

# Translines EXPRESS

Oct. 16, 2013

## Amelia Earhart Bridge



*Three, two, one ... and it's down. Above, the former Amelia Earhart bridge over the Missouri River in Atchison is demolished and comes down in just a few seconds on Oct. 9. At right, sections of the bridge are removed from the river after the blast. A second blast took place on Oct. 11 to remove bridge pier 9 on the Kansas side. The final blast is scheduled for Oct. 29 to remove bridge pier 10.*

*For more photos and details on all the blasts, check out the northeast Kansas Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NEKansasKDOT>*



## District Six



*Secretary Mike King answers a question during a town hall style legislative forum in Liberal on Monday. Rep. Reid Petty invited Secretary King to the event, with discussions focusing on the current design work under way for a T-WORKS expansion project on U.S. 54, highway safety, the economic impact of highways and using tolls to pay for highway improvements.*

## Breast Cancer Awareness

**All about pink:** Melissa McMahon and Peggy Gott, KDOT employees in the Olathe Area office, will be participating in the Susan G. Komen 3-Day event in Gilbert, Ariz., in early November. The event helps to raise awareness and donations in the fight against breast cancer with participants walking a total of 60 miles. To prepare, they are walking 30-plus miles on the weekends and up to 10 miles twice during the week. October is designated as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and in support, this edition of Translines is all about pink.

To learn more about McMahon and Gott's efforts, go to <http://www.the3day.org/goto/PrairieRoses>.

## District One



*The ribbon was cut on Oct. 11 to officially open Kansas' first diverging diamond interchange located at I-35 and Homestead Lane in southwest Johnson County. (Left to right in photo) Steve Schmidt, with Burns & McDonnell, presented framed photos of the new interchange to project partners Johnson County Commission Chair Ed Eilert, KDOT Secretary Mike King, Edgerton Mayor Donald Roberts, Gardner Mayor Chris Morrow and Bill Clarkson of Clarkson Construction Co. The new diverging diamond interchange was built to help provide safe and efficient interstate access for the heavy truck traffic generated from the new BNSF Intermodal Facility, Logistics Park, and warehouse facilities (intermodal truck pictured in background).*

## District Four

*At right, KDOT Materials staff from Chanute drills beside the edge line prior to the installation of self-sufficient solar powered LED pavement lights at the U.S. 169/Plummer Street interchange north of Chanute. A total of 600 solar lights will be installed at the Plummer and Chanute/Humboldt Road (old 169) interchanges. The pilot project is a joint effort with Pittsburg State University to help these two interchanges meet lighting standards. Below, an installed solar light.*



## Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day



*Top left, 42 Students Against Destructive Decisions members stand behind the speakers at the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day news conference on Oct. 10 at the Capitol. The students represented the 42 teens who died in fatality crashes in 2012. Above, Eileen Hawley, Communications Director for Gov. Sam Brownback, speaks at the event about losing her sister. At left, students participate in a quick click challenge to show how easily seat belts can be fastened.*



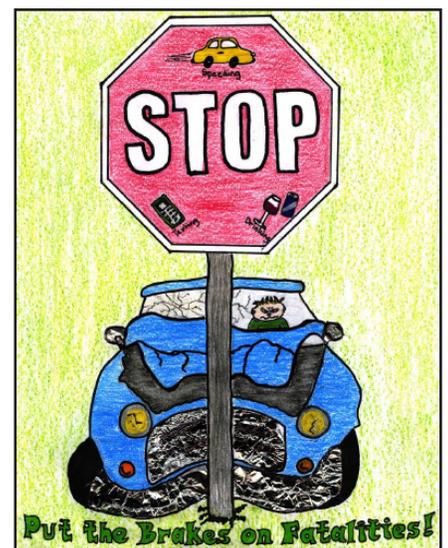
**Statewide poster contest winners:** Seven-year-old Laura Edelman of Sabetha, 10-year-old Reagan de Koning of Axtell and 12-year-old Kallie Leiker of Hays are the statewide winners in the 2013 Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day poster contest for all Kansas kids ages 5-13.

They each received a bicycle and a helmet donated by Safe Kids Kansas for being regional winners. Then as

statewide winners, they also receive a family package from the Great Wolf Lodge water park in Kansas City, Kan., and a \$50 gas card from QuikTrip Corporation. A total of 867 kids across Kansas took the time to think about safety and participated in the contest. Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day is a nationwide effort to increase roadway safety and reduce all traffic fatalities. For more information, go to [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org).



*Above, Laura Edelman of Sabetha; right, Reagan de Koning of Axtell; far right, Kallie Leiker of Hays.*



## Trivia!

### President Dwight Eisenhower

1. Eisenhower grew up in Kansas, but when and where was he born?
2. Who did he run against in 1952 to become President?
3. Who served as his Vice President?
4. What was his wife's maiden name?
5. What did he sign to begin the U.S. Interstate system?
6. Where is the Eisenhower Expressway?

## SLT

**SLT contract:** After decades of planning, protests and legal wrangling, the long-awaited South Lawrence Trafficway is much closer to construction. Emery Sapp & Sons of Columbia, Mo., was awarded the contract this month to build the four-lane, six-mile expansion project. Emery won the contract on a bid of \$129.8 million, significantly less than the \$150 million estimate. Construction is expected to begin in early November.

## In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Kim Huxman who died on Oct. 11 in Hays. He was a Party Chief in KDOT's Survey Section prior to his retirement.

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Oct. 14, 1890, in Denison, Texas
2. Democrat Adlai Stevenson
3. Future President Richard Nixon
4. Mamie Geneva Doud
5. Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956
6. Interstate 290 near Chicago

## District Four



*Two-way traffic flows on the newly constructed eastbound lanes while the westbound lanes are closed for reconstruction on the west end of the U.S. 54 heavy preservation project between Iola and LaHarpe. Koss Construction is contractor on the \$10.4 million project, which should be completed in late 2014.*

## District Five



*Secretary Mike King, center, and KDOT Staff Maintenance Manager Troy Whitworth, second from right, visited JACAM Chemicals in Rice County on Oct. 8 and viewed the rail spur KDOT helped fund under the Economic Development program. From left are JACAM founder and CEO Gene Zaid; president Jason West; far right is special projects manager John Bush.*

## District Three



**Local and state officials as well as citizens from northwest Kansas participated in the I-70 ribbon cutting.**

**Rebuilt I-70 lanes officially opened:** State officials cut the ribbon on Monday to officially open reconstructed I-70 in far western Kansas.

The event at the eastbound Travel Information Center west of Goodland marked the completion of the three-year project to rebuild both east and westbound lanes of I-70 from the Colorado border to a point 12 miles into Kansas. Koss Construction Co., of Topeka was the prime contractor for the \$48 million project.

“Interstate 70 is an important highway, not just for

Sherman County and the state of Kansas – but for the entire nation,” said Kansas Transportation Secretary and Director of the Turnpike Mike King. “It spans nearly coast to coast and carries hundreds of thousands of vehicles and moves hundreds of millions of dollars in commerce every day.”

In addition to Secretary King, speakers included President/CEO of Koss Construction David Howard, State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, and State Rep. Ward Cassidy.



## District Six

**Secretary Mike King joins 6-year-old Bristin Buttry and Bristin’s grandparents and great-grandmother at Kismet Elementary school for the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day poster contest award presentation. Bristin is a first grader at Kismet Elementary School and he was the southwest Kansas winner in the 5- to 7-year-old category. Secretary King was in southwest Kansas as part of a two-day tour of western Kansas that included a stop in Liberal on Monday morning for a legislative forum.**

**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 Six



**A mill and overlay project on U.S. 56 in southwest Kansas will cover 41.5 miles across portions of three counties. The \$5.8 million preservation project began in late August and KDOT expects completion by early November. It runs from just east of Satanta in Stevens County to the Haskell/Gray county line. The photo shows recent work through the town of Satanta in Haskell County.**

## Letters to the Editor

I drive U.S. 75 fairly often and wanted to let you know about a positive experience. Whoever the company that has done the resurfacing south from the Nebraska border has done an excellent job. My last two trips have gone like this. On my way south I had to wait about 10 minutes for a pilot car due to one lane being closed. Four days later I was driving north and the work was done and the road was completely open and in excellent condition! If every road work was done with this speed and quality, people would have very little to complain about. I wish all road construction went this way and you could teach the state of Nebraska a thing or two about how to fix highways. This is the kind of work that needs to be recognized and applauded.

*(e-mail sent to KDOT)*

Dear Tony Trower,

I am writing you on behalf on one of your employees, Mark Woods and his partner, Pam Lewis (Equipment Operators at the Gage Subarea office).

On October 1, we were traveling through your state and experienced our second trailer tire blow-out. After a terrible experience in Page, KS, we were happy to be escorted off the freeway by the highway patrol. He assured us that your Motor Assist Department would come and help us. After almost an hour trying to jack up the trailer, which was too low as a result of driving off the freeway on a damaged wheel, your Mark Woods stopped to assist us. Several local police had driven by without stopping. Mark explained he had a pothole to fix and would then go back to the office and get a different jack. With his help we were able to put the spare on and then receive directions to the local tire store.

So many times the negative actions of people reap the publicity. I would like to thank KDOT and your staff for making an effort to assist us in our trouble.

Sincerely,  
Joan Wilson, Branson, Mo.

On Friday, October 4, my husband and I were driving north on I-35 about 40 miles south of Kansas City through a construction zone. Traffic was down to a single lane under a bridge. We got a flat tire while in the construction zone and were able to make it through and pulled over to the left shoulder (the flat was on the front passenger side). Both traffic lanes opened up at that point.

It was quite frightening to have cars and trucks pulling over to the left lane at the end of the construction zone and speeding up right at our stopping point. My husband started to change the tire and two highway workers walked over to see if they could help. We thanked them and told them we were able to change the tire. They then picked up two road cones and placed them in the left lane next to our car so traffic would merge to the left after they passed us. We were able to finish changing the tire and proceed on our way home to Minnesota.

They provided safety for us to complete the task of changing the tire. Highway workers face such danger every day, working so close to rapidly moving traffic. We got a taste of it standing by our car and seeing it from their viewpoint.

Many, many thanks to them and to all Kansas Department of Transportation highway workers.

Ron & Cindy Pierson  
Vadnais Heights, MN

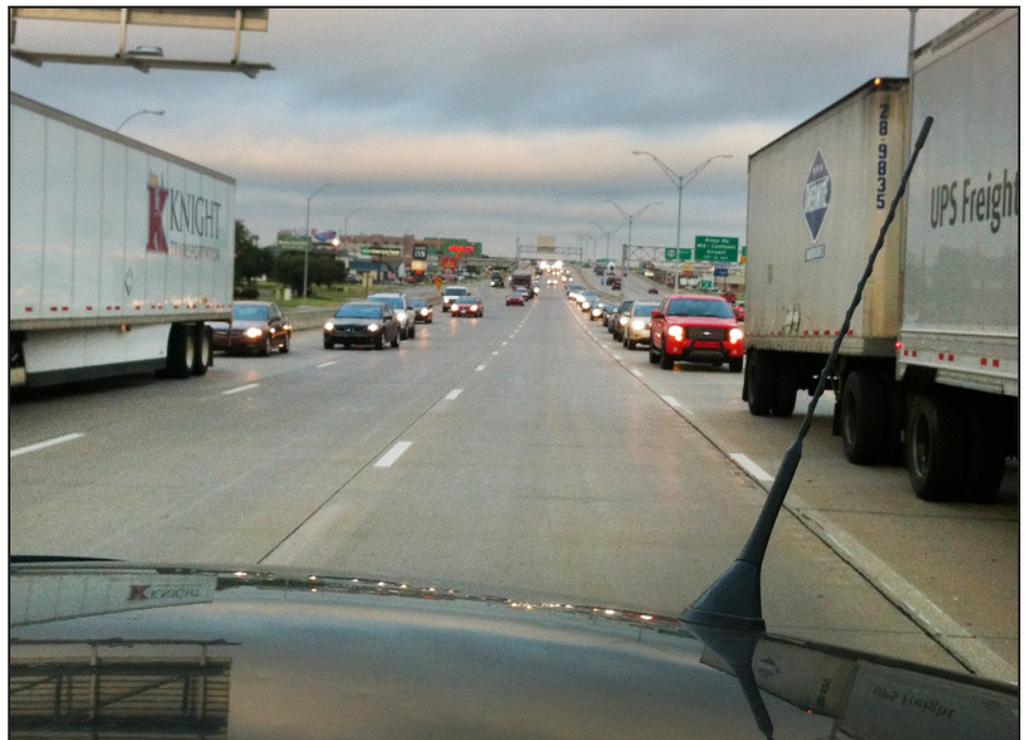
## District One



*It seemed like deja vu on Oct. 3 when the 72nd Street bridge over eastbound I-70 in Kansas City was damaged when it was struck by a dump truck's raised bed. Earlier in August, a separate bridge in the same interchange area was also struck and damaged by a dump truck with raised bed. Repairs are under way for the first bridge and should be completed soon. Similar repairs are being planned on the second bridge and should be done in early December.*

## WICHway

*Paul Misasi, Sedgwick County EMS Quality Improvement Manager, saw firsthand how drivers react to messages on the Wichita ITS dynamic message signs on Oct. 3. Misasi participates in a monthly meeting on traffic incident management with representatives from WICHway, KDOT, KHP, Wichita police and fire, Sedgwick County sheriff and fire, EMS and 911. He sent this picture and wrote, "I stopped at an motor vehicle crash this morning during the morning rush on eastbound Kellogg just east of the Dugan on-ramp. I was in my personal vehicle and I was the only responder on scene. The patient was not critical but the*



*vehicle was not moveable. I advised FD and EMS to respond regular traffic, an emergency response was not necessary. It was then I realized I did not have any lights to warn drivers. I asked the EMS dispatcher over the air to indicate on the electronic sign that there was a center lane accident at my location, if they had not already done so. Within a minute or two, I looked up after assessing the patient and this was my view: a clear lane almost all the way back to Ridge Road."*

## Traffic Safety

**Motorists beware:** Deer can be spotted near our state's roadways any time of the year. However, deer breeding season peaks in mid-November, and this marks the period when deer-vehicle collisions are highest.

According to Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism's biologist Lloyd Fox, the increase in deer-vehicle crashes is strongly influenced by the deer mating season, called "rut." Also during the fall, many deer move to new locations as crops are harvested and leaves fall from trees and shrubs.

Shorter days mean dusk and dawn occur when commuter traffic is highest and when deer are more likely to be on the move. According to KDOT's Steve Swartz, 15 percent, or 8,695, of all traffic crashes in 2012 involved deer, which resulted in two deaths and 322 people injured. Deer-vehicle collisions occur in every Kansas county.

To avoid deer collisions, motorists should:

- ♦ Be especially watchful at dawn and dusk;
- ♦ Watch for more than one - deer seldom travel alone;
- ♦ Reduce speed and be alert near wooded areas or green spaces and near water sources;
- ♦ Don't swerve to avoid hitting a deer – the most serious

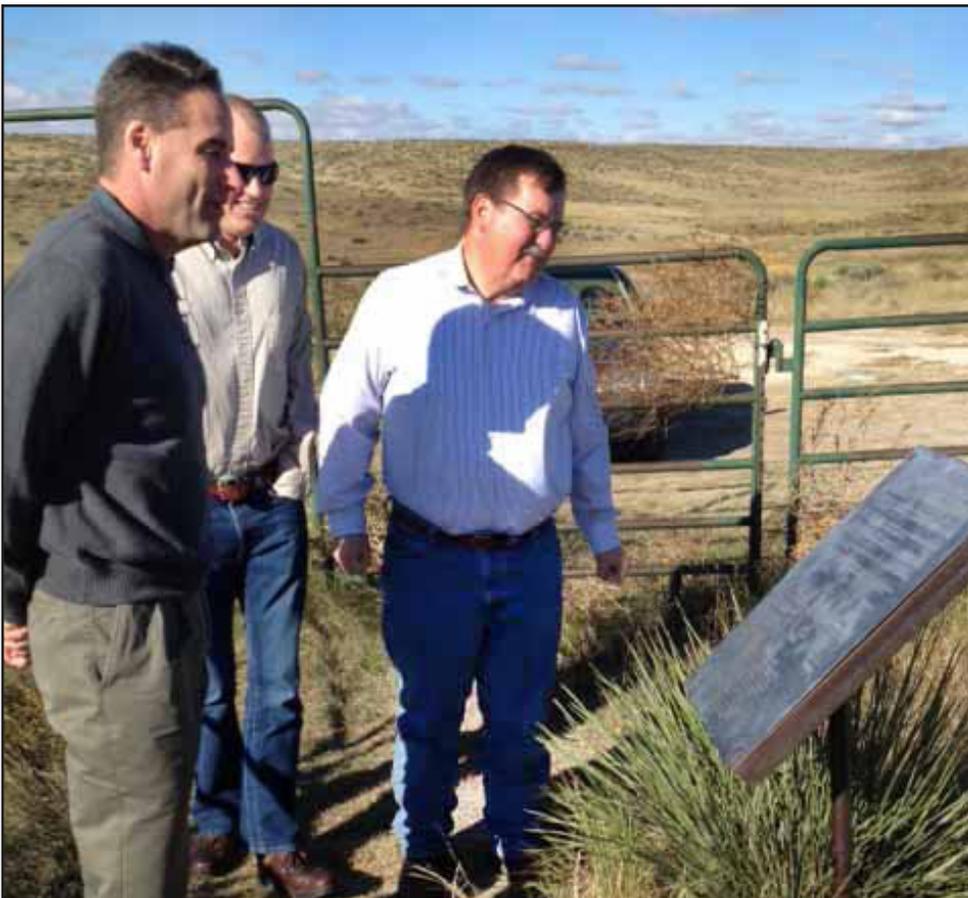


***When you see one deer, expect more as they often travel in groups.***

crashes sometimes occur when motorists swerve and collide with another vehicle or run off the road and hit an obstacle;

- ♦ Heed deer crossing signs;
- ♦ Always wear seat belts and use child safety seats;
- ♦ Use bright lights and slow down whenever the reflective eyes of deer are spotted.

For more information and graphics, go to [http://www.ksdot.org/PDF\\_Files/deerRelease.pdf](http://www.ksdot.org/PDF_Files/deerRelease.pdf).



### District Three

***Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger, District Three Engineer Jeff Stewart, and Secretary Mike King check out the Three Corners boundary marker Tuesday morning located where the borders of Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado meet. While in the area for the I-70 celebration on Monday afternoon, the group made stops in Goodland, Atwood and St. Francis at the KDOT offices as well as at a couple tourist sites.***