

Winter Storm Efforts

Comments from across Kansas

To all who work at KDOT,

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You for all of your hard work during this crazy storm! You all are amazing! I am so impressed by how good the roads and highways are after such a strong storm! I live in Olathe and have driven all over the city today. I think you all are under appreciated and I just can't thank you enough for working so hard to keep the road safe for travelers!

Sincerely,
Mindy Morrison

Dear KDOT:

I am a tax paying citizen of Johnson County and more specifically Shawnee, Kansas. KDOT IS THE BEST!!! I am blessed to be able to get to and from work even when conditions are bad and many who live outside this area cannot. I greatly appreciate all that you do to keep the roads cleared and safe for all of us who are privileged to live in this fine county in Kansas. I speak for me and many of my friends who thank you very much for the excellence that you operate in.

The highest honor is to serve.

John Enyart

I just want to say that the Kansas & Missouri road crews have done an AWESOME job yesterday & today. I drive 30+ miles one way to work from Missouri into Kansas. Thank you for making my drive easy & safe. And thank you for working as hard as you do during these storms. Keep safe yourself.

Lorrie Collins



KDOT plows work together to clear I-70 in Topeka on Tuesday.



During a Statehouse news conference this morning to review the state's response to this week's snowstorm, Gov. Sam Brownback praised the work of KDOT, the KHP and other agencies. Secretary King, looking on, also reported on the work of crews from KDOT and the Kansas Turnpike Authority.

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A sun dog, or an ice halo could be seen at the District Five office in Hutchinson on Wednesday, making the KDOT truck being loaded with salt/sand hard to see. The COOP grain elevator is in the background.



Gov. Sam Brownback rode in a snow plow on Tuesday afternoon to get a firsthand look at what crews deal with during a storm.



A truck plows through heavy snow in Topeka.

Dear KDOT:

I want to say a huge thank you to the crews who have worked tirelessly for the past two days to keep the roadways as clear as possible. I am disabled and my wife has to commute from Westmoreland to Manhattan to go to work. Knowing that you guys have worked on the roads around the clock brings me a greater peace of mind as she travels and for that I am very grateful. You guys deserve a big THANK YOU and I hope you can communicate that especially to the crews who have worked on Hwy 99 and Hwy 24 in Pott. County. Again thank you for the job you guys do on our roadway maintenance and management. May God bless you with safety and some sleep and security in knowing that the long hours are literally saving people's lives and bringing peace of mind to worried relatives. Thank You!

Lyle Caudill

Just like to say kudos to @KansasTurnpike and @KDOTHQ road crews. Great job clearing the highways!

Janet M. Carter

From @SEKansasKDOT-Sedan Crews greeted with 2 doz. cin. rolls on Wed. from the First National Bank of Sedan as way to say thanks.

Thanks to @KansasGuard, @KDOTHQ, @kshighwaypatrol & all first responders working round the clock. Please be safe!

Rep. Lynn Jenkins

Good job to the @KDOTHQ crews that worked to clear the roads!!" Thank you!

I commute between Gardner and Liberty - the difference between the results of @KDOTHQ and @MoDOT_KC is measurable.

@KDOTHQ Thank you! Clear roads on I-70 & I-135 for our employees to be safe on their drive to work today! Crestwood, Inc. says Thank You!

Example of Excellence



The GKN Aerospace-Wellington Pedestrian Signal Installation Team poses with Secretary Mike King after being named an Example of Excellence for the fourth quarter of 2013. The ceremony took place on Jan. 23 in Wellington. The team worked together to install solar-powered flashing beacons along with crosswalk pavement markings and remote pedestal mounted push buttons to improve safety for GKN Aerospace workers crossing U.S. 81 on the north side of Wellington. The team includes from left to right, front row, Kenton DeBuhr, Dennis Holdt, Mike Smith, Mike Robinson, Secretary King, Ken Unruh, Shane McConnell, Don Snyder; back row, Darren Bailey, Scott Miller, Kim Brownlee, Justin Deal, Tommy Horton, Greg Dixon, Mitch Jenkins and Trent Jordan (not pictured - Robert Brown, Brian Gower and Alfonso Mendia).

Work Zone Crash



The rear of this KHP vehicle was crushed by a semi on Jan. 23 while in a work zone. Fortunately, Lt. Greg Kyser was wearing his seat belt and sustained only minor injuries.

Close call: Work zones are dangerous places for both highway workers and law enforcement as was evident on U.S. 24 west of Topeka on Jan. 23. Kansas Highway Patrol Lt. Greg Kyser was in his patrol vehicle in a work zone about 8 a.m. when it was struck by a semi. Kyser was wearing a seat belt and according to the KHP, he was transported to the hospital with non life-threatening injuries and then later released.

According to the KHP Facebook page, “this is a graphic reminder of the daily hazards that law enforcement officers, emergency services, and highway workers face while working on Kansas roadways.” Both eastbound and westbound U.S. 24 were closed to traffic for nearly five hours in the area where the U.S. 24/Menoken Road interchange project is taking place.

District Six

Move over: KDOT crews have re-striped the lanes across the Marshall Road bridge over U.S. 400 west of Dodge City to create two 11-foot driving lanes with two-foot shoulders on each side across the bridge. In November, the bridge was struck by an excavator hauled on a trailer by a semi-truck traveling on U.S. 400. While the damage was not extensive enough to require closing the bridge, KDOT bridge management has determined that the reinforced concrete girders supporting the bridge deck will have to be repaired. The bridge structure remains sound and repairs will be made in the spring once



Final repair work on the Marshall Road bridge over U.S. 400 will take place this spring.

warmer weather returns. In the meantime, traffic has been shifted away from the south side of the bridge, which remains open to two-way traffic.

District One



Lamar Subarea Supervisor Rick Looper had to deal with a dirty job recently as an unidentified truck had its tail gate open, leaving a trail of mud on northbound and southbound I-35 between 67th and 75th streets in Merriam, backing up traffic for miles. The KDOT crew had to close two lanes and a ramp briefly during rush hour traffic to scrape off the mud and clear the roadway.

Trivia!

1. What two teams have appeared eight times in the Super Bowl?
2. What team has the most Super Bowl wins?
3. What teams have never appeared in the Super Bowl?
4. The Green Bay Packers and the Kansas City Chiefs played in the first Super Bowl – who played in the second?
5. How many times have the Kansas City Chiefs played in the Super Bowl? How many times have they won?

Answers below

District Three

Parking areas to remain open: After weighing public input and the water conservation concerns of city officials, KDOT has decided to keep the parking areas open at the Russell rest areas along I-70.

“The parking areas will remain open to give travelers a place to get out and walk around, but the buildings and water services at this location will be removed,” said KDOT Maintenance Engineer Joe Finley.

Prompted by persistent drought conditions in the region, the city of Russell asked KDOT, as one of its larger non-commercial, non-industrial water users, to review water practices and conservation. After doing so, KDOT developed plans to close the rest areas.

Much of the water used at the rest areas is required to keep waste water lagoons operational during times of low usage and extreme summer heat when there is significant evaporation. Thousands of gallons of fresh water must be pumped directly into the lagoons.

KDOT solicited feedback on plans to close both the east and westbound facilities two miles east of Russell.

“We received considerable feedback,” said Finley. “It is positive when the public provides input and helps shape the outcome.”

Beginning the week of March 3, the rest areas will be closed for one week while the buildings are removed. After that, the parking areas will be reopened.

District Four



At left, Mark Kenneally with TranSystems (pointing to map) and Iola Area Engineer Darrin Petrowsky discuss project impacts of the U.S. 69 upgradable expressway between Fort Scott and Arma with affected landowners during a January 23 open house at Arma. To the right, KDOT project manager James Dietzel fields questions from a local TV reporter. KDOT plans to begin construction on the expansion in 2017. During the open house it was also announced the KDOT will acquire right-of-way for the proposed but as yet unfunded 'Arma Connection' four-lane expressway adjoining the expansion projects.



District One

Secretary Mike King talks with KDOT employees at the Osage City Subarea and Area offices on Jan. 30

Letters to the Editor

Dear KDOT,

BNSF Railway experienced a fire on the property January 30 at approximately 4:15 PM near the railroad crossing at 24th St/Lamar Ave. in Kansas City, KS. A KDOT employee spotted the fire and immediately called the local fire department. The fire was extinguished and upon inspection by BNSF personal, no damage was sustained. I was the Train Dispatcher involved on this day and the potential for substantial property damage would have ensued had it gone unreported. We are grateful KDOT has such responsible employees. Please extend our thanks to those employees who took action.

Sincerely,

David Karch, BNSF Train Dispatcher

Note: *The KDOT employe was Lamar Subarea Supervisor Rick Looper.*

Dear KDOT,

I just wanted to pass on to you all a very heartfelt comment I received yesterday while in Manhattan. A very good friend of my daughter is a student at KSU who is married to a deployed soldier at Ft Riley.

She has spent many days traveling back and forth on that stretch of highway between Manhattan and Ft Riley. She shared several harrowing instances of near wrecks prior to construction on the old alignment during rush-hour and peak traffic times.

She wanted me to tell the gang that got that done, "She loves them very much now that a safer and smoother roadway is in place and fully open!!" Courtney said she is so relieved that she now feels so much safer on that stretch of road and she loves that she no longer has to endure long lines of traffic and slow downs. I just thought you all should hear about some of the people who truly appreciate all that hard work that you put in to make this happen.

Thanks

Roger Post, PE

Principal, Senior Vice President
TranSystems

In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Janet Byrum who died Jan. 12 in Dodge City. Byrum had been the Engineering Technician Specialist in the Dodge City Construction Office, retiring in March 2013 after more than 40 years of service.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Pittsburgh Steelers and Dallas Cowboys
2. Pittsburgh Steelers, with six.
3. Detroit Lions, Cleveland Browns, Jacksonville Jaguars and Houston Texans.
4. Green Bay Packers and Oakland Raiders
5. Played in the Super Bowl two times. Won one time.

Research



The weather on Tuesday didn't stop Derek Surber from KDOT's Salina Geology office and a King Construction Company employee from attaching a gage to the top of the pile being driven for a new bridge on U.S. 24 east of Hoxie. The Hays Construction office is in charge of the work. The main project is managed by James Dietzel's squad with Mark Hoppe's squad designing the bridge projects.

Johnson County Gateway



At right, Johnson County Design-Build Project Manager Burt Morey discusses the \$288 million project with attendees at the Jan. 31 meeting in Lenexa.

Meet the team: About 50 Johnson County and state leaders turned out at the Thompson Barn in Lenexa on Jan. 31 to meet the Johnson County Gateway design-build team. Secretary King and project director Burt Morey talked broadly about the project and its importance to I-435/I-35/K-10 travelers and the state economy. Also speaking was Bill Clarkson Jr. of Gateway Interchange Constructors, the design-builder of the project. In addition, representatives of HNTB, the project manager consultant, described the project and construction phasing. The \$288 million Gateway is KDOT's largest-ever project and the agency's first to use the design-build approach.

Have an idea for a news brief or picture that could be featured in an upcoming edition of Translines Express?

Please e-mail your suggestions to translines@ksdot.org