

Translines EXPRESS

June 11, 2014

T-WORKS

Gearing up: As the state's T-WORKS transportation program moves into its middle years, this will be one of the busiest construction seasons of the 10-year program.

By late fall, crews will have worked on hundreds of projects this season totalling nearly a billion dollars.

"This is one of the biggest years of T-WORKS, which means hundreds of

construction workers on the job, a lot of work for businesses that supply and service the construction industry, and tens of millions of dollars pumped

into local economies," said Gov. Sam Brownback.

"The work being done this season is important to the economic growth of Kansas as it provides the quality infrastructure businesses are looking for when they expand or locate in our state."

The \$8 billion T-WORKS program was passed by the 2010 Legislature. Gov. Brownback made completion of the program part of his Road Map for Kansas.

"It might be hard to appreciate this when you're stopped in a line of traffic, but we are fortunate to live in a state where citizens and leaders understand the value of a world-class transportation system," said Secretary Mike King.

2014 construction season by the numbers

218 - Projects

1,790 - Miles being improved

166 - Bridges being improved

\$973 million - Total costs



Work on the 118th Street Bridge over I-70 in Wyandotte County continues this summer. Aaron Frits' road squad and Chris Meyer's bridge squad designed the project.

Trivia!

Baseball

1. When was the first World Series and who played?
2. What manager has 3,755 career victories, more than any other manager in history?
3. Who has the all-time record for hits (4,256)?
4. How many stitches are in a baseball?
5. Where is the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum?
6. While playing for the Omaha Cardinals in 1957, Glen Gorbous set a world record for longest throw of a baseball. How far did he throw it?

Answers below

Headquarters

Designer honored: Road Design Leader

James Dietzel received AASHTO's Region Three Design Award for outstanding achievement in the field of highway and transportation design. Assistant Bureau Chief Jim Brewer accepted the award on his behalf on June 4 at the annual AASHTO Subcommittee on Design meeting in Savannah, Ga.

Dietzel's squad is currently responsible for 21 major projects. He also has served as KDOT's State Value Engineering Coordinator since 2005. He was nominated to the AASHTO Region Three – Subcommittee on Design, Technical Committee on Value Engineering in 2007 and has assisted in the development of the 2009 and 2014 updates to the AASHTO Guidelines for Value Engineering. In the nomination letter, Brewer said, "James has VE'd the VE process in Kansas." Dietzel has been with KDOT since May 1999.



James Dietzel



The photos above and below show the flash flooding damage that occurred in the past week in Nemaha County on the K-63 bridge work that was taking place as part of the bridge replacement project.

Flash flooding damages K-63

bridge falsework: About 4.1 inches of rain fell along K-63 in Nemaha County on June 7. As a result, flash flooding occurred along K-63 washing out completed falsework on the bridge replacement project over Wildcat Creek. This rain amount was registered at the rain gauge located on the project construction site.

The project contractor has estimated that it will take about one month, weather permitting, to replace and repair all falsework destroyed by the flash flooding, resulting in a delay for the overall bridge completion. The original project was scheduled to be completed in September.

This bridge project is located just eight miles south of Bern, where the June 3 tornado closed the five-mile stretch of K-71 for cleanup efforts. K-71 was reopened to all traffic the next day.





Leroy Koehn gets ready to begin the 2013 Biking Across Kansas event.

On the move: Many KDOT employees participate in athletic activities - two in particular are involved in major events this week.

About 800 people are participating in the 40th annual Biking Across Kansas (BAK) this week. The event started Saturday in Elkhart and is crossing the state from southwest to northeast, traveling through Satanta, Spearville, Elilinwood, Salina, Wamego, Oskaloosa and Highland. It ends this Saturday in Highland.

This is the second year Horton Area Engineer Leroy Koehn will be participating. He started preparing for the event in April, riding 20-30 miles at a time. He said last year's route gave him the opportunity to explore south central and southeast Kansas, and this year's he's looking forward to seeing more while riding.



Kelly Cool participates in a 50-mile trail run in Wyandotte County last year.

In addition to BAK, Koehn participated in the MS 150 races several times in years' past. "Cycling gets in your blood," he said.

This Saturday, Road Design Leader Kelly Cool is going to compete for the first time in a 100-mile run - the Bryce 100 in Bryce Canyon, Utah. Starting at 6 a.m., runners have 36 hours to complete the race.

"When you get into the longer races, it's more of a mental challenge than a physical challenge - you have to train your mind too," she said.

Cool has been running for about 12 years. She's competed in triathlons in the past, but last year decided to try training for an ultramarathon. She has since completed a 62-mile run and a couple of 50-mile runs.

Transportation Blog

KDOT blog reaches milestone: This week the [Kansas Transportation blog](#) made its 100th post. The blog has received more than 20,000 page views since it began in January.

If you would like to submit a blog or an idea for one, please send it to Amy Link at amyl@ksdot.org. You can view the blog at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>

K-TAG 'swap' started: Late May marked the start of a four-month K-TAG replacement project. The KTA is asking select customers to 'swap' their battery operated hard case K-TAGs for tags with newer, more efficient technology. The replacement tags will be provided at no cost.

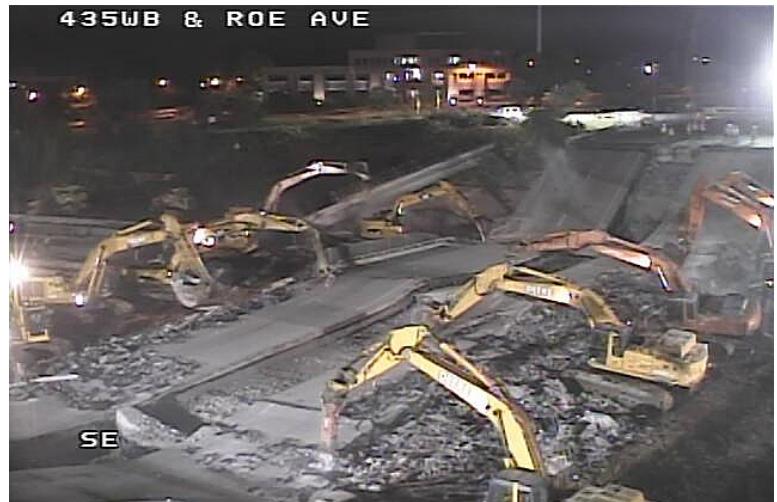
Not all customers with hard case K-TAGs are affected. Only those contacted by KTA need to take action.

Customers affected – nearly 60,000 - are being notified via emails and letters May through July. Tags not swapped out will be deactivated or turned off starting in mid-August through September. The old tags can be recycled or discarded by the customer and do not need to be returned to KTA.



K-TAG 'Swap' center specialists are busy filling orders from K-TAG customers.

District One



Above left: work takes place on May 30 to prepare for the implosion of the Roe Avenue bridges over I-435 in Johnson County. Below: the bridges are imploded about midnight on May 31. Above right: crews immediately begin to remove the debris from the roadway and I-435 was opened to traffic about 10 a.m. the next day.



District Five



Barry McManaman, Great Bend Area Engineer; Benny Tarverdi, District Engineer; and Jonathan Marburger, Design Special Requirements Engineer; met with the Rice County Commission to discuss local questions about the future K-14/96 Modernization Project. This project is designed to construct a new 15-mile-long two-lane freeway on four-lane right of way (for future expansion) using an offset alignment.

District Three

While parts of District Three received some much needed moisture from the storms that rolled through northwest Kansas on June 4. The region also experienced some very high winds around Hays and Russell. In addition to downed power lines in the area, the high winds caused damage to the covers on the remote storage and equipment bunkers at Luray.



2014 Field Conference



Learning tour: State and local officials gathered for the 2014 Field Conference from June 3-5 to learn about various issues in central Kansas including petroleum refining, wetland management, rail and truck transport, wildlife habitat/conservation, air quality and agriculture. Stops were made at Hutchinson, McPherson, Canton, Cheney and Wichita. The conference educates people who make and influence policy about natural resources, economic and environmental issues in the state. This marks the 20th anniversary of the conference and each year a different region of the state is explored. The Kansas Geological Survey's Geology Extension program is in charge of the event.

At left, Pat Cedano, Vice President of Marketing for Watco Companies, and Secretary Mike King, ride a train while participating in the annual Kansas Field Conference.

District Five

Jason Treaster,
District Storekeeper,
and Brent Engelland,
District Equipment
Mechanic Senior/
Vehicle Inspector,
give blood at the Red
Cross blood drive
in the District Five
Conference Room in
Hutchinson on June
3.



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

Letter to the Editor

Dear KDOT:

We would like to thank KHP Trooper Stahl and KDOT's Jerry Cox who helped us on March 18 when my husband had a blowout on I-70 on about mile marker 326. Officer Stahl stopped to help us and went back to get Cox to help us remove the tire. Had they not been courteous enough to stop and help us, we might have had a long wait.

Gratefully,
Patty and Charlie Franklin, Topeka

Traffic Safety

This chart shows the preliminary number of people in fatality crashes from the end of May 2014 in comparison to the end of May 2013. Last year was a record-setting low for fatalities, and while the number is higher than last year, it is still below the five-year average.

"We're working hard to reduce fatalities, because even one death is one too many," said Traffic Safety Specialist Phyllis Marotta.



This graphic and other safety information can be found on the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office website at www.ktsro.org.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. In 1903, Boston won 5-3 against Pittsburgh.
2. Philadelphia A's (now the Oakland Athletics) Connie Mack.
3. Pete Rose
4. 108
5. Cooperstown, New York. It was created in 1935 to celebrate baseball's 100th anniversary.
6. 445 feet, 10 inches

In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Freeman Merrifield Vicory who died May 13 in Topeka. His son, Bill Vicory, is the Bureau Chief of Right of Way.