

## ***A note from Secretary Mike King -***

All,  
Today I am announcing my retirement as Secretary of Transportation and Director of the Turnpike effective July 15 (release is below). Simply put, I have had a fantastic four-plus-year career leading transportation for the state. I am a better person, thanks in part to so many of you who have allowed me to work and walk alongside you as a team, delivering world-class infrastructure and economic potential for the state. As with every major decision like this one, many factors enter in. First is the family consideration, and this is truly best for my wife Peggy and our children. We will move back to our home in Hesston and be closer to help with aging parents. Secondly, an unsolicited company approached me about a position that quite frankly was too good to pass up. I will be Wichita-based and more news about that will come out later this week. And lastly, we have accomplished a lot as a team. I believe it is time for new leadership to guide KDOT & KTA into the future, continuing the many initiatives we have started. There will be so many great memories from this experience. Too many to put into words. For me, it has been and always will be about the people. That



***Mike King***

is why I traveled the state and tried to visit personally with every employee at their place of work. It is because of YOU that I worked so hard in promoting transportation growth & investment. I want to personally THANK YOU for the commitment you have made to serve the public, in many different situations and weather conditions, and I will continue to be your biggest

supporter well into the future.

Being a cabinet secretary has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, and for that I want to thank Governor Brownback for giving me this rare opportunity. I had not served in the public sector before, and helping support every Kansan's transportation needs has led me to think and lead differently, and in a very good way.

I challenge each and every one of you to continue to improve personally, challenge the status quo, innovate, and lead us into the future with your passion and vision.

News release from Governor's office

## **Gov. Sam Brownback announces departure of KDOT Secretary Mike King *Richard Carlson to serve as Interim Secretary***

Gov. Sam Brownback today announced that Mike King, KDOT Secretary, will resign effective July 15. King has served as KDOT Secretary since March 2012. "I am grateful for the vision and leadership of Mike King," said Gov. Brownback. "His experience and construction knowledge have been instrumental in maintaining our nationally recognized highways. I appreciate Mike's dedication to serving the people of Kansas." During King's tenure, KDOT and the KTA achieved flexibility in delivering transportation services to Kansas

and increased efficiencies in inter-agency workings. Both organizations are in billion-dollar plus highway and technology programs to meet the current preservation needs, future expansion and increasing volume of multi-modal freight.

"It has been a pleasure to work with the Governor for these past four years in providing a transportation network that meets the needs of all Kansans. I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve my home state and am proud of the accomplishments by the entire KDOT and KTA team members,"

said Secretary King. "My family and I look forward to returning to private business in south central Kansas, leaving fond memories of our time working with the Governor, legislators, and citizens across the entire state. We have made many friendships that will last a lifetime." Former State Rep. Richard Carlson will serve as interim secretary until a permanent hire is made. Carlson, who served in the legislature for 10 years, most recently was the legislative liaison for the Kansas Department of Revenue.

## District Three



**Two weeks after the first slope failure due to heavy rains in May, a second slope failure took place on U.S. 281 south of Osborne about 100 yards from the first failure. The Osborne, Smith Center and Stockton Subareas, the Phillipsburg Area and District bridge crew are working on the repairs.**

## In Memory

Condolences to friends, family and coworkers of KDOT employee Travis Askew, Equipment Operator Trainee at the Lawrence Subarea Office, who was killed in a multiple-car crash on U.S. 24 just west of Perry on June 19. Askew's wife and infant child were also killed and two young daughters were seriously injured.

According to the KHP, the crash occurred when a pickup truck traveling west on U.S. 24 left the road on the north shoulder, then over-corrected. The truck then traveled back across the highway and into the eastbound lanes, where it struck Askew's vehicle. The pickup truck driver was also killed.

## Headquarters

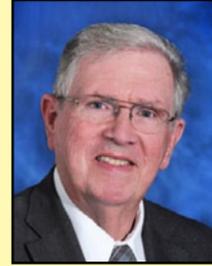
### Thompson named Director of Operations:

Long-time KDOT engineer Larry Thompson has been named Director of Operations.

For more than 20 years, Thompson has led KDOT's southwest district based in Garden City. In his new position, he will lead all six KDOT districts at the headquarters office in Topeka.

"Larry is one of the most talented engineers at KDOT," said Secretary Mike King. "His expertise and dedication will be a tremendous benefit in mentoring and leading our employees in the field offices."

After earning a civil engineering degree from Kansas State University, Thompson worked at KDOT in Topeka for 10 years starting in 1966. Following 12 years in the contracting business, he came back to KDOT in different positions in Dodge City and Garden City. He was promoted to his current position as District Six Engineer in 1995.



**Larry Thompson**

## Headquarters

### Stringer to lead Local Projects: Mike Stringer

has been selected as the new Bureau Chief of Local Projects. He succeeds Ron Seitz, who was named the new Director of Engineering and Design.

Stringer spent eight years as a consulting engineering after graduating from the University of Missouri at Rolla. He came to KDOT in 1988 at the Garnett Area Office where he was the Area Engineer. Stringer became the District Four Engineer in 2004, then was named the District One Engineer in 2013.



**Mike Stringer**

## Bicycle Map

**New bicycle maps:** Whether you want to see designated bike routes in 19 cities in Kansas, traffic volumes along state routes or which county routes are paved, the new 2016-17 Kansas bicycle map will help bicycle riders plan their trips.

"This map provides so much information that is specifically geared toward bicyclists," said KDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator Matt Messina. "Its contents include bicycling statutes, safety tips, suggested routes, future projects and more all in one publication. It is a great resource for all bicyclists from beginners to extreme enthusiasts." The highways available for bicycles are color-coded by traffic volume. No traffic volumes are shown on the map on interstate routes as bicycling on interstates in Kansas is against the law. New features to this year's map include the Land and Sky Scenic Byway in the western part of the state and the inclusion of 487 miles of U.S. Bicycle Route 76 which was designated in Kansas last fall. Pittsburg's city inset was also added to the back of the map.

Maps can be requested by emailing [bikeped@ksdot.org](mailto:bikeped@ksdot.org) or calling (785) 296-8593. For more information, [www.ksdot.org/bikeped](http://www.ksdot.org/bikeped).



## Trivia!

### 4th of July

1. Independence Day is July 4. When did the Continental Congress vote in favor of independence?
2. Who drafted the Declaration of Independence?
3. A total of three Presidents have died on July 4, 1826 – who were they?
4. In 1778, President George Washington marked the anniversary of independence by doing this.
5. What year did Congress make July 4th a federal holiday?
6. What president was born on July 4?
7. Thomas Jefferson changed the wording to "the pursuit of happiness." It was previously, "the pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_."

## Kudos

### Dear KDOT,

I want you to know how wonderfully Tony Trower (Highway Maintenance Supervisor), his crew, and Kathy Slawson (Administrative Assistant) treated me when a tree blew down in my yard along I-470. They were kind, sympathetic and very efficient at removing the tree.

I have had two or three dealings with KDOT over the years, and your employees have always been so nice and so helpful.

Thank you for training them so well.

Levie Green,  
Topeka

### Dear KDOT,

I am writing to recognize Martin Thomas (Area Utilities Coordinator), who has personally changed how we work with KDOT in the KC area. Several months ago, Martin reached out to me to discuss some issues we were causing in Olathe. We sat down and worked out what was needed. Since that meeting, our working relationship with KDOT has improved immeasurably. My manager in Olathe, Junior Endecott, routinely comments how open the lines of communication are now, primarily because of Martin. We don't ask for any special treatment, only that we be treated fairly and timely. Martin is a breath of fresh air in the often contentious utility placing world. I appreciate his working with my team so closely.

Thanks,  
Rob Hudgins, Area Manager ATT Construction - Kansas

### Dear members of the JoCo Gateway Project,

Everyday I drive the work zones for work/my commute. Please give all of the construction workers on the project a big pat on the back. It is not easy w/ that much traffic & those deadlines, not to mention trying to stay safe--all so you can make our lives easier in the future! Have a wonderful & safe week,

Athena S.

## Right-of-Way

**Positive experience:** Right-of-way acquisition for a I-235 reconstruction project scheduled to start next year in Wichita that includes six bridge replacements and a bridge removal is underway. KDOT Relocation Assistance Agent Jennifer Cavanaugh has been working with home owners affected by this project and had a gratifying experience with Gertrude and C.W. Ward in their relocation process. Gertrude bought the house in 1953 and C.W. moved in when they got married. At first they were upset, Cavanaugh said, but “I reassured them that they were going to be okay and we were going to get through it together.” Once they found a new house with help from their daughter-in-law, they all were in contact with Cavanaugh daily going over details of their relocation benefits provided by KDOT. “It’s a big change, but it went very smoothly for them,” she said. “Being able to make this a positive situation where everyone is happy is very rewarding.”



*After the closing papers are signed, KDOT's Jennifer Cavanaugh, left, gives Gertrude and C.W. Ward the keys to their new house.*

They were so pleased, in fact, that Cavanaugh came to the closing and presented the couple the keys to their new house. Their final move took place June 22. “It was a true pleasure to be the Relocation Assistance Agent for this couple,” she said.

## Work Zone Safety

*Below is a post from the Kansas Highway Patrol's Facebook page on June 21 highlighting efforts to enforce traffic regulations in a highway work zone from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on I-70 in Topeka.*

Today, troopers with the Kansas Highway Patrol worked an enforcement lane in the I-70 construction zone in Shawnee County. There were 14 troopers working the lane, and they were assisted by KHP Aircraft and KDOT.

Troopers on the lane had the following activity:

- 76 Public Contacts
- 86 Activities
- 1 Preliminary Breath Test
- 7 Radar Warnings
- 55 Lidar Citations
- 11 Lidar Warnings
- 1 Seat Belt Citation
- 5 Misdemeanor Traffic Citations
- 6 Other Warnings

The fastest speed clocked during today's lane was 82 miles per hour in a 55 mph zone. The fine for a violation like this could be up to \$444.

The enforcement was worked to address numerous traffic safety issues within the construction zone. The Patrol and KDOT have received numerous complaints



of unsafe driving in this construction zone, with many motorists not going the posted speed; and passing and tailgating issues.

We remind everyone that throughout a construction zone, whether crews are working or not, the speed limit is whatever is posted. Even if there are no workers present that you notice, the company could be moving equipment, or the speed limit could be for your safety, such as if there is a drop off between lanes. We also remind motorists that fines can be doubled in construction zones.

## Rail



*New track installation is underway along the SKO Railroad in Independence.*

**New track:** Work is progressing quickly on a project to improve SKO Railroad access to the Beachner Grain Facility in Independence. The project, which began in late May, will construct 1.5 miles of new mainline track. The goal is to have the work completed by harvest season later in the summer and fall. By constructing new mainline track, the original track can be converted into siding for the company. Beachner will increase on-site storage to 395,000 bushels from 135,000. The improvements will allow SKO to serve the facility from both ends. KDOT is providing SKO more than \$530,000 through a loan and grant for the project, which has a total cost of more than \$757,000.

## KTA



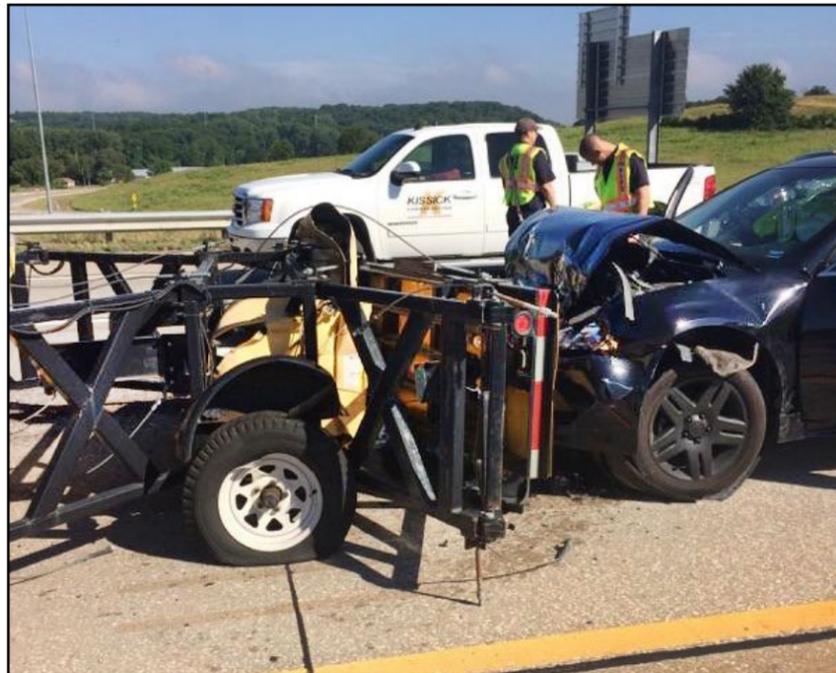
*Crews pour concrete columns for new Osage County bridges at MM 157 on I-335/Kansas Turnpike.*

## District Three

Crews are working on a 21-mile stretch of K-27 in Cheyenne County from the west U.S. 36/K-27 junction, north to the Kansas/Nebraska border. Work includes a four-inch mill, followed by application of a three-inch inlay and 1.5-inch overlay. Traffic is following a pilot car through the construction area. The project began in early June and should be completed by mid-August. Venture Corporation is the primary contractor.



## Work Zone Crash



A crash attenuator attached to a KDOT dump truck was struck on June 27 in a maintenance work zone on I-435 near Wolcott Road in Wyandotte County. The KDOT employee in the dump truck was not injured, the motorists in the vehicle sustained minor injuries.

## CAPITOL MID-WEEK FARMERS' MARKET



**Topeka - every Wednesday**  
**7:30 a.m. to noon**

10th Street - south side of the Statehouse grounds

To locate/find out more about other farmers markets taking place in Kansas, check out the From the Land of Kansas website at <https://fromthelandofkansas.com/discover-resources/farmers-market-resources>

## General

**Testing turf grass:** Kansas State University professor Jared Hoyle, PhD, along with researchers Jacob Reeves and Evan Alderman, are studying turf grass on a plot of land on U.S. 283 near WaKeeney. The two-year-study is testing the right blend of turf grass that will do well on Kansas roadsides. Watch the video [here](#), and let Hoyle explain what they are doing on the side of the road and how it will be beneficial to all roadsides in Kansas.

## KDOT Blog

### Kansas Transportation

Monday, June 27

#### Motoring Monday: Fourth of July celebrations



Hundreds of Fourth of July celebrations will be taking place across Kansas this weekend as well as next Monday. Celebrations across Kansas are highlighted below.

**Goodland's 4th of July Freedom Festival** – The cattle drive begins at 4 p.m. east of Goodland. Then other events will start at 6 p.m. at the Sherman County Fairgrounds and will include carnival rides, live entertainment and food before the fireworks begin at 9:45 p.m. on July 4.

**Salina's Skyfire! Fireworks Display** - A free concert will take place from 7-9 p.m. at the East Crawford Rec Area on July 4. The flag lowering and taps by the American Legion Riders will be shortly after 9 p.m. Fireworks show will start at 10 p.m.

**Wamego Fireworks Show** – Lots of events will be happening all day on July 4 around Wamego with a city carnival, car show, hot wheel races, ice cream and cake social, vocal and band concerts

and parade leading up to the fireworks at the Recreation Complex at 10 p.m.

**Dodge City's Old Fashioned Fourth** – During the afternoon and early evening on July 4 at the Boot Hill Museum, there will be a watermelon feed, a seed spitting contest, a gunfight reenactment and games for the kids with a concert starting at 6:30 p.m. The fireworks will then be at Memorial Stadium at 10 p.m.

**Derby Independence Day Celebration** – During the evening on July 4, the celebration at High Park in Derby will include music, an ice cream social and kids' activities with the fireworks starting at 9:30 p.m.

**Fort Scott's 4th of July** – The fireworks will take place at the Fort Scott Community College about 9 p.m. on Sunday, July 3. Then on Monday, July 4, there will be a parade and other activities taking place in Fort Scott throughout the day.

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

## Retiree

The following employee will retire from KDOT on July 1.

### District One

**Jeffrey Bronson**, Equipment Operator Senior, Osage City

## General

**Roads buckle:** The early-June heat has been so intense in South Dakota that it has caused some roads to buckle, ksfy.com reports in Better Roads newsletter. On June 9, a portion of the westbound lanes of Interstate 90 on the South Dakota-Minnesota state line buckled, and crews were called in to make repairs. According to a report in the Argus Leader, the South Dakota Department of Transportation received five reports of buckled roads from the excessive heat. The buckled roads, or blow ups, occur when pavement temperatures get extremely high. Travis Dressen, Sioux Falls Area Engineer for the DOT, said that pavement temperatures may have reached 130 degrees on June 10. "When most materials heat up, they expand," Dressen said. "As these long ribbons of concrete start expanding, there needs to be somewhere to take up the movement. We expect (blow ups) every year. It's really just the environment we live in here." The buckled pavement is temporarily patched until the concrete can be properly repaired.

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. On July 2.
2. Thomas Jefferson
3. President John Adams, President Thomas Jefferson and President James Monroe.
4. He issued double rations of rum to all his soldiers.
5. 1870.
6. Calvin Coolidge.
7. Property.

## District Two



**U.S. 77 ramp work under the I-70/U.S. 77 interchange.**



**Work on U.S. 77 near McFarland Road.**



**Construction at the U.S. 77/U.S. 57 junction.**

**Progress along U.S. 77:** The series of improvements on U.S. 77 at Junction City continues to dominate the landscape in the area. At the I-70/U.S. 77 interchange, redesigned ramps are under construction in preparation for the conversion of the traditional interchange into a diverging diamond interchange (DDI). Lanes are being extended as needed and a new traffic light at U.S. 77 and Goldenbelt Boulevard north of the interchange is planned. In addition to the DDI, improvements have been made at the Rucker Road/U.S. 77 intersection. The U.S. 77/Walla Walla Road intersection has been removed and construction is underway to add a southbound climbing lane for the hill on U.S. 77 south of the improved four-lane U.S. 77/U.S. 57 intersection. Construction on these projects will be finished this year. Work on the DDI will continue into 2017.

## District Five



**False work is in place for a bridge widening on westbound U.S. 54 over Hoover Street in west Wichita. Traffic from northbound and southbound I-235 will merge over the Wichita-Valley Center Floodway, then accelerate onto U.S. 54.**

## KTA

**Reducing unpaid tolls:** New legislation will go into effect on July 1 to help deter unpaid tolls as KTA modernizes to gateless or open-road tolling at its three largest toll plazas.

This legislation will only affect those who:

- used an electronic lane without a valid K-TAG or other compatible device;
- accrued more than \$100 in tolls; and
- have not paid or entered into KTA's due process to refute the charges.

Customers who meet all of these requirements could be subject to a vehicle registration hold.

KTA has heard from numerous customers who want to be able to move more quickly and easily through the toll plazas.

To see an example of the tolling system KTA is moving toward at its three largest plazas, watch an animation [here](#).

Learn answers to the most common questions about video enforcement [here](#).

While a majority of the legislation will go in effect on July 1, KTA cannot begin to hold vehicle registration renewals until Jan. 1, 2018.