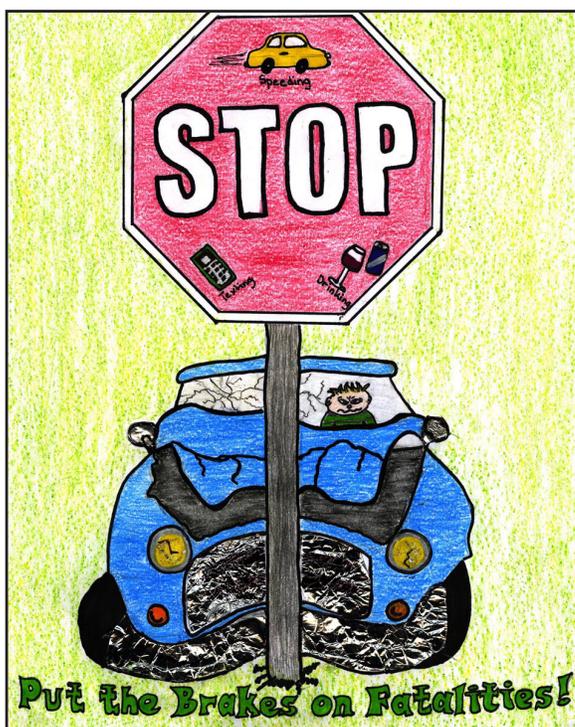


# Translines EXPRESS

July 23, 2014



The city of Independence had a ground-breaking ceremony on July 9 for the West Main Street (U.S. 75/160) reconstruction project set to begin in July. Officials had shovels ready along West Main, including Independence Area Engineer Luke Middleton, fourth from right. Mission Construction, St. Paul, is the prime contractor on the reconstruction of West Main between 10th and 18th streets. KDOT provided the city \$2 million in access management funds toward the \$2.6 million construction cost.



One of District Three's posters in 2013.

## Traffic Safety

**Kansas kids can win:** Kids ages 5 to 13 in Kansas are encouraged to enter artwork for the annual statewide poster contest focusing on Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day - a nationwide effort to increase roadway safety and reduce all traffic fatalities.

Three statewide winners will receive family packages at the Great Wolf Lodge and also \$50 gift cards from Dillon's of Kansas.

A total of 18 regional winners in the six regions and age groups (ages 5-7, ages 8-10 and ages 11-13) will each receive a bicycle and a helmet donated by Safe Kids Kansas.

All entries must be postmarked by Friday, Sept. 19, and should be mailed to: AAA Kansas, Public Affairs, 3545 SW 6th Street, Topeka, KS, 66606. On the back of the 8 ½ by 11-inch paper entry must be the child's full name; age at time of entry; mailing address; county; a parent's name; and contact phone number. For more information on how to enter the contest, go to [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org).



## Trivia!

### Volleyball

1. What was the sport volleyball originally called?
2. How many hours did the longest recorded volleyball game take?
3. Most volleyball players jump about how many times a match?
  - A. 100
  - B. 300
  - C. 500
  - D. 700
4. Where does volleyball rank in terms of participation sports around the world?
5. What was the first year for volleyball in the Olympics?
6. In 1917, the game was changed in what way?

*Answers below*

## Transportation Alternatives

**Transportation Alternatives projects selected:** KDOT selected 20 projects for inclusion in its Transportation Alternatives program.

KDOT received 43 applications from local units of government for funding consideration totaling more than \$22.5 million.

Transportation Alternatives projects under this federal program include facilities for pedestrians and bicycles; rehabilitation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities; construction of turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas; conversion of abandoned railway corridors to trails; community improvement activities such as downtown streetscape enhancements and the control or removal of outdoor advertising.

Total cost for the 20 selected projects is \$11.5 million. A minimum of 20 percent of the project cost must come from the applicant.

A list of selected projects and the federal funding awarded is on KDOT's website [here](#).

## KTA



**Kansas Turnpike Authority employees assist customers in replacing their outdated K-TAGs.**

**K-TAG “swap” update:** It has been two months since the K-TAG replacement program began. The KTA recall team has contacted more than 55,000 customers via email and postcards whose, hard case tags are affected. Tags with the older technology will be deactivated or turned off in the coming weeks. Replacement tags with newer, more efficient technology are being provided at no cost.

Not all customers with hard case K-TAGs are affected. Only those contacted by the KTA need to take action. Old tags do not need to be returned and can be recycled or discarded. If you or someone you know has been contacted by the KTA about replacing a tag, follow the instructions on your email or postcard to order your replacement tag.

## General

**First time out:** According to a Good Morning America story, after going a total of 50 feet, a 16-year-old from Waltham, Mass., was making a right turn at a stop sign and didn't straighten the wheel after the turn, causing the car to slowly approach a nearby tree. The right, front tire rode up the tree before flipping the car over.

Phil O'Dowd, the Waltham police officer who responded to the accident, told ABC News that the passenger said it was almost like slow motion, because when they rolled up to the tree they stopped for a second because they weren't going that fast, and then the car just rolled over. Four cruisers and two ambulances responded to the call, because overturned cars are usually serious crashes, O'Dowd said. In this case, no one was hurt -- except for the driver's ego.

*Have an idea for a news brief or picture that could be featured in an upcoming edition of Translines Express? Please e-mail to [translines@ksdot.org](mailto:translines@ksdot.org)*

# Amtrak

**Below: Hutchinson reporters interview Amtrak President and CEO Joe Boardman, second from left, during a stop on a special tour of the Southwest Chief rail route. Right: CEO/President of the Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce Jason Ball and Hutchinson Vice-Mayor Jade Piros de Carvalho chat with Secretary Mike King.**



**Riding the rails:** Secretary Mike King joined Amtrak President and CEO Joe Boardman and BNSF Railway Executive Chairman Matt Rose on a special train July 11 to meet with state and local officials regarding the future of the route of the Amtrak Southwest Chief between Newton and Albuquerque, N. M. The group started in

Topeka and made stops in Newton, Hutchinson, Dodge City and Garden City. At each location, they spoke to media and others to discuss the pending system downgrades as well as the proposed plan to maintain the route. Without an agreement, Amtrak service may not be available in western Kansas by 2016.

## Quarterly Report

The July 2014 Quarterly Report is now available [here](#). In this issue, Secretary Mike King writes about the importance of Local Consult, and you can find out more about the \$10 million KDOT designated to improve local bridges. Plus, there's the latest T-WORKS progress numbers. The report is posted on the KDOT website under Publications.

## General

According to a story in Better Roads, a truck hauling an excavator caused major problems for the Washington State Department of Transportation on July 11 after colliding with five freeway overpasses. Cost of the repairs have not yet been determined, but all five bridges will need to be repaired.

The driver was in a 1994 Kenworth dump truck hauling an excavator southbound on U.S. Highway 101 when the excavator's boom crashed into the first overpass. He continued south on Interstate 5, hitting four other overpasses.

The driver said he pulled over at one point after feeling some "surges" but he was unaware that he hit anything and kept driving.

Two vehicles struck by debris from the collisions ended up with flat tires. No injuries were reported.

Although all five bridges are in need of repair, no traffic restrictions were placed.

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Mintonette.
2. 75 hours, 30 minutes in Kingston, N.C.
3. B. 300
4. Second, behind soccer.
5. 1964.
6. Went from 21 to 15 points to win a game.

## District Three

**Secretary Mike King attended meetings with Hays and Ellis County officials on July 14 and 15. While in the area, he visited Hess Services, Inc., (which manufactures oil field equipment) with owners/operators Dan Hess, left, and Mark Hess, right, and other employees (top photo). Secretary King then toured the future Doonan truck center (bottom photo) currently under construction near Hays with Greg Sund, Ellis County Administrator, left, and Mike Graf, Ellis County Public Works Director, right. During the trip Secretary King also met with the Rotary Club of Hays, Ellis County commissioners and visited with KDOT employees at the Hays Area and Subarea offices.**



## District Four

**This month crews from Koss Construction, Topeka, placed a silica fume overlay on the bridge over Rock Creek as part of the U.S. 54 concrete preservation project in Allen County. Traffic has been placed on the new eastbound lanes while the westbound lanes are under construction. The \$10.6 million project runs from Iola east for 5.4 miles, ending at the concrete pavement at LaHarpe. Work should be completed by late November of this year.**

## District One



*At left, city of Lenexa employees moved the three bulls that stood along K-10 and I-435 while Phase 2 of the Johnson County Gateway project takes place. Moving the bulls took some time as they weigh from 1,600 to 2,000 pounds each. Below, the bulls as seen from K-10 before the move.*



**Temporary home:** If you travel the K-10 and I-435 interchange area in Johnson County, you've probably noticed three bulls on K-10 just west of I-435. On July 10, these bulls were relocated to a city of Lenexa storage facility until the Johnson County Gateway Phase 2 construction project is completed in late December 2016. The smallest of these three bulls weighs 1,600 pounds while the largest weighs one ton. The naturally rusted

steel bulls are the "positives" from Robert Morris's historic "Bull Wall" located near the American Royal complex in downtown Kansas City, Mo. When the Gateway Phase 2 Project is completed, the bulls will be relocated back to a new 'home on the (Gateway interchange) range.' To learn more about the project, visit: [www.jocogateway.com](http://www.jocogateway.com).

## District Six



*Jonathan Hutchinson, left, and Logan Coghill, both of Boy Scout Troop 59 in Garden City, plant a Ponderosa Pine seedling at Spanish Peaks Scout Ranch near Walsenburg, Colo. Jonathan is the son of Kirk Hutchinson, District Six Public Affairs Manager, and Logan is the son of Richard Coghill, District Six Office Coordinator. All four were at camp this summer and joined other scouts to plant trees and perform other conservation projects as part of the reforestation and recovery effort at Spanish Peaks. Last summer, the camp was partially destroyed by a wildfire that forced the evacuation of more than 200 scouts. One of the scouts evacuated was Peter Hall, son of Ron Hall, District Six Maintenance Engineer. Peter returned to camp this summer and also helped plant trees.*

## Transportation Blog

**Blog reaches another milestone:** If you're not reading the KDOT [blog](#), it's time to get on the bandwagon. The blog has now received more than 25,000 views - with most of the traffic coming from our social media sites. The blog covers a variety of transportation topics, even international issues occasionally.

If you have an idea for a blog topic, please email it to Amy Link at [amyl@ksdot.org](mailto:amyl@ksdot.org). And if you want to get in touch with your inner Hemingway, we're always open to guest writers. You can view the blog at [kansastransportation.blogspot.com/](http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/)

## Federal Funding

**Congress urged to address long-term transportation needs:** According to the U.S. Department of Transportation website, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx and 11 of his predecessors offered an open letter to Congress on July 21 as it considers legislation to avoid a shortfall of the Highway Trust Fund.

In addition to Secretary Foxx, former Secretaries Ray LaHood, Mary Peters, Norman Mineta, Rodney Slater, Federico Peña, Samuel Skinner, Andrew Card, James Burnley, Elizabeth Dole, William Coleman and Alan Boyd all signed the letter. Their message: Congress' work doesn't end with the bill under consideration. Transportation in America still needs a much larger, longer-term investment. The text of the letter can be read on the U.S. DOT website [here](#).

## Aviation Expo

### 2nd Annual Kansas Aviation Expo:

After a successful inaugural event last year, state aviation officials are gearing up and partnering with the Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education to host the second Kansas Aviation Expo, Sept. 22-26.

This year's Expo will feature a week's worth of events, including the Fly Kansas Air Tour, two around-the-world pilots and business seminars. Last year's inaugural event featured several leading industry speakers and left attendees requesting an annual event.

"This year our theme will be 'where dreams come true' because there is something for everyone when it comes to aviation," said Jesse R. Romo, Director of Aviation for KDOT. "One of our goals this year is to reach out and engage as many school kids as possible to encourage them to pursue their dreams and consider a career in aviation."

Part of the Expo includes a three-day air tour where the group will barnstorm in aircraft that range from a



***Aviation enthusiasts are encouraged to participate in the second Expo taking place in September.***

vintage Stearman to a modern Cessna 182. Each stop will highlight a different aspect of Kansas aviation and draw in several local school kids. Day 1 kicks off Sept. 22 in Wellington, moves to Hutchinson for lunch and ends in Dodge City with an evening event. Day

2 begins in Scott City, continues to Salina and ends in Topeka. The third day will go through Pittsburg and Independence before ending in Benton.

Following the air tour, the Expo will feature other presentations, activities and speeches about aviation. Gov. Sam Brownback said the week's events are valuable to highlight the importance of aviation to the Kansas economy and to introduce young people to aviation and possible careers.

"Kansas is proud of its history in aviation," said Gov. Brownback. "The popularity of this event highlights the importance of aviation and the contributions Kansas and Kansans continue to make in this critical industry." For more information on the Expo and all the activities, go to the KCAE website at [www.flykansas.org](http://www.flykansas.org).