

# Translines EXPRESS

March 5, 2014

## KDOT Blog

**The KDOT blog is going viral:** KDOT's blog, <http://kansasransportation.blogspot.com/>, achieved a milestone this week by having more than 10,000 views. Recently, the media has shown considerable news interest in the blog, which has resulted in a number of articles. The blog has also been a great resource for communicating with the public. We recently received a question from a British man wanting to know why speed limits differed in the United States compared to Great Britain. The response we gave, via a [blog post](#), was well received on social media. If you have any suggestions for topics you would like to see the blog cover, please send them to Amy Link at [amyl@ksdot.org](mailto:amyl@ksdot.org).

## Letters to the Editor

Mr. Stewart,

This letter is written in appreciation of Mr. Lee (Subarea Supervisor Bill Lee) and his D.O.T. crew.

In my opinion as a resident of Cheyenne County who has traveled the highways N to S and E to W these highways are always as safe as weather permits. Mr. Lee and his crew always do a better than expected job. Mr. Lee and his employees have always been courteous and professional in their contacts with me. I consider the tax dollars spent on D.O.T. employees and equipment in Cheyenne County to be money well spent.

Mr. Stewart thank you for your past and hopefully continued support of Mr. Lee and his crew.

Respectfully,  
Eric R. Fiala

I just wanted to send a note to thank the road crews in the Lincoln, Ellsworth, and Russell county areas along 181 and 232. I travel these roads five days a week and the state does a wonderful job of getting out in a timely manner and clearing a path! People say stay home, well when you count on a paycheck to survive, you can't just stay home. People ask me "Which road do you take to work, 181 straight south of Sylvan Grove, or around the lake?" I tell them I go around the lake because it is a state highway and the state does a great job of keeping them cleared off/salted and I know I can count on that each time I travel. So thanks so much-you are appreciated!

D Falcon

## District Six



***This is what's left of one of the four light poles that were destroyed by high winds near Dodge City.***

**A windy day:** Four 40-foot tall light poles along U.S. 50 and U.S. 56, east of Dodge City, were sheared off by high winds in the early morning hours of Feb. 20. Peak gusts were reported at near 70 miles per hour. No injuries were reported when the poles came tumbling down. All the light poles in the vicinity were checked for possible damage and none were in danger of suffering the fate of the four that fell. One 110-foot tall light tower on the U.S. 400 bypass west of Dodge City did require repairs, as the high winds damaged one of the lights atop the tower.

## District One



***New interchange taking shape: Construction on the two-year \$26 million U.S. 24 and Menoken Road diamond interchange project in Topeka is moving into its second season. Construction began in July 2013 and progress to date includes: grading/base work for Menoken Road widening, construction of two new access roads to adjacent businesses and structure work for four new bridges that will carry U.S. 24 traffic over the existing Menoken Road and Union Pacific railroad tracks. The epoxy steel is in place for the two U.S. 24 bridge decks that span Menoken Road while bridge deck work for the remaining two structures will begin early this spring. The entire project is scheduled to be completed late this fall. To view an aerial map of the entire project, go to <http://goo.gl/udHXIY>***

### Trivia!

1. What is the tallest building in Kansas?  
Bonus – what is the tallest structure?
2. What is the biggest lake in Kansas?
3. As of the 2010 census, what is the smallest town in Kansas?
4. What Kansas town has the widest main street in the U.S.?
5. Where is the world's tallest waterslide scheduled to open in May?

*Answers below*

## District Two



***While out checking on U.S. 24 near Riley on Sunday, Clay Center Supervisor Mark Willmann found that there are things to watch out for on the highways other than snow and ice.***

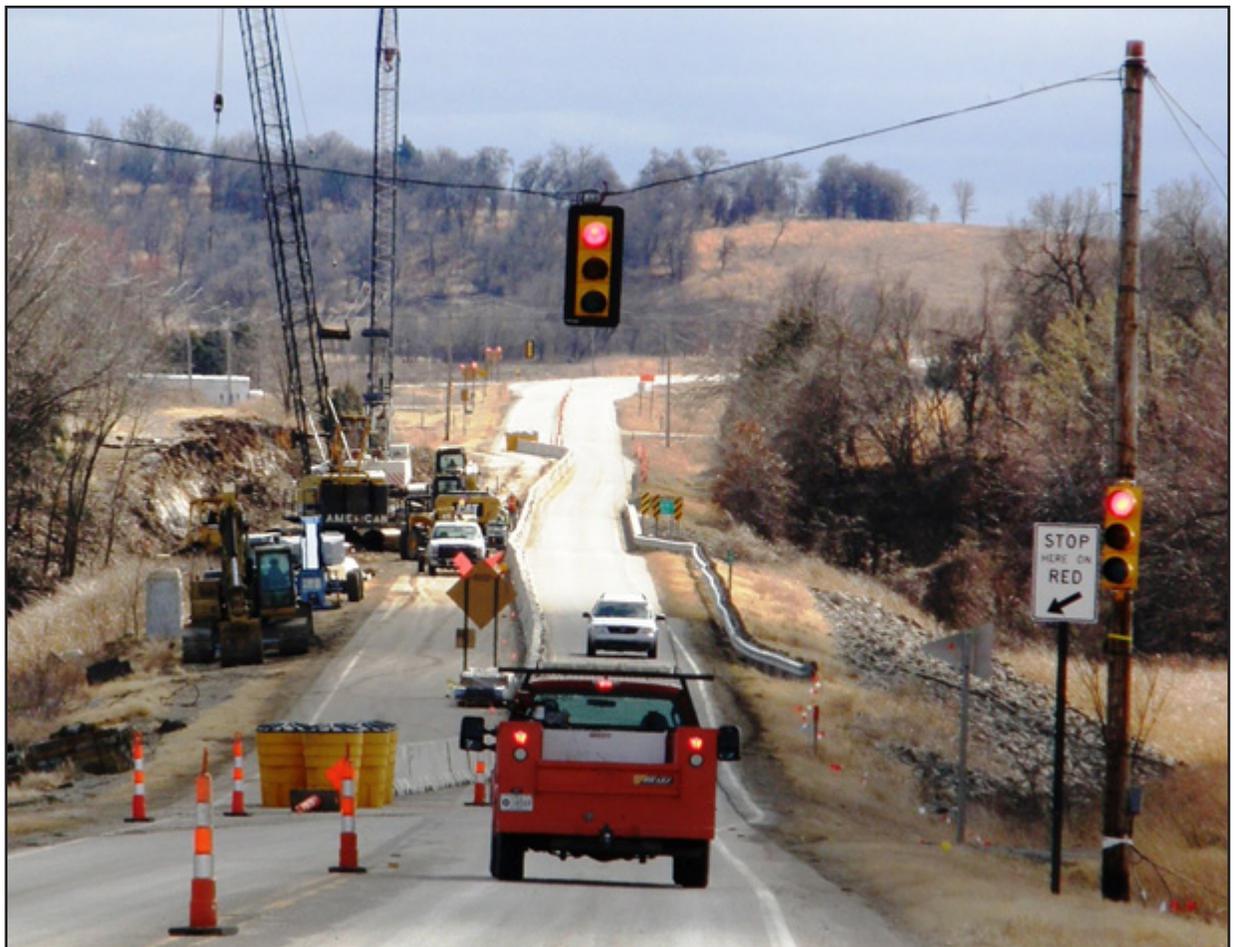
## District Five



*Research Development Engineer Dave Meggers uses epoxy to attach a pipe cap onto a partial depth pavement core for a “pull off” test on an experimental high friction surface. A dynamometer is then used to measure the force needed to cause separation of the surface from the pavement. The special pavement application increases the surface friction between vehicle tires and the pavement to lessen the chance that the vehicle will slide off of the ramp curve. Besides this K-96 ramp in Wichita, two other test areas in the state have the high friction surfacing: K-5 outside of Lansing and an I-35/I-635 ramp in Mission.*

## District Four

*KDOT is carrying one-lane traffic through construction on the project to replace the U.S. 160 Elk River Bridge west of Independence. Bridges Inc. of Newton is the primary contractor on the \$4.3 million project. The project is managed by James Dietzel and Mark Hurt’s squads.*



## District Six



*Above, Secretary Mike King visited Rolla yesterday and talked with KDOT employees from both the Rolla and Hugoton Subareas - from left to right are Kelly Loewen, Roy Flores, Dan Jacobus and Mike Hollis. The conversation focused on wages, hiring and keeping equipment operators and equipment needs. At left, Secretary King also met with U.S. 50 Highway Association members in Lakin, before visiting the Lakin Subarea.*

## District Four



*About 70 interested citizens attended an open house for the T-WORKS project on Feb. 27 that will reconstruct U.S. 169 from Welda north to Garnett. At the head of the table (in pink shirt), State Road Office Engineering Associate III Samba Secka discusses plans for the 7.5-mile corridor with property owners. Construction on the project is scheduled to start in 2017 and be completed two years later.*

## District Two

*Most areas across the state didn't receive as much snow as predicted this past weekend, but highways still needed to be treated. At right, KDOT employee Steve Cox from Abilene clears K-43 in Dickinson County. Below, KDOT employee Gary Chambers from Clay Center loads his truck with sand and salt.*



## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. The Epic Center in Wichita; Bonus – the KWCH Tower
2. Milford Lake
3. Freeport, with a population of 5.
4. The town of Plains – Grand Avenue is 155 feet, five inches from store front to store front.
5. At Schlitterbahn Waterpark in Kansas City, Kan. – it's 17 stories tall.

*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)*

## Research

**Keeping traffic moving:** KDOT and researchers from the University of Kansas School of Engineering are working on a project to increase the safety and durability of bridges while lowering construction and repair costs, according to an article by Cody Howard at the KU School of Engineering.

A test of the repair methods took place last spring on the northbound and southbound I-135 bridges over a flood control channel in Park City. The new procedures involve not only repairing cracked or damaged areas as they occur over time, but also attaching new steel components at every connection point to relieve the pressure.

“This does not require any lane closures, so the construction can be conducted under live traffic,” said Paul Kulseth, KDOT Bridge Maintenance Plans Engineer. “Other than brief interruptions to load and unload equipment or supplies, the traveling public should not see any impact and won’t even know what is going on below the bridge deck.”

The article also said that by conducting computer modeling and structural testing in the lab, KU can simulate 30 years of bridge wear and tear in a few months.

## Cellphone Use on Airplanes

**Whether or not to lift the ban:** The U.S. Department of Transportation is taking comments about the possibility of the ban on using cellphones in flight being lifted by the Federal Communication Commission.

The current FCC ban was adopted in 1991 based on concern the calls on flights might interfere with cellular networks on the ground, but technological advances have resolved those worries. Thus, the FCC would like to see the restrictions lifted since there are no safety issues

related to cellphone use in flight.

However, the DOT regulates aviation consumer issues and believes that lifting the ban may be “an unfair practice to consumers.”

Recent polls have shown that the majority of Americans are against lifting the ban. And the FCC has received several public comments in opposition to lifting the ban. Comments must be received by March 26 - click [here](#) to make a comment.

## Scenic



*KDOT employee Neil Croxton took this scenic photo of dead trees in ice recently at the new Horse Thief Reservoir in Hodgeman County.*

## Hay Permits

**Hay harvest permits required:** Landowners wanting to harvest hay on Kansas highway right of way can apply now for permits. Those with land adjacent to the right of way will be given permit priority from Jan. 1 until March 31. After March 31, permits to harvest will be issued in the order in which they are received. The

permits will expire Sept. 30.

Hay harvesting on right-of-way along state and federal highways without a permit is illegal and is trespassing, according to KDOT.

For more information, contact your local KDOT office or KDOT's Bureau of Maintenance at (785) 296-3576.