

Translines EXPRESS

April 3, 2013

District One

Driver rescued: Emporia Subarea Supervisor Ron Swogar was on his daily maintenance rounds along U.S. 50 in Lyon County on March 18 when he noticed significant guardrail damage near a bridge along the highway shoulder. Upon closer inspection of the damaged guardrail, Swogar noticed a vehicle in the dry creek bed and went to investigate. As Swogar approached the vehicle, he found that the driver of the vehicle was trapped inside. The driver said he had careened off the highway, hit the guardrail and proceeded down the embankment into the creek bed. He told Swogar that he had been trapped in the vehicle for at least three hours. The driver was transported to a local hospital for treatment and released that same day. Thanks to Swogar's keen observation, this injured driver was located within just a few hours after veering off the highway.



After veering off the highway, the motorist trapped in this vehicle for hours was found by Subarea Supervisor Ron Swogar.

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

Go Orange

Raising awareness: Last year in Kansas, 15 people were killed and 606 people were injured in work zone-related crashes. While nearly 90 percent of the people injured or killed in work zone crashes each year are motorists, the Kansas Department of Transportation stresses work zone safety for both highway workers and motorists. National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 15-19, is an effort to raise awareness of the hazards and dangers highway workers face every day. KDOT will have



KDOT employees at the Hoxie Subarea.

several activities as part of the safety campaign such as safety blogs, Go Orange photos, a statewide news conference and more. Everyone is encouraged to show their support for highway workers by wearing something orange and participating in Go Orange Day in Kansas on April 16. Check out all the details at www.ksdot.org and click on the Go Orange link starting April 11. (Information posted on KDOT's Facebook main page will also be on the Go Orange link - just a reminder that Facebook is not open to employees on work computers.)

GO ORANGE!



Legislature

1st adjournment: Two major pieces of legislation involving KDOT are still being debated as the Legislature moves toward its first adjournment on Friday. In an effort to conclude its business in 80 days, rather than the traditional 90, the Legislature is debating a host of bills this week, including the tax bills, the budget and a bill that would create a formal partnership between KDOT and the Kansas Turnpike Authority. Work will conclude this week and anything remaining will be dealt with when legislators return to Topeka in early May.

Conference

Lots to learn: Access management, highway safety, the BNSF Intermodal Facility and highlights of K-177, K-18 and the Amelia Earhart Bridge are just a few of the topics at the 95th annual Kansas Transportation Engineering Conference on April 9 and 10 at Kansas State University in Manhattan. KDOT retirees' registration is complimentary, but still must be completed before the conference to have an accurate count for conference materials. For details on registration, call 785-532-5569 or e-mail registration@k-state.edu

District Four



West of St. Paul on K-47, the new bridge over the Neosho River (left) is in the final stages of construction. The existing bridge, a steel truss, has experienced significant concrete deterioration on its deck and has been closed to through traffic. B&B Bridge Company, LLC, is the prime contractor on the \$4.1 million bridge project, which is expected to be completed in early June. K-47 traffic is following a detour along state routes until the new bridge is opened.

100-year anniversary



U.S. 36 Highway Association members and other transportation officials, including Secretary Mike King and Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger, pose with Gov. Sam Brownback after he signed a proclamation marking March 21, 2013, as U.S. 36 Highway Association Day in honor of the group's 100th anniversary.

New Kansas Maps

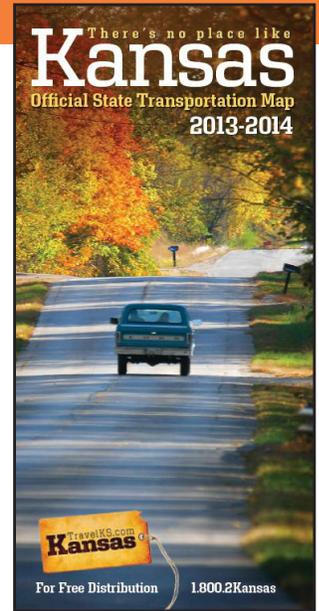


Teresa Jenkins (left), with Jones Huyett Partners, and Elaine Bryant, KDOT GIS Developer, look at a proof of the new Kansas map.

Showcasing the state: There's no place like Kansas as the new 2013-14 Official State Transportation Map illustrates by highlighting things to see and places of interest that are unique to the state.

From the Kansas Cosmosphere to the Flint Hills Discovery Center, the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, and all the landscapes featured along the Kansas Byways, the map showcases many places of interest for citizens and visitors.

KDOT works with several state agencies to create the map. About 800,000 copies of the maps will be distributed in Kansas and across the United States in the next two years. Maps will be available next week by emailing KDOT Headquarters at publicinfo@ksdot.org.



Weight Loss Challenge

At left, KDOT employee David Marten is part of the Jazzercise demonstration on the south steps of the state house during the Governor's Weight Loss Challenge half-way point rally on March 28.

KDOT employee Eric Nichol represents his team Bariatric Avengers and speaks at the rally. Also in the photo are Adjutant Gen. Lee Tafanelli, Department of Labor Secretary Lana Gordon and Secretary Mike King. Nichol's team is in 11th place overall so far in the competition. The Challenge goes until May 15 and has three more weigh-in periods before it is over. During the first 11 weeks of the Challenge, participants have lost 39,496 pounds, close to 20 tons.



Trivia!

1. How many caves have been catalogued in Kansas by the Kansas Speleological Society?
A. 38
B. More than 100
C. More than 500
D. More than 2,000
2. This product was discovered in Calvert around 1900 and it has been mined continuously since the teens. What is it?
A. Natural gas
B. Flint
C. Metallic crystals
D. Silicate
3. Kansas is home to how many milk cows?
A. 24,000
B. 78,000
C. 123,000
D. 168,000
4. The eastern half of the state was hit by this in 1903.
A. Drought
B. Flood
C. 227 tornados
D. Heat wave

Answers are below

Traffic Safety

Ditch the distractions, not the car. JUST DRIVE.

Just Drive: The National Safety Council estimates in 2010 that 21 percent of crashes (1.1 million crashes) involved talking on handheld and hands-free cell phones. An additional 3 percent or more crashes (a minimum of 160,000 crashes) involved text messaging. April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, a time to remind drivers to minimize all distractions and focus on the task at hand. Billboard advertisements (with the message seen above) will run from April 8 to June 2 in Wichita and Kansas City. KDOT will also send messages via various social media outlets. For more information, go to distracteddriving.nsc.org.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. C. More than 500
2. D. Silicate, which is mixed into highway surfacing materials.
3. C. 123,000 milk cows, producing 2.49 billion pounds of milk annually.
4. B. Flood

KDOT Website

New Look: Visitors to the KDOT external home page (www.ksdot.org) may have noticed a new look to the front page recently. A year of work has been put into the new page design making it more visually appealing and easier to navigate.

The front cover won't be the only change, right now Computer Services is hard at work updating the more than 10,000 pages that make up the KDOT internet site to the new design, so now is the time to check and make sure that your division or bureau page is updated with the latest information.

The screenshot shows the KDOT website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, NEWS, POPULAR LINKS, and CONTACT KDOT. Below this is a search bar and a secondary navigation menu with links for HOME, TRAVELER INFORMATION, DOING BUSINESS, INSIDE KDOT, PROJECTS/PUBLICATIONS, and PUBLIC INFORMATION. The main content area features a large image of a snowplow with the heading "SNOW FIGHTERS" and a brief description of winter services. Below this are several news tiles, including "Adopt-A-Highway groups can help keep highways clean", "Transportation Secretary issues sales tax statement", and "KDOT crews rack up big numbers during back-to-back storms". There are also service tiles for "T-WORKS", "KanDrive / 511", "LETTING INFORMATION FOR HIGHWAY CONTRACTORS", "TRAFFIC SAFETY", "PERFORMANCE MEASURES", and "COMMERCIAL VEHICLES". At the bottom, there are links for "JOHNSON COUNTY GATEWAY" and "JOBS AT THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION".

District Six



Discussing U.S. 83 improvements: A couple dozen people stopped by a public information open house in Sublette to look at proposed improvements to U.S. 83 in Haskell County. They include adding passing lanes and building an interchange to replace a two-way stop at the U.S. 83 and U.S. 160/K-144 junction. This project is scheduled to be let in 2015. Visitors also saw a second project on U.S. 83 that extends into Finney County. That project is funded for preliminary engineering only.

New signals: An intersection that was built as part of the U.S. 50 four-lane improvement near Holcomb now has traffic signals and turning lanes that could improve traffic flow. The intersection of Big Lowe Road and Jones Avenue is south of an interchange that serves the community of Holcomb and the Tyson Meats plant and carries thousands of vehicles a day, with particularly heavy traffic flow during shift changes. The T-intersection was originally built with a stop sign on Jones Avenue, but increasing traffic on Jones warranted adding the traffic signal and turning lanes.

