Hays says.

The new tanks are made of fiberglass, easier to clean out and expected to last twice as long as the old tanks.

*At right, Equipment Operator Senior Bruce Larsen uses large straps to help navigate the new tank as it is moved to the containment area. Photos by Ashley Perez, District Two*



## Highway Safety 101 - don't get lulled

*Tim Potter, District Five, shares his experiences while riding with a KHP Trooper.*

I'm belted comfortably into the passenger seat of a gleaming, heavily equipped Kansas Highway Patrol SUV. It's a sun-drenched fall day when a driver can see for miles -- a perfect time for traveling.

The person driving me around the Wichita area in a 2018 Ford Interceptor Utility is an expert driver -- Technical Trooper Chad Crittenden.

Yet, even on days like these, people still die or get maimed on Kansas highways. Why?

"Complacency," Crittenden says without hesitating. Complacency is a dominating factor in car crashes that he responds to in the Wichita metro area.

By complacency, he means the situation where a driver gets lulled into a false sense of security.

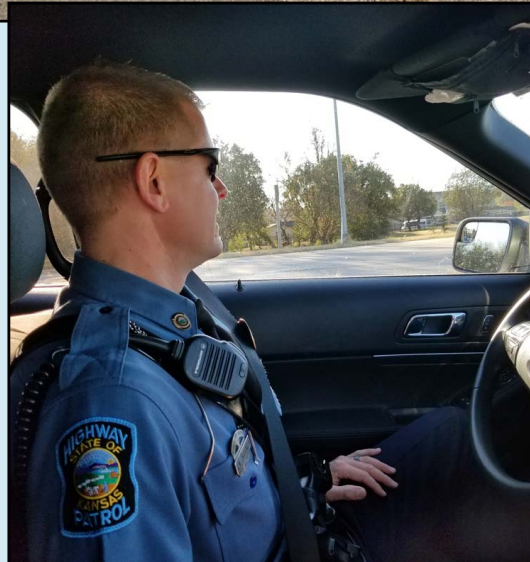
"We're not as focused as we possibly should be," Crittenden says. "You have to be looking here and there," he says, his eyes scanning back and forth as he motors west on K-254 past a side road.

According to Kansas traffic statistics, the by-far biggest single factor in crashes during 2017 was inattention.

That same year, most accidents occurred during daylight hours.

To Crittenden, winning the game of safe driving starts with a mindset, a discipline. It includes practicing the most basic death-defying thing that people keep ignoring -- wearing a seat belt.

Crittenden urges his defensive-driving students to



**Above:** Technical Trooper Chad Crittenden stops a driver along I-135 for an expired license tag. For his safety with passing traffic, he stands to the passenger side of the vehicle while talking to the driver. **At left:** Trooper Crittenden pulls over to watch traffic near I-235 and Zoo Boulevard in Wichita.

avoid the situation that often causes aggressive driving: leaving late and giving in to the urge to drive too fast and on edge. So he reminds his students to leave early and avoid the aggression and stress. Another thing that should be part of the preparation for driving: Getting enough sleep. Crittenden views a drowsy driver as being just as dangerous as a drunken driver. The only difference is the legality.

## Retirees

The following employees will retire from KDOT on Dec. 1.

### District Two

**Rex Flinn**, Highway Maintenance Superintendent, Mankato

**Carl Waugh**, Equipment Mechanic Senior, Mankato

### District Four

**Timothy Mitchell**, Equipment Operator Senior, Eureka



## Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day



**Above:** Trooper Ben Gardner poses with District Two regional winner Hannah Simmelink and Public Affairs Manager Ashley Perez in Mankato.

**Top right:** Trooper Don Hughes poses with District One statewide winner Emma Kuhlman and her parents, Stephany and Rick Kuhlman, in Topeka. **Right:** Trooper Tod Hileman holds the sign while District Three regional winner Colt Raudis explains his poster to students in Hays. Photos by school staff, Kelly Kultala and Lisa Mussman, respectively.



## Kudos

A nice email was recently sent to KDOT -

I'm writing on behalf of my husband, Eric, while we are on a road trip. We have driven through 24 States and nowhere has been so pleasant or enjoyable to drive on as highway 69 through Kansas. Thank you for making a wonderful road!

## KTA

The KTA was selected as a 2019 Innovation Award honoree through the Wichita Business Journal on Nov. 14. The award recognizes KTA's innovative approach with introducing highway speed electronic lanes at its three mainline toll plazas along with related internal modernization efforts. Read the full release [here](#).

The results of KTA's 2019 Customer Satisfaction Survey revealed that the majority of travelers are satisfied with the value they receive for the tolls paid. Read the full news release [here](#) and see survey results [here](#).

# KDOT Employee Council Holiday Ornament Order Form

# 2019

Year	Quantity	Cost	Total
<b>2019</b>		<b>\$5</b>	
2018		\$3	
2016		\$3	
2015		\$3	
2013		\$3	
Total enclosed			



Please Print -

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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(Retirees only - home address)

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## How to Order:

Headquarters: Contact  
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Districts/Retirees:

Mail form to -

Kristie Eakes,  
ESOB - 14th Floor,  
700 SW Harrison,  
Topeka, KS 66603

Make checks  
payable to KDOT  
Employee Council

For more details, call  
Kristie at (785) 296-3501

## ---Past Ornaments Still Available---

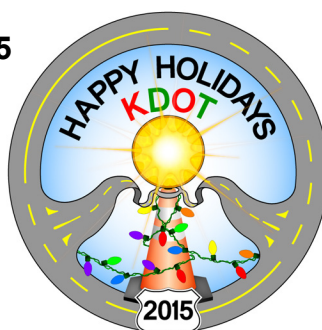
2018



2016



2015



2013







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Order online at [shop.fromthelandofkansas.com](http://shop.fromthelandofkansas.com) by Dec. 10 for guaranteed holiday delivery.

\$25



### The Konza Gift Box

Bring the beauty of the Konza prairie home for the holidays with these one of a kind Kansas made products. Your gift includes products from across the state: a hand crafted chocolate sunflower, made from scratch cake mix, Grannie's mustard, Wright Enterprises' sunflower oil, Yoder Meats' summer sausage, and traditional German peppernuts. Feel the joy of supporting local Kansas businesses as you enjoy the holidays.

\$50



### The Ad Astra Gift Box

Celebrate this holiday with plenty of Kansas products to go around (or save for yourself, all season long!) Your gift includes products from across the state: Kansas honey, Grannie's mustard, sunflower oil, Hoganville Family Farms sauerkraut, Sweet Granada's "pop-choc," Sand Hill plum jelly, traditional peppernuts, a handcrafted soap, Holmes-Made medium garden salsa, and sweet and crunchy allergen friendly snacks. Know that your purchase helps Kansas businesses to grow!

\*\*Prices do not include tax and shipping.

**\*\*To guarantee delivery by Dec. 25, your order must be placed by Dec. 10.**

If you are ordering a quantity of more than 10 gift boxes, please call 785-564-6759 to ensure your delivery can be fulfilled by Dec. 25.

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