

# Translines EXPRESS

May 15, 2013

## Public Transit

**Secretary King talks with Topeka Metro general manager Susan Duffy and board chairman Rodd Miller during his morning commute on a Topeka Metro bus.**



Secretary Mike King rode the Topeka Metro bus all of last week as part of Public Service Recognition Week. The Topeka Metro offered free rides to federal, state, county and city employees as part of the recognition. The rides also prepared Secretary King for a planned state transit tour this summer. After riding the Topeka Metro for a week, Secretary King found himself surprised how clean the buses are.

"I was shocked it was on time," he said. "I enjoyed meeting the people on the bus and was pleased and surprised that the patrons knew the name of the drivers that were taking them to work each day."

## Legislature

**Wrap-up:** Legislators returned to Topeka on Monday for the wrap-up session, but as of this morning, some of this year's biggest issues remain unresolved. KDOT leaders are closely watching the debate over continuation of the state's one-cent sales tax passed in 2010 to help get the state through the recession, and the debate on the budget, which is heavily reliant on the tax decision. Six-tenths-cent of the sales tax is scheduled to expire July 1, with the remaining four-tenths-cent going to KDOT to help fund T-WORKS. They will be the last issues to be resolved before adjournment.



## In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree John Haugsness, formerly of Chanute, who died April 27 in Topeka. He worked at KDOT for more than 39 years and was an Electronic Communications Specialist in District Four prior to his retirement.

## District Four

**New leadership:** Wayne Gudmonson has been named the District Four Engineer for southeast Kansas.

Gudmonson started at KDOT in 1980 in the Engineering-in-Training program and became the Project Engineer at the Emporia Construction office. He was then selected as the Construction Engineer at the Independence Area office in 1986 where he worked until he was promoted to Area Engineer in 2006.

"I have had really good mentors through the years and have learned something from all of them," he said. "So I think I will have some good ideas coming into the District office."

He replaces Mike Stringer who was named the District One Engineer earlier this spring. Gudmonson and his wife have two grown children and live in Independence.



**Wayne Gudmonson**

## Weather Records/Trivia

It's been a long time since KDOT has had to close a highway in May because of snow, but it happened May 1 on I-70. While the storm wasn't a record-breaker, here are some weather records the state has achieved from the National Weather Service:



### What is the record high temperature?

121 degrees in Alton on July 24, 1936, and also in Fredonia on July 18, 1936.

### What is the record low temperature?

-40 degrees in Lebanon on Feb. 13, 1905.

### What is the record rainfall in a 24-hour timeframe?

12.59 inches in Burlington on May 31/June 1, 1941.

### What is the record precipitation amount for an entire year?

71.99 inches in Hiawatha in 1973.

### What year had the most recorded tornadoes?

187 tornadoes in 2008.

### What is the least recorded precipitation amount for an entire year?

4.77 inches in Johnson in 1956.



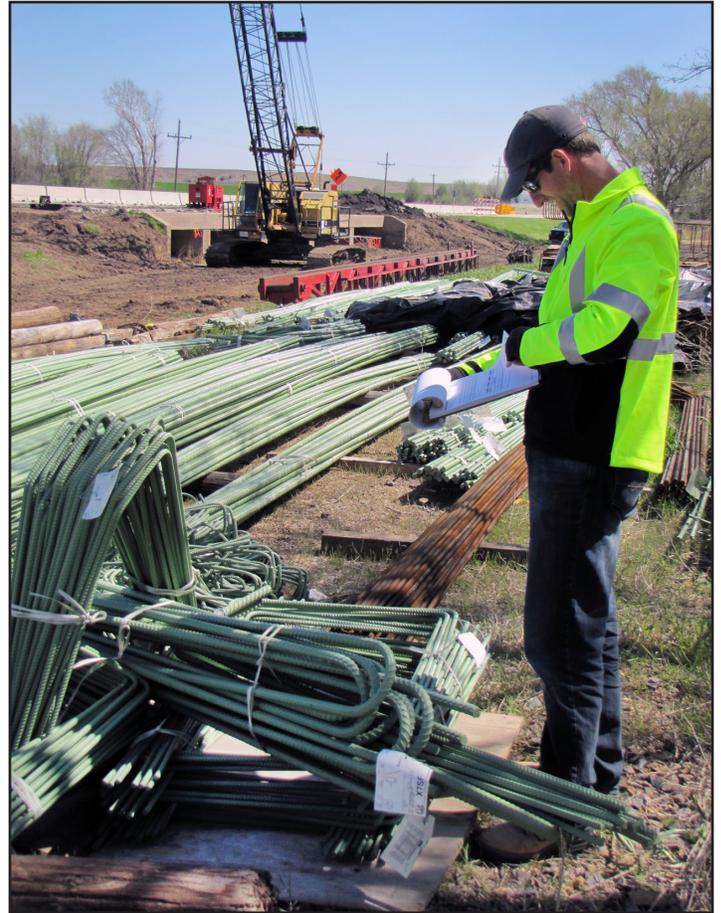
### What is the highest recorded snowfall amount in a season?

102.0 inches, at the National Weather Service in Goodland in the winter of 1979-1980.

### What is the highest recorded snowfall amount in 24 hours?

30 inches in Pratt on March 27-28, 2009.

## District Three



*Engineering Technician Jarek Wagenblast, of the Phillipsburg Construction office, inspects the steel along the bridge replacement job on U.S. 24 about two miles east of Stockton. The bridge is one of two being replaced along U.S. 24 this construction season; the second one five miles west of Stockton. Bridges Inc., of Newton, is the prime contractor on both projects totaling \$695,184 and \$964,140 respectively.*

## Summer Tour

**Secretary's summer tour:** Secretary Mike King begins his summer tour of all six KDOT districts today in southwest Kansas. While touring, he will visit areas and subareas he hasn't been to, participate in special events such as ribbon-cuttings, talk informally with KDOT staff and meet with local stakeholders, partners and legislators. "I love getting out in the state to meet crews, visit projects and get to know some of our partners," King said. "This is what I enjoy most and I plan to make it a summer tradition while I'm Secretary." In District 6, the Secretary will observe a school training program in Bucklin, speak at a Garden City intersection ribbon-cutting, attend a public meeting in Ashland and much more.

## District Two

**Preservation work:** Contractors are gearing up for a variety of overlays in north central Kansas. U.S. 81 in Saline County, I-70 north to Ottawa County and portions of K-106, K-143 and K-41 will receive mill and overlay work. In Ottawa County, U.S. 81 gets an ultra-thin bonded asphalt surface from the Saline County line north to the K-106 junction. K-14 will see a cold mill and overlay from the east junction of US-36/K-14 north to the Kansas/Nebraska state line.

K-18 from the Ottawa/Dickinson County line east to the west junction of K-15/K-18, then east to the east K-15 junction, then north to the Clay Center city limits, along with K-197 from Industry east to the K-15 junction all will receive a 1.5-inch asphalt overlay.

Other overlays on U.S. 24 in Cloud County from the Mitchell County line east to K-189, K-9 from the U.S. 24 junction in Beloit east to the Concordia city limits and U.S. 77 from El Dorado north to K-150 at Marion will be under way soon.

## JOCO Gateway

**JOCO Gateway shortlist selected:** KDOT announced the shortlist of the most highly qualified design-build teams to pursue the phase 2 design/build Johnson County Gateway project last week which involves the I-435/I-35/K-10 interchange.

The three teams, in alphabetical order, are:

- **Ames Construction**

Ames Construction, Inc.; Parsons Transportation Group; TranSystems Corporation; Wilson & Company, Inc.; Ideker, Inc.

- **Gateway Interchange Constructors**

Clarkson Construction Company; Kiewit Infrastructure Co.; HDR Engineering, Inc.; George Butler Associates, Inc.

- **Westport Route Constructors**

Granite Construction Company; Fred Weber, Inc.; CH2M Hill Engineers, Inc.; HW Lochner, Inc.

“We have highly qualified design-build teams proposing on this project and we look forward to learning more about their approach to the project in the coming months,” said Burt Morey, project manager for KDOT’s first major design-build transportation project. “Design-build streamlines project delivery, allowing early collaboration between the contractor and the designer. This early collaboration can result in project innovations, faster project delivery and more predictable costs.” Along with announcing the shortlist, KDOT has revamped the existing project website, [www.jocogateway.com](http://www.jocogateway.com) with enhanced features and better mobile device compatibility.

“The website will be an essential location for information as we move into construction in the summer of 2014. We want to have a site that provides up-to-date information and is easy to use,” Morey said.

## Click it. Or ticket.



**Shawnee County Sheriff Herman Jones says law enforcement across the state will be participating in the ‘Click it. Or ticket.’ campaign.**

**Buckle up:** The difference between wearing a seat belt and not wearing a seat belt was told by two crash survivors at a ‘Click it. Or ticket.’ event on May 9 in Topeka. Ginger Park, who works for KDHE, described how a vehicle she was riding in spun violently out of control and off the road, and ended up coming to rest on the passenger side. No one was injured.

In contrast, Heather Tice spoke from a wheelchair. She described how, at age 15, her neck was broken while riding as a passenger in a car that crashed while avoiding an oncoming vehicle at the crest of a hill on a rural road. “I was tossed around in the back seat like a rag doll,” Tice told reporters, law enforcement officers, and highway safety officials at the media event. “I will be in this chair for the rest of my life.”

Kansas Highway Patrol, county sheriffs’ offices and city



**Heather Tice speaks at the ‘Click it. Or ticket.’ news conference. Tice emphasized the importance of wearing seat belts as she talked about the crash in which her neck was broken.**

police departments across the state will be adding extra shifts from May 20-June 2 specifically to issue tickets for failure to wear seat belts, said Shawnee County Sheriff Herman Jones.

Jones said that after Kansas legislators passed an adult primary seatbelt law in 2010, seatbelt usage rose from 77 percent to 83 percent in 2011.

“Our goal is 100 percent,” Jones said. “As law enforcement, we’re going to be on the front end of this so that what happened to Heather won’t happen again.” More information about Kansas seat belt enforcement can be found at [www.facebook.com/DriveSafeKansas](http://www.facebook.com/DriveSafeKansas) or [www.twitter.com/DriveSafeKansas](http://www.twitter.com/DriveSafeKansas).

## District Five



*Work continues on bridge piers for the 13th Street and I-235 project in Wichita. Surveyors are planning for the horizontal layout of the steel girders.*

### Employee Suggestion Program

**Money matters:** Think you might have a great idea that could save the state some money? Chris Simons works for the Department of Administration and suggested motion activated paper towel dispensers. That idea alone saved Kansas \$10,255 last year. The Employee Suggestion Program rewards employees who suggest an idea that saves the state over a 12-month period. The employee then receives 10 percent of the savings, in Simons case a check for \$1,025, as does the agency in which they work.

### Fishing News

**Catch the million dollar fish:** Kansas anglers can fish for money and prizes at select Kansas lakes this spring and summer. Cabela's is sponsoring the Fish For Millions program where anglers who catch tagged fish are eligible to win some amazing prizes. The Grand Prize fish is worth \$1,000,000 or \$2,000,000, depending if the lucky angler downloads the Cabela's Mobile App on their smartphone prior to fishing. Other prizes include cash, Ranger boats, a Chevrolet Silverado 1500 and Cabela's shopping sprees.

To be eligible, anglers must first register online at [cabelasfishformillions.com](http://cabelasfishformillions.com). The contest began May 4 and ends this summer on July 7.

The following lakes have been stocked with tagged fish for the contest:

- Milford Reservoir
- Clinton Reservoir
- El Dorado Reservoir
- Cedar Bluff Reservoir
- Hillsdale Reservoir
- Perry Reservoir
- Elk City Reservoir
- Big Hill Reservoir
- Toronto Reservoir

**Free fishing:** People can enjoy free fishing days in Kansas on June 1 and 2.

All persons may fish in the waters of Kansas without a valid fishing license that Saturday and Sunday.

## District One



*From left to right, District One Engineer Mike Stringer; Melany Barnes, granddaughter of Virgil Barnes; Steve Achepohl, grandson of Virgil Barnes; Gary Barnes, Barnes family member; Derrick Barger, Royal Valley High School student; Nathan McAlister, Royal Valley Middle School history teacher; and Circleville Mayor Ed Rostetter participated in the sign unveiling ceremony Tuesday.*

A class of Royal Valley Middle School 7th grade students, guided by their history teacher Nathan McAlister, worked together to designate a three-mile stretch of K-79 in Jackson County as the Barnes Brothers Memorial Highway. The new signs were put up after a sign unveiling ceremony Tuesday in Circleville.

The students' project involved researching two brothers from Jackson County, Virgil and Jesse Barnes, natives of Circleville who played major league baseball from 1919 to 1929 and from 1915 to 1927, respectively. The brothers also served their country in World War I. The students first went to the Circleville City Council, then wrote the legislation needed for the memorial signing approval. Rep. Trent LeDoux introduced the legislation in the House and the legislation passed. On March 26, 2012, Gov. Sam Brownback signed H. B. 2612 into law.



*Equipment Operator Ethan Pugh of the Holton Subarea Office installs one of the new Barnes Brothers Memorial Highway signs along K-79 in Jackson County.*

## Freedom Ride

**Freedom ride:** A reminder that motorcyclists are invited to join Gov. Sam Brownback for the 2nd Annual Flint Hills Freedom Ride on June 1.

The 100-mile ride will begin in Topeka with registration at 8 a.m. at the Capitol (preregistration is encouraged, just go to [fhfreedomride.ksoutdoors.com](http://fhfreedomride.ksoutdoors.com)). Riders will travel along the Native Stone Scenic Byway and Flint Hills National Scenic Byway, and end in Council Grove. The cost is \$25 per person.

Proceeds from the event will support five non-profit causes: Brothers in Blue Re-entry, Wounded Warrior Fund (now known as Soldier & Family Assistance Center), Army Community Service (ACS), Native Stone Scenic Byway, and the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway.

*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)*

## District Five

**KDOT staff organized a public meeting on April 30 in Ellinwood to provide information to public officials, residents and business owners about a future U.S. 56 reconstruction project. KDOT staff pictured from left to right and facing the attendees includes Great Bend Area Engineer Barry McManaman, Road Design Engineer Jacob Deiter, Great Bend Construction Engineer Stephen Mazouch, Road Design Leader James Dietzel and Road Squad Leader Ryan Barrett.**



## Anti-Texting



**Above left, Gov. Sam Brownback speaks at the AT&T It Can Wait assembly today at Highland Park High School in Topeka. The event stressed the danger of texting while driving. At right, a student tries to text and drive on the AT&T driving simulator. At top from left are KHP Col. Ernest Garcia, Secretary Mike King and Rep. Harold Lane.**