

Translines EXPRESS

Sept. 18, 2013

Milestones



KDOT employees celebrating 40 or 50 years of service came to the State Capitol on Sept. 6 to celebrate their achievement. From left to right, and pictured with Deputy Secretary/State Transportation Engineer Jerry Younger (center), are Allen Grunder from Winfield, Richard Olmstead from Marysville, Larry Price from Marysville and Mike Mitchell from Headquarters. Janet Byrum from Garden City was unable to attend. All are celebrating 40 years of service in 2013 except Grunder who is celebrating 50 years of service and retired earlier this year.

District Four



The heavy preservation project on 5.4 miles of U.S. 54 from Iola to LaHarpe began this summer with rock excavation on the eastbound lanes. The project should be finished by November 2014. Activity is occurring on the eastern and western ends of the project. Koss Construction of Topeka is the contractor on the \$10.4 million project.

KTA

Brand manager:

Jennifer Szambecki has joined the Kansas Turnpike Authority as brand manager and will be working with KTA public relations and KDOT public affairs to ensure a positive and consistent



Jennifer Szambecki

transportation brand experience for the tourists and taxpayers of Kansas. Jennifer was most recently associate vice president and brand director at Greteman Group, and worked prior to that in non-profit fund raising, events and marketing. She is a proud Wichita State Shocker and resides in Wichita with husband, Brant Benninga, 6-year-old step-daughter, Emily and dog, Izzy.

Transportation Summit



Gov. Sam Brownback stressed the importance of transportation to the state's economy at the Kansas Transportation Summit.

Private/Public Partners: Nearly 300 Kansans from the private and public sectors gathered at Emporia State University on Sept. 5 for the Kansas Transportation Summit. The participants heard Gov. Sam Brownback moderate a panel discussion by business and transportation leaders on the importance of transportation to their companies and the Kansas economy. The luncheon keynote speaker was professionally-trained futurist and transportation expert Garry Golden of Brooklyn, N.Y. Golden talked about some industry trends that will impact the future of transportation and how Kansas can be prepared to respond to these developments. The afternoon was devoted to breakout sessions on topics ranging from funding to tolling to economic development. Summaries of the breakout sessions will be distributed to the participants and posted on the KDOT website later this month.

District Five

Brent Terstriep, Assistant Engineer for District Five, asks a transportation trivia question to visitors at the KDOT booth at the 100th annual Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson. KDOT and the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office combined efforts on the backdrop displays to highlight 100 years of traffic and highway safety.



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

Play Ball!

Take me out to the ballgame:

KDOT Models and Forecasting Manager David Schwartz got to check one more thing off his bucket list on Monday night. Schwartz sang the National Anthem at the Kansas City Royals-Cleveland Indians baseball game.

This February, he took his kids with him while he tried out at the fourth annual Royals Fans Got Talent event and was one of the 18 people selected to participate during the year. "It was kind of intimidating," Schwartz said. "I've sung the National Anthem many times, but when you get down to it and sing for those judges, I was worried that my voice was going to crack."

He has lots of experience singing as he and his wife have led worship at their church for 14 years, "but at the game, this was two orders of magnitude bigger than what I sing in front of on Sundays." One reason Schwartz decided to try out this spring was



KDOT Models and Forecasting Manager David Schwartz sang the National Anthem at Monday night's Royals-Indians baseball game. Photo courtesy of the Kansas City Royals.

because he wanted his parents to be able to see him sing at the stadium. "It was a blast," he said. "I love the Royals and it's so fun to see them contending this year."

Winter Maintenance

De-icing strategy - cheese brine: From the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel - It's a road Milwaukee's been down before: What can the Department of Public Works add to rock salt to help de-ice streets in the winter?

While rock salt is plentiful and inexpensive, some have raised concerns about its long-term effects on roads and the environment. So, this winter, crews will sprinkle in a little cheese brine, the liquid waste product left over in the cheese making process. The only downside, the city says, is its distinctive odor.

Milwaukee has experimented with alternative de-icing products before, such as beet juice in 2009, which when mixed with salt in the city's trucks turned into something resembling oatmeal, the Journal Sentinel (<http://bit.ly/18SH4pm>) reported. The city has also used a molasses-type product, but residents complained they were tracking the sticky stuff into their homes.

Polk County, in far western Wisconsin, has used cheese brine since 2009. Officials there say salt trucks spread 30 percent less road salt when using the cheese brine mixture. They also said using the cheese byproduct saved \$40,000 in 2009-2010.

Traffic Safety

State and national officials including Gov. Sam Brownback, Health and Human Resources Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and U.S.

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx will participate in the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day 20-day series of blogs highlighting traffic safety.

Kansans will also share blogs on KDOT's BlogSpot website. The blogs began last week and lead up to the national safety awareness day, Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day on Oct. 10.

They will be posted each week day at <http://ksdotblog.blogspot.com/>.



IHEEP

KDOT hosted the 55th Annual International Highway Engineering Exchange Program (IHEEP) conference Sept. 9 to 11 in Overland Park. At right, Corey Hansen, Sprint Briefing Executive (right), speaks to KDOT employees during a tour of Sprint.



KDOT employee Ben Ware tries out the latest Google glasses while others watch at the IHEEP conference.

In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Marvel Cochran who died Sept. 6 in Topeka. She was a Procurement Office with 35 years of service.

District Four



APAC Missouri was contractor on a KDOT project to resurface U.S. 59 from the Oklahoma-Kansas state line north to Oswego. The action was a surface recycle and one-inch overlay, with striping by the District Four Paint Crew. The finished roadway is seen looking north from the state line.

Photo Contest

Go green: KDHE invites Kansans to participate in the third annual Kansas Green Teams photo contest, celebrating the beauty and unique character of our state. Winning photos will be displayed on the home page of the Kansas Green Teams website on a rotating basis. Both amateur and professional photographers can participate. All photos must be in color and taken in Kansas within the last three years. The photo subject must be relevant to Kansas in one of the contest categories - landscape, wildlife, recreation, historical buildings and monuments and weather. Photos may be submitted as prints or in digital format - for contest rules visit <http://www.kansasgreenteams.org/photography-contest-2013>. Entries must be postmarked or received by Oct 10. The Kansas Green Teams program began in 2007 to promote and support environmentally responsible practices in your daily routine at work and at school. If you and your organization are interested in joining Kansas Green Teams, please visit www.kansasgreenteams.org.

District One



The westbound lanes of U.S. 24 were opened to traffic last Friday.

U.S. 24 nears completion: Last Friday, the new westbound U.S. 24 lanes from U.S. 24 from Muddy Creek Bridge in Grantville to east of the K-237 junction in Jefferson County were opened to traffic. The 5.3-mile reconstruction project began in June 2012 on the eastbound lanes. Work included removing and replacing the eastbound and westbound pavement, shoulder work, drainage work and adding a right turn lane at Clark Road. Crews are now completing clean-up work and plan to have the entire project finished and opened to unrestricted traffic in October. Ideker, Inc., of St. Joseph, Mo., is the contractor on the \$8.157 million project.

District Two

Windy situation: What happens when a semi-trailer hauling a section of tower for a wind generator loses its load and flips in the median of your local section of U.S. highway? The KDOT Washington Subarea crew found out when that scenario became reality Sept. 4 to 6.

The crash took place on Sept. 4 on the four-lane section of U.S. 36 in eastern Washington County. The Subarea crew worked with the sheriff's deputies controlling traffic until the load was confined to the median of the highway. Arraignments were made to have two cranes lift the tower section onto another rig the following morning so traffic control was set up, but the cranes never came.



A crash on U.S. 36 affected traffic for three days.

On Sept. 6, the Subarea crew once again closed the eastbound passing lane from the U.S. 36/K-148 junction east a half-mile while the wreckage was removed. Once done, the passing lane was reopened to all traffic.

Trivia!

Route 66

1. How many states does famous highway Route 66 pass through? Can you name them all?
2. Where does Route 66 begin? Where does it end?
3. Which state has the shortest section of Route 66?
4. How long is the entire stretch of Route 66?
5. Route 66 is also known as - ?

Answers are below

Letters to the Editor

Dear KDOT:

I just wanted to send this email to let you know how much I appreciate the rumble strips on our highways.....on the edge of the road and the center. I was coming home from Garden City traveling north to Scott City and was caught in a downpour of 4 or so inches of rain and the rumble strips on the side of the road were a great reminder of where I was at on the road. It was hard to see and because there was a vehicle ahead of me and behind me...

I felt that I needed to keep driving. This is just one story of THANKS to the rumble strips.....great idea.

Warmest regards,
Marletta Wilkens,
Healy, Kansas

Dear KDOT,

I want to thank you so much for filling in the "craters" on east bound I-435 (just as you get onto I-435 from east bound K-10)!!!

When I discovered you'd been hard at work smoothing out these molar-jarring potholes....well, I just had to write & say THANK YOU!!!!

You guys are wonderful!!!! (Really!)

Signed,
One very appreciative motorist
(Angie C. Young)

Must compliment you and the people of Kansas for the GREAT rest areas along I-70! From the RV dumps, to the beautiful mowed grass, to the recorded messages, to the cleanliness of the facilities, you're a 10 plus! I know it takes a lot of effort and money to keep the areas in such great condition, and for that I THANK YOU!....wait

District One



KDOT Planning and Development Director Chris Herrick speaks at the KC Scout news conference.

A decade of service: The Kansas and Missouri Departments of Transportation celebrated the 10-year anniversary of KC Scout on Sept. 6 at an open house and news conference in Lee's Summit, Mo. KC Scout, which was launched in 2003, is the only bi-state intelligent transportation system in the country. KDOT and MoDOT jointly fund Scout, and it is estimated that for every \$1 spent on operations, \$8 in benefits are provided to motorists and agencies. Scout manages more than 160 miles of highways using 300 closed circuit TV cameras, 42 dynamic message signs and several thousand congestion detector stations. Scout also provides messaging on I-70 from St. Louis to Kansas City on the MoDOT side and from the Kansas state line to the Colorado border for KDOT. Scout and its Incident Management Program was selected as the Best ITS project in the Heartland in 2013 by ITS Heartland.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Eight states - Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California.
2. Chicago, Ill., to Santa Monica, Calif.
3. Kansas, with only 13 miles.
4. 2,448 miles.
5. "Mother Road," "The Main Street of America" and "The Will Rogers Highway."

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