

Translines EXPRESS

July 15, 2015

District Six

At right, District Six crews dig a trench to place a new storm sewer near Ensign. Below, the eastbound lanes of U.S. 56 through Montezuma are closed to traffic as pavement has been removed for reconstruction.



Work on U.S. 56: Two reconstruction projects will address pavement and drainage issues on U.S. 56 through Ensign and Montezuma. Both projects started in June and will replace the existing asphalt pavement with concrete. Storm sewers in each community will also be replaced in an effort to improve drainage. Poor drainage has contributed to failure of the asphalt pavement, which has required almost continuous patching. Koss Construction Company of Topeka is the primary contractor on the two projects at a combined cost of approximately \$9.6 million. Both projects should be completed by March 2016.

District One

K-5 over Seven-Mile Creek in Lansing (Leavenworth County) was closed due to high flood waters on July 6. The waters receded and the roadway was reopened the next day.



Trivia!

Where does Kansas rank?
According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture stats as of May 2015.

1. Alfalfa hay produced?
2. Corn produced?
3. Canola produced?
4. Sunflowers produced?
5. Summer potatoes produced?
6. All cattle and calves on farms as of Jan. 1, 2015?
7. Wheat produced?
8. Sorghum grain produced?

Work Zone

Work zone crash:

According to an article in *Better Roads*, a construction worker on a resurfacing project in Iowa said he was intentionally hit by a motorist recently when he told the driver to turn around upon nearing the work zone.

According to a report from KCCI TV, 49-year-old Andrew Robinette was working on a road resurfacing project the afternoon of June 29 inside a Des Moines cemetery when an SUV approached the work zone.

Robinette said he approached the driver, telling him he could not drive through the work zone and that he would need to turn around. He said the driver then drove the SUV directly at him, hitting him and flipping him onto the hood of the vehicle before throwing him to the ground. The driver then fled the scene, and Robinette refused medical attention.

KDOT Blog

Kansas Transportation

Tuesday, July 7

KDOT retiree spends 600 hours making the perfect Father's Day gift

There was no snow to be seen anywhere in Kansas on Father's Day, except on the gift Brett Carlson received from his family.

Carlson, an Equipment Operator Specialist, from LaCrosse received a model of snow plow that was built by KDOT retiree Mark Logan.

The model is of a 1995 Ford Tandem Axle Truck built to 1/25th scale, and was the type of the dump truck that Carlson drove when he started at KDOT.

The truck was hand built by Logan, who retired after 31 years in 2014. The original model for the truck was a 1974 Ford Truck model kit, but most of the truck had to be rebuilt to change it to a 1995 model, and the spreader and plow were all fabricated by Logan. The interior dash has all of the instruments, controls, dash lights and exterior lights. All work, including the strobes, and the spreader is full of sand and salt just in case it needs to be used.

It took Logan 600-plus hours to build over the span of a year and half. Carlson's wife had asked Logan to build him a snow plow as a Father's Day gift and Logan chose the model.

Logan modeled the gift after a snow plow that he once drove, a 1995 Ford L8000 dump truck. He quit driving 10 years ago when he was promoted and assigned a pick-up.

The new KDOT employee who would be assigned that Ford dump truck? Brett Carlson.



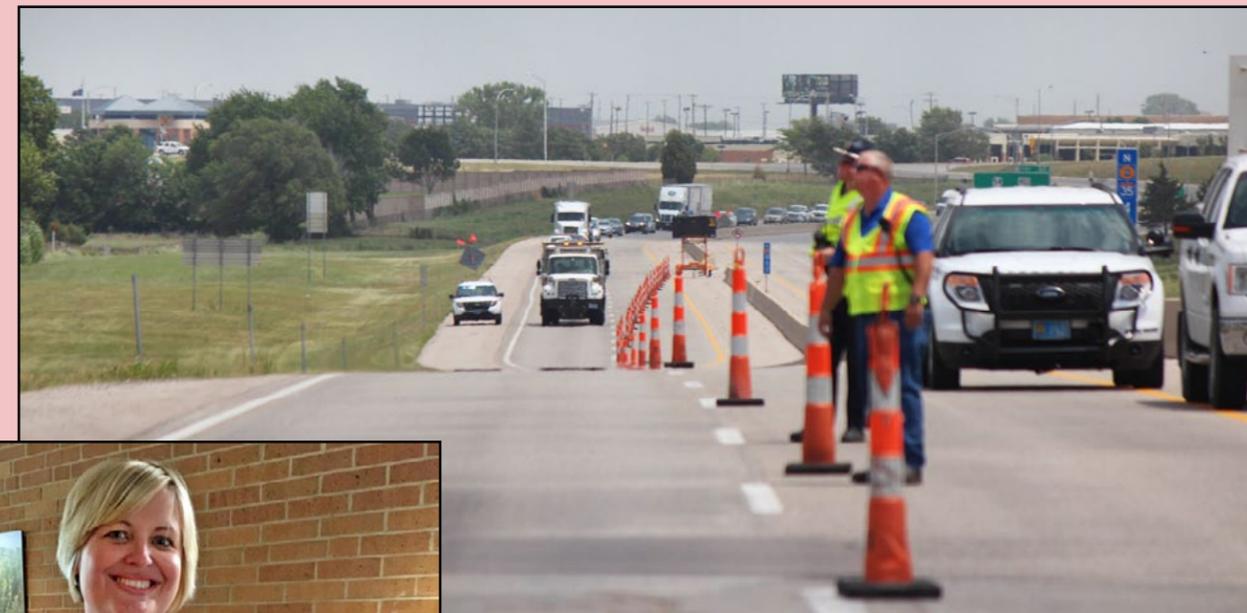
To see more stories on other transportation topics, check out the regular posts on the Kansas Transportation blog at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>

District Five

Wichita maintenance crews continue to install new airport signs on highways leading to the recently opened Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport. The grand opening of the new terminal was on June 3 and these signs on westbound U.S. 54 were installed just in time. The new facility has 12 boarding gates and leases to five airlines. The three-digit airport code will remain ICT since IKE is used by the Ikerasak Heliport in western Greenland.



KTA



Above, KTA crews performed a rolling roadblock on July 6 just south of the Kellogg plaza as Westar Energy cut power lines above the Turnpike crossing over Rock Road.

At left, the KTA Marketing team and its leader Rachel Bell were recognized by the American Marketing Association on June 25. Their creative approach to marketing K-TAG helped them receive two awards:

- Silver Award, Marketing Campaign of the Year (For-Profit Category) - "K-TAG: The Tag is Now FREE"
- Silver Award, Video Category: "Better Together: Interoperability with PIKEPASS"

Places to Visit

Summer soda stops: There are still 37 functioning soda fountains in operation in Kansas. The custom of ordering a soda fountain drink was named one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas Customs in 2012.

The Potwin Drug Store in Topeka has the oldest operating fountain in the state. It's been in operation since 1902 in the Old Prairie Town at Ward-Meade Historic Site. The 1950's Stanley Knight soda fountain at The Old Store in Johnson, located in the far southwest corner of the state, is in an



The soda fountain in The Old Store in Johnson has an original 1920 oak back bar.

original 1920 oak back bar. A U-shaped bar with Formica counter built in 1968 can be found at the Irwin Potter Drug store in Anthony, and they specialize in freshly-squeezed cherry limeades. The back bar in the 13-stool

fountain at Ray's Pharmacy in Quinter dates back to 1904 and there's even a brass rail to rest your feet. To learn more about all the soda fountains in Kansas, check out the Kansas Sampler webpage [here](#).

Scenic



Most of the wheat harvest in Kansas wrapped up last week. KDOT employee Neil Croxton took this photo recently in Ottawa County.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Alfalfa hay - 11th
2. Corn - 9th
3. Canola - 6th
4. Sunflowers - 4th
5. Summer potatoes - 4th
6. Cattle/calves on farms - 3rd
7. Wheat - 2nd
8. Sorghum grain - 1st

CAPITOL MID-WEEK FARMERS' MARKET



TOPEKA

Every Wednesday
7:30 a.m. to noon until Oct. 14
10th Street - south side of the Statehouse grounds

South Step Fridays

Grab your lunch, kick back and start your weekend right as you enjoy live music and learn more about the area attractions and activities on several Fridays this summer from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the south steps on the Capitol.

Upcoming dates:

- July 17
- July 24
- Aug. 7

District Five

Below, a son and daughter of the late Wichita business leader George Ablah unveil the highway sign honoring their father at a July 2 event in Wichita. The sign has been placed on K-96.



Above, Wichita KDOT employees install the George Ablah Memorial Highway sign.