

Translines EXPRESS

Jan. 8, 2014

Weather

*A KDOT
plow
clears
U.S.
69 in
Crawford
County.*



Bundle up: The cold temperatures and snow that have hit Kansas and other areas of the country the last couple days are caused by what's known as a polar vortex. According to a CNN article, a polar vortex is circulation of strong, upper-level winds that normally surround the northern pole in a counterclockwise direction -- a polar low-pressure system. These winds tend to keep the bitter cold air locked in the Arctic regions of the Northern Hemisphere. It is not a single storm. On occasion, this vortex can become distorted and dip much farther south, allowing cold air to spill southward. The polar vortex can lead to major cold air outbreaks in any portion of the Northern Hemisphere - North America, Europe and Asia. This can lead to cold snaps in multiple locations several times a year. KDOT maintenance crews across the state cleared roadways over the past weekend as well as early this week, battling both the snow and the dangerous temperatures.



In the top photo at left, ice coats the right of way along U.S. 69. In the bottom photo, trees are covered with ice near Pittsburg after a late December storm. Photos submitted by District Four



Legislative Session

2014 legislative session:

Legislators return to Topeka on Monday for a session that should be less eventful for KDOT than last year's. In 2013, legislators passed a bill that formalized the partnership between the Kansas Turnpike Authority and KDOT. This year there are no major bills on the horizon that impact the agency. However, KDOT will be closely monitoring any budget changes that would impact the agency or the ability to deliver the T-WORKS program. A familiar KDOT face at the Statehouse for the past five sessions will no longer be representing the agency this year. Lindsey Douglas, Chief of Governmental Affairs since 2010, changed jobs this week and will serve as director of state relations for the University of Kansas. She joined KDOT in 2009. Leading KDOT's legislative efforts this session will be Tara Mays, who has been part of KDOT's Governmental Affairs team since 2010. Tara will continue her job as Kansas Transportation Initiative Liaison for the KTA. Stacia Fosnot, who joined KDOT in the fall, will also be part of KDOT's Governmental Affairs team.



This was the view of the Kansas Capitol this morning as 12 years of construction comes to an end.



Visitor Center

Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society Jennie Chinn shows Gov. Sam Brownback tools used in the original construction of the Capitol at the opening of the Kansas Capitol Visitor Center on Jan. 2. Other exhibits including historical items, a map of Kansas permanently built into the floor, photographs and more can be seen at the center.

Happy birthday, 511! KDOT's 511 traveler information phone service will soon be 10 years old. Launched on Jan. 15, 2004, 511 replaced the toll-free



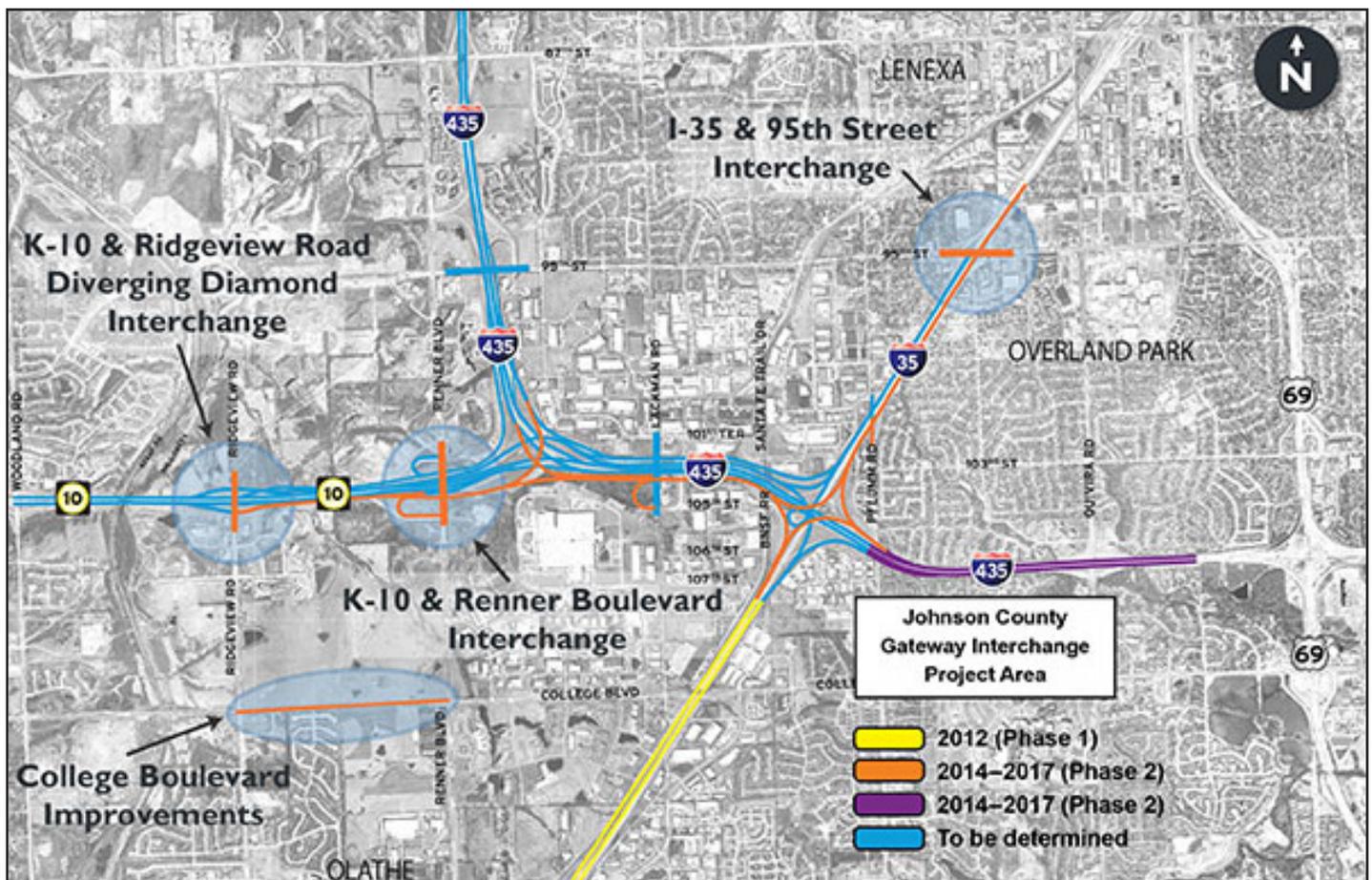
Kansas road condition hotline. Over the decade, 511 has received nearly 4 million calls. The 511 system has been a work in progress since its deployment. It was expanded in December 2012 to include Kansas City metro traffic information (both sides of the state line). New features also include call transfers to transit, tourism and motorist assist across the state; and free personalized information (email/text alerts by subscription). KDOT will mark the anniversary in a statewide news release and other promotional activities.

Trivia - 511 in Kansas

1. 511 is an abbreviated dialing code for what kind of information?
2. When was the Kansas 511 phone system publicly launched?
3. Is the Kansas 511 system accessible from anywhere in the U.S.?
4. What kind of information does 511 provide?
5. Approximately how many calls has 511 received?
 - A. 4,000
 - B. 40,000
 - C. 400,000
 - D. Four million
6. How many states have 511?
 - A. 18
 - B. 29
 - C. 38
 - D. 45

Answers below

District One



Gateway design-build project announcement Friday: The I-435/I-35/K-10 interchange is one step closer as KDOT will announce the team chosen to complete the Phase 2 design-build portion of the Johnson County Gateway project on Friday. As part

of T-WORKS, the interchange was selected as the state's first major design-build project to accelerate the delivery of these improvements. The map above shows the Gateway project area. For more information, go to <http://jocogateway.com/>.

District Six



At right, local citizens, legislators, city and county representatives and members of two trail associations met with KDOT officials in December in Dodge City to discuss the impact of a planned highway expansion on a local landmark known as the Point of Rocks, as seen above. KDOT is designing a four-lane improvement on U.S. 50/400 from Cimarron to Dodge City and the recommended alignment for this 16-mile segment will impact this landmark. During the meeting, the design team reviewed the options that have been considered and explained KDOT's recommendation for an



expressway with a 60-foot grass median and a retaining wall at the Point of Rocks. No final decision has been made and conversations with local officials continue.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Mr. Mike King, Secretary of Transportation,
On December 17, 2013, I had the opportunity to travel with Eric Deitcher, Civil Rights Program Coordinator, FHWA Kansas Division to attend District EEO Training for District 4 in Chanute. The Office of Contract Compliance (OCC) was responsible to coordinate this training in all six districts, with the final presentation in Chanute. This training is conducted on a bi-annual basis for a targeted audience of construction and inspection personnel.
I was impressed with the number in attendance at both sessions offered that day and the amount of interactive participation between the OCC presenters and the District staff. It is obvious to me that the relationship between the two is one of professionalism and

respect. During my career, I have never seen such enthusiasm for training on the subjects covered during this session.

I would like for you to know how much we appreciate the great work the OCC is doing in delivering their civil rights programs. As you know the civil rights programs are key to ensure that the citizens of Kansas are being treated fairly in federally funded highway projects. We are extremely pleased with the job OCC continues to do day in and day out and the professional relationship they maintain with those within KDOT and their contracting partners.

Sincerely yours,
J. Michael Bowen, P.E.,
FHWA Division Administrator

District One

Multiple phases of K-7/I-70 interchange under way:

Construction continues on the new K-7/I-70 interchange in Bonner Springs. Two phases of work taking place involve the realignment of 122nd Street and Riverview Avenue, the replacement of the Riverview Avenue Bridge spanning I-70 and construction of the west half of the new interchange by adding the southwest and northwest loop ramps. This spring, construction will begin on the replacement of the 118th Street Bridge spanning I-70 with the new bridge scheduled to open to traffic in December.

The last funded phase is scheduled to begin in spring 2015 and be completed in fall 2016. This work will include shifting I-70 to the south and widening I-70 to six lanes between K-7 and 110th Street. Only three of the 10 phases of the overall interchange project are funded for construction.



Work on the K-7/K-70 interchange project includes the new Riverview Avenue bridge, shown above, and the retaining wall for the new eastbound I-70 to K-7 ramp, shown at left.

District Four



Enbridge Energy Company is constructing almost 600 miles of new interstate crude oil petroleum pipeline between the Flanagan terminal southwest of Chicago, Ill., and the Enbridge terminal at Cushing, Okla. Work on the pipeline in southeastern Kansas began in mid-2013. The 36-inch pipeline will go underneath several state highways, including K-47 between U.S.75 and U.S.169 (shown). The Flanagan South Pipeline is being built along the route of Enbridge's existing Spearhead Pipeline. The pipeline construction has created temporary jobs and given the region an economic boost. It is expected to be operational by mid-2014.

Awards

Winner x 2: Two KDOT plans that take a proactive look at future development and associated traffic congestion in the Kansas City area have been recognized by ACEC of Kansas. Both the I-35 Corridor Optimization Plan (also known as I-35: Moving Forward) and the Southwest Johnson County Area Plan will receive Engineering Excellence Awards. The I-35 study gives KDOT a plan to optimize traffic flow through targeted improvements

along the I-35 corridor in Johnson and Wyandotte counties. The Southwest Johnson County Area Plan covers a 21-square-mile area around the Logistics Park Kansas City Intermodal Facility and completes needed land use planning and transportation planning for the area. The awards will be formally presented at the June meeting of the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers' annual conference in Manhattan.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Traveler information for Kansas highways
2. Jan. 15, 2004
3. Yes, at the toll-free number (1-866-511-KDOT)
4. Highway traveler information (road conditions,

- construction/detours, metro traffic, travel, weather and rest area info as well as transit, National Weather Service and Motorist Assist information)
5. Four million
6. 38

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