

# Translines EXPRESS

Jan. 9, 2013

## Weight Loss Challenge



**KDOT Secretary Mike King, second from right, kicked off the Governor's Weight Loss Challenge Monday with Gov. Sam Brownback's team for a weigh-in at the Statehouse. From left, Commerce Secretary Pat George, Acting Labor Secretary Lana Gordon, Gov. Brownback and Secretary King wait to have their weights verified by KDHE Secretary Robert Moser, MD. The teams will compete from Jan. 15 until May 15 and any state employee team that beats the Governor's team has the chance to win prizes. Twenty-four teams of KDOT employees and more than 467 total teams across the state are participating.**

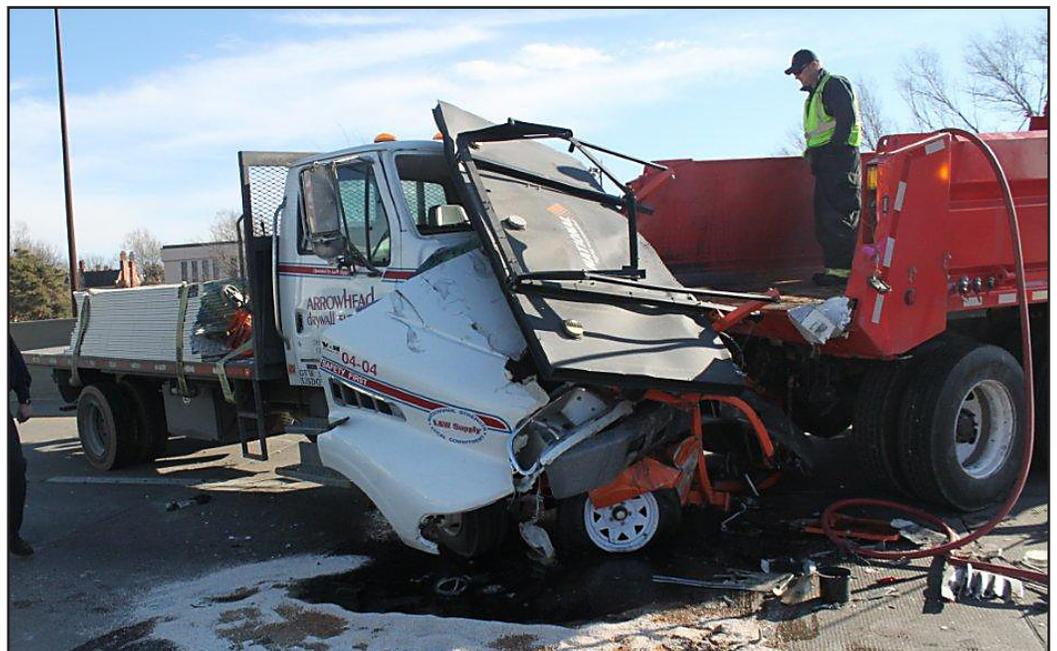
## My Kansas 511

**New and Improved:** In December KDOT rolled out the latest way to get information to travelers. "My Kansas 511," debuted on Dec. 18, just days before the first significant winter storm of the season. As of Jan. 2 "My Kansas 511" has 710 users subscribed.



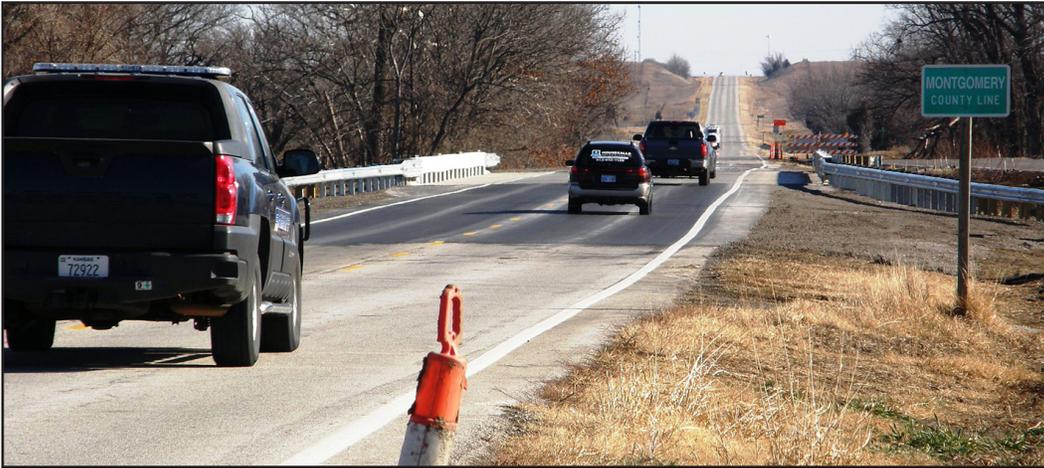
Travelers may now subscribe to free text or e-mail alerts about current conditions on the routes that they travel. To subscribe to the service visit [www.kandrive.org](http://www.kandrive.org) and select 'Plan Your Drive' or 'Get More Travel Info.' A call to 5-1-1 from any phone from anywhere in Kansas will get users information they need to plan their trips.

## Work Zone Crash



**A KDOT dump truck was struck from behind by a truck loaded with sheet rock Tuesday during a mobile pavement patching operation on I-35 north of 75th Street in Johnson County. One member of the Olathe maintenance crew was shaken up, but not seriously injured in the crash. Both trucks sustained heavy damage.**

## District Four



*The Bee Creek Bridge on U.S. 166 in southwestern Montgomery County opened to traffic before Christmas. The new bridge replaced an obsolete Marsh Arch structure built in the 1930s. B&B Bridge Company of St. Paul was the contractor on the \$1.5 million project, which started in March 2012. The Independence Construction Office administered the project.*

### Kansas City Metro

**Improvement Project on Schedule:** The I-435 and U.S. 69 interchange improvements are on schedule for completion this fall. Construction of this two-year, \$102 million project began in mid-summer 2011 and is estimated to provide an economic impact of \$779 million on this heavily travelled metro area interchange system.

Improvements include adding auxiliary lanes to I-435 between U.S. 69 and Quivira Road. This will move drivers off I-435 for entering and exiting traffic movements between Quivira Road and U.S. 69, allowing for more through traffic on I-435 itself. It also continues improvements on U.S. 69 from 103rd Street to 119th Street.

The I-435 and Quivira Road interchange is completed and opened to traffic. Part of this work included the demolition and replacement of several bridge structures during the 2012 construction season.

To see an overview map as well as driving simulation videos for the future interchange movements, go to <http://www.ksdot.org/kcMetro/projectstudytest.asp>. Clarkson Construction is the primary contractor on this two-year improvement project.



*The Garnett Construction Office completed its final project of the 2012 season. The preservation project consisted of a cold mill and hot mix asphalt overlay on 13 miles of U.S. 169 in Anderson County. Activities included rebuilding two super-elevated curves that had flattened, and adding centerline rumble strips to increase safety. Venture Corporation of Great Bend was the prime contractor on the \$7.4 million project.*



*Members of the Chanute District Special Crew and District Lab construct a new storage facility for Troop H of the Kansas Highway Patrol during December. The storage building is located behind the KHP office. The District Four Materials Lab is at the left.*



**Ramona Taylor of the Topeka Materials and Research Lab spotted a bald eagle at Lake Shawnee while taking photos of the snow on New Year's Day.**

## Trivia!

1. In the 1890s, this Kansas minister coined the phrase "What would Jesus do?"
2. This Kansan was editor of the Saturday Evening Post for 20 years and of Reader's Digest for 10 years.  
A. Ben Hibbs  
B. William Allen White  
C. Jonathan Smithe  
D. Danial Webster
3. Who was the first African American actress (who was born in Wichita) to both win an Academy Award and attend the award ceremonies?
4. What Kansas athlete ran the mile in 1966 in a world record three minutes, 51 seconds?

*Answers are below*

## Kudos

Hi,

My brother lives in Allen, Texas, and tells us that the roads down that way are a huge mess. Texas DOT apparently has no idea how to treat and clear roads in snowy and icy weather. Hearing about my brother's frustrations trying to travel in this kind of mess makes me appreciate KDOT's service. He tell us tonight that there are no TXDOT trucks in sight, even though the roads are terrible. You all, though, are always out treating roads prior to snow and ice events and then out again clearing and sanding during and after the storms. My husband and I live along Highway 24 in N. Topeka, so we see your trucks out all the time in the messiest of weather. Good job to everyone at KDOT. It sounds like other states, namely Texas, transportation departments could follow your example.

Mary C. Walker

Dear KDOT,

I just wanted to say that I am, and have been for years, truly impressed with KDOT and the job they do to get the roads clean in such a timely manner.

I commute from Leavenworth to Kansas City, Mo., for my job. And every year I am amazed on the ease in which I can get to work, and believe me, my car is a basic run of the mill vehicle. When I hit Missouri side, literally as soon as I cross the line, you can tell, the difference really is night and day. I struggle way more on the Kansas City, Mo., roads. Kansas, I do not seem to have nearly as many problems or issues.

So thank you for all your hard work.

It is appreciated.

Dana Perez

**Re: Highway 59 from Lawrence to Ottawa:**

to those at KDOT who planned it ...

to the taxpayers who funded it ...

and to those who labored on it ...

THANK YOU!

You have made it smoother, safer and so much easier to access from N 1000 Road.

Marsha and Ray Goff

## Demolition Symphony

**Coming Down:** The KDOT Support Services video production team gave YouTube viewers a holiday treat by editing together five different bridge explosions/implosions to the William Tell Overture. The five different explosions/implosions were shot over a period of years and include the Topeka Boulevard Bridge, Quivira overpass on I-435, the Blue Rapids Bridge, K-18 blasting and an overpass near Russell on I-70. Support Services were inspired by a Virginia DOT video that featured explosions set to opera. The KDOT response to that video is just over a minute long and can be seen at <http://bit.ly/ZDIZNQ>.



**Video of the Blue Rapids Bridge coming down can be seen on a new video project by Support Services.**

## Instagram



***This photo was taken along I-70 near Goodland.***

**New Technology:** Not that long ago travelers had to carry around a bulky camera in order to capture their special moments on film. Now every moment of every day can be captured with the help of a smart phone that can fit in a pocket. Now KDOT is asking that its employees help send in photos of the state in which we all live, work and travel. With smart phone technology users of Kansas highways can capture the roadways with photographs and post to any of these social media sites - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and flickr. Just use the hashtag #ksroads in addition to labeling where the photograph was taken in an effort to capture every county in the Sunflower state with these photos.

Just wait until you are stopped and in a safe position or have a passenger take the photo and then send the photos back to KDOT headquarters on Facebook. [com/KSDOTHQ](https://www.facebook.com/KSDOTHQ); on Twitter [@KSDOTHQ](https://twitter.com/KSDOTHQ); Instagram [@KSDOTHQ](https://www.instagram.com/KSDOTHQ) and flickr at [kansastransportation](https://www.flickr.com/photos/kansastransportation/).

***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](mailto:translines@ksdot.org)***

### **TRIVIA ANSWERS -**

- 1. Charles Sheldon**
- 2. A. Ben Hibbs**
- 3. Hattie McDaniel, for her role in Gone With the Wind**
- 4. Jim Ryun**

## District Six



*At left, traffic from a meat packing plant and the city of Holcomb passes through a three-way stop at the intersection of Buffalo Jones Avenue and Big Lowe Road. KDOT is adding turning lanes and a traffic signal to improve traffic flow.*

*Below, southbound trucks approach the intersection of U.S. 50/83/400 and Schulman Ave. on the east side of Garden City. A shopping center is under construction (background right) northeast of the intersection.*

**A Tale of Two Intersections:** Two intersection projects, one ready to start and another about half finished, should improve traffic flow for thousands of vehicles a day and could spur economic development.

District Six is overseeing a project at the intersection of Big Lowe Road and Buffalo Jones Avenue in Holcomb that will add turning lanes and a traffic signal to what is currently a T-intersection. The intersection was built as part of the four-lane U.S. 50 improvement project from Holcomb to Garden City and serves both the Tyson Fresh Meats plant west of Holcomb and the city itself. Traffic counts taken since the four-lane project was completed showed the need for a traffic signal at the intersection. The improved intersection also may help the city of Holcomb lure commercial development to the location. The contractor expects to finish work in February.

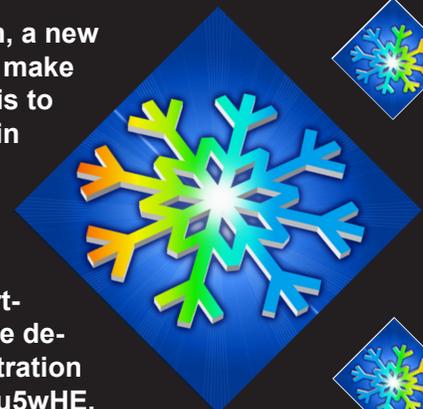
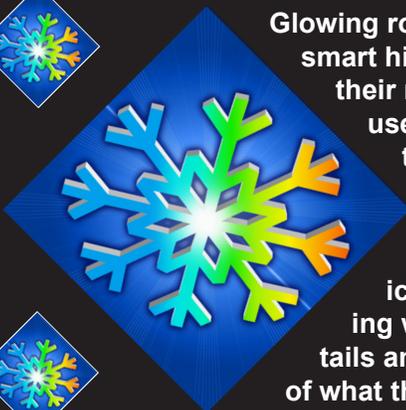
Meanwhile, on the east side of Garden City, work is expected to start next week at the intersection of U.S. 50/83/400 (Garden City bypass) and Schulman Avenue.



Schulman Avenue will serve as the primary access to a new shopping center development that local officials hope will further enhance Garden City as a regional retail hub serving southwest Kansas as well as the Oklahoma panhandle and southeastern Colorado. During construction, which will add turning lanes and a traffic signal, the 10,000 vehicles using the bypass daily will be detoured onto local roads. Garden City hopes to see the project completed by the end of March.

## World News

**Glowing roads:** According to an article on Slate.com, a new smart highway concept from the Netherlands will make their road markings glow in the dark. The idea is to use photoluminescent powder that charges in the day and glows at night. And when the temperature drops below freezing, the road will light up with snowflake indicators to warn drivers of possible ice. The article says the Netherlands is starting with a pilot project later this year. For more details and to see a video that shows a rough illustration of what this might look like, go to <http://slate.me/Uu5wHE>.



## Legislature



**Back at the Capitol:** The 2013 legislative session will officially start Monday. Gov. Sam Brownback will present the "State of the State" address on Tuesday evening. The Governor typically gives an update on the status of the state and outlines priorities for the coming year.

One interesting aspect to the coming session is that there are many new faces in both legislative chambers. Of the 165 legislators, there are 55 new members in the House of Representatives and 16 new members in the Senate. As always, please contact the Office of Government and External Affairs with any legislative inquiries you receive.

## Twitter

**Winter messaging:** Kansas travelers are discovering in increasing numbers the value of KDOT's social media messaging during winter storms. During the two storms at the end of the year, thousands of followers looked at KDOT's tweets and Facebook postings about weather and travel conditions, driving tips, 511 referrals and more. Dozens of those tweets were retweeted, extending the agency's messaging reach even further. During the two storms, KDOT's 10 Twitter accounts (headquarters, district, metros) picked up more than 425 new followers and agency Facebook pages gained 100 new 'likes' (friends). As of this morning, KDOT's combined Twitter accounts have 16,692 followers and the combined Facebook pages have 4,208 likes.



*Secretary Mike King spoke at the Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce membership breakfast meeting on Dec 19. He discussed T-WORKS program funding and specific projects programmed for the Reno County area, and was interviewed by the Hutchinson News after the meeting.*

***There are a few left - first come, first serve***

## KDOT Ceramic Holiday Ornament

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