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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

News Contact: Barb Blue (785) 291-3818, cell (785) 817-4180; [bblue@ksdot.org](mailto:bblue@ksdot.org)

## **Kansas 511 now offers personalized traveler information**

Just in time for the holidays, the Kansas Department of Transportation has made it easier than ever for travelers to get the latest information about their route to work, school or holiday gatherings.

Travelers may now subscribe to free text or e-mail message alerts about current conditions on the routes they travel. Subscribers to My Kansas 511 select the route, the time of the day and the type of information they want, such as road closures or National Weather Service warnings. To subscribe, visit [www.kandrive.org](http://www.kandrive.org), KDOT's traveler information portal, and select "Plan Your Drive" or "Get More Travel Info."

"My Kansas 511" is just one of a number of new content options and features now available through the Kansas 511 phone system.

**New Content** includes:

- Kansas City Traffic info – includes road condition, construction, incident/event and speed/congestion info for the greater metro area, including Kansas and Missouri
- National Weather Service Warnings (tornado; severe thunderstorm; flash flooding; blizzard; winter storm and ice storm)
- Rest Area locations/information
- Silver Alerts (in addition to AMBER Alerts)

Other **New Features** include:

- System Menu – new features and design
- Call Transfers – provides the ability to access information across the state for the following info from 511: 1) transit info in Kansas City, Lawrence, Topeka, Salina and

North Central Rural; 2) Tourism; 3) Central Permitting Office for commercial vehicles; and 4) Motorist Assist in Kansas City, Kan.; Topeka, Wichita, Salina, Southwest Kansas, Southeast Kansas, Northwest Kansas and the Kansas Turnpike Authority)

- City or town segment location assistance – allows the caller to select a city/town and the system automatically provides the route segment where the city/town is located.
- Emergency messages – may now be interruptible (not interruptible in the past) and allows repeat callers to bypass the message.

A single call to 5-1-1 from any phone anytime, from anywhere in Kansas or 1-866-511-KDOT (5368) from anywhere in the U.S. will get you all of the information you need to plan your trips – or provide updates as you travel. Information includes route-specific road conditions, work zone information, including detours and closed roads, and travel-related weather information.

KDOT also encourages travelers to use other free traveler information services to assist them with trip planning or in staying informed as they travel:

- **KanDrive**, [www.kandrive.org](http://www.kandrive.org), KDOT's traveler information gateway for Kansas, provides essential information you need to plan your trip. KanDrive features include **camera images**, **motion camera** and **electronic sign message views**, an **interactive 511 map of Kansas roads**, **road conditions** and **work zones** and **links to Metro Traffic Management Center websites** (Kansas City ([www.kcscout.org](http://www.kcscout.org)) and Wichita ([wichway.org](http://wichway.org)) and **other helpful transportation resources**, such as Kansas Turnpike information, Kansas Byways, weather information and links to travel info in other states. RSS feeds and GeoRSS feeds to the 511 map (<http://511.ksdot.org>) are also available.
- The **511 Mobile** site at <http://511mm.ksdot.org> provides map, camera and electronic message sign views, road conditions, work zone and event information and links to weather. The site is accessible from multiple devices, including iPhones, Droids and Windows mobile devices, Version 6.0 and higher. Any devices not compatible with the new application will be able to access text information only for road conditions and work zones.

KDOT also reminds travelers to be prepared for driving this winter. Knowledge and preparation are essential to minimizing winter weather driving hazards.

Drivers should use basic safe driving habits at any time of the year – buckling up and safely securing children in safety seats, driving alert and sober, operating your vehicle at a safe and legal speed, and avoiding driver distractions such as talking or texting on your cell phone.

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This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information, 700 SW Harrison St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.

Click below to connect to KDOT's Social Networks:

