



Preliminary data shows alcohol-related traffic fatalities in Kansas have been more than cut in half since an ignition interlock law went into effect in July 2011. Photo by KDOT Photographic Services.

Traffic Safety

Fatalities Drop: A year after legislation was passed requiring an ignition interlock for those convicted of their first drunk driving offense, alcohol-related traffic fatalities are down in Kansas. Preliminary data between July 1, 2011, — when the state's new DUI ignition interlock law went into effect — and June 30, 2012, shows 59 alcohol-related traffic fatalities, compared with 125 and 137, respectively, for the previous two years during the same timeframe. Kansas drivers with a DUI conviction now must

install an ignition interlock, which requires drivers to blow into a device to show their blood-alcohol level before their vehicle will start. Under the new law, first-time DUI offenders must use an ignition interlock for a year; drivers with multiple DUI convictions must use it longer. According to KDOT Traffic Safety Manager Pete Bodyk, there's no way to know for sure if the drop in alcohol-related fatalities was a direct result of the new law, but, he said, "that's the only thing that's new so hopefully we'll see a trend."

Condolences



Jeffrey Harris

KDOT Employee Killed: Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT employee Jeffrey D. Harris who died Monday following a crash in Grant County. Harris died from injuries resulting from a vehicle rollover on K-25, about 11 miles south of Ulysses in Grant County. The accident occurred shortly after 9 a.m. Monday. "We offer our heart-felt

condolences to Jeff's family and friends during this difficult time," said KDOT Secretary Mike King. "Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they try to cope with this tragedy." Harris, 43, was driving a 2005 KDOT International dump truck and was pulling a trailer at the time of the crash. According to the Kansas Highway Patrol, the vehicle went off the side of the road and entered the east ditch. Harris over-corrected and the truck went into the west ditch rolling 1 ½ times before coming to rest on the passenger side. Harris, from Hugoton, was an Equipment Operator Senior and had worked at KDOT for 14 years.

Local Consult

Statewide Meetings Set: KDOT is preparing for another round of Local Consult meetings around the state. The purpose is primarily to update citizens and community leaders on the T-WORKS program and projects in their regions. Participants will also hear an overview of modal programs and local funding opportunities and be asked to participate in a survey on alternate ways (besides motor fuel taxes) to finance transportation projects. The schedule of Local Consult meetings is as follows:

September 24	D-2	Salina
September 25	D-3	Hays
September 26	D-6	Dodge City
September 27	D-5	Hutchinson
October 1	KC Metro	Olathe
October 2	D-1	Topeka
October 3	D-4	Chanute
October 11	Wichita Metro	Wichita

National News

Fewer Gen Yers Driving: Explained by laziness, use of social media and general fear of driving, more 16- to 34-year-olds are postponing getting their licenses and when they do drive, they aren't going as far, according to a national story. From 2001 to 2009, the average annual number of vehicle-miles traveled dropped 23 percent from 10,300 to 7,900. Meanwhile, older people are driving more. In 2008, those aged 70 and older made up the largest group of drivers on the road, more than 10 percent, which was slightly higher than those in their 40s or 50s.

Aviation

Aviation Gets A Boost: The Kansas Department of Transportation is offering relief to help save airport projects in this construction season. The Congressional reauthorization of the FAA resulted in an unexpected requirement that airport sponsors immediately double their match share for current projects. The Kansas Airport Improvement Program (KAIP) is offering grants to communities that would be required to defer or cancel projects due to this change. It is estimated that KDOT's assistance could preserve up to \$20 million in Federal projects that were in jeopardy and are planned, bid or underway in this construction season. In the first 24 hours after making these grants available, Aviation received \$800,000 in requests representing \$16 million in total project costs and an estimated economic impact of \$50 million. Click [here](#) for more information.



The Kansas Airport Improvement Program is offering community grants to help with facility improvements. Photo by KDOT Photographic Services.

Infrastructure Investment

Debating Infrastructure Investment: More than 30,000 junior and senior high school debaters from across the nation will focus on the issue of "transportation infrastructure investment" this school year. The National Forensic League's annual policy debate topic asks whether the U.S. government should substantially increase its transportation infrastructure investment. Students will research and debate the issue at local, state, regional

and national competitions. AASHTO is building a web page that could serve as an informational resource for students interested in learning more about infrastructure investment. In addition, AASHTO will provide judges and guest speakers for special events throughout the school year. More information on the National Forensic League and the national debate topic is available online at <http://www.nflonline.org/StudentResources/Topics>.



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

As the sun rises, a truck pumps concrete during the construction of a box culvert bridge on K-181 near Hunter in Mitchell County. Photo by Claudette Noble, Belleville Engineering Technician Senior. Send us a photo you have taken of arts, museums, nature, restaurants, etc. to translines@ksdot.org

Access Management

New Policy Presented: The KDOT Access Management Unit is putting the finishing touches on the Access Management Policy update. Access Management staff recently presented the new policy at the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Access Management Conference in Dallas. The conference was held in conjunction with the

TxDOT Transportation Planning Conference and it was a great opportunity to show KDOT's national peers the good work being done by the KDOT Access Management Unit. Next steps include presenting the Policy to KDOT leadership and conducting a series of training sessions for District, Area and HQ staff.

Employee News

Barrett Nets Two Medals: A KDOT employee has won a gold and silver medal at this year's Kansas Sunflower State games in Topeka. Ryan Barrett, Road Squad Leader in Design, brought home the medals competing in the intermediate division of tennis competition. Barrett and his teammate easily took first in the doubles competition beating a team from Topeka in the finals, 6-2, 6-3. In men's singles, Barrett had more of a challenge, but defeated his opponent from Kansas City, 7-5, 6-7, 11-9. The Sunflower State Games is Kansas' largest amateur sports festival and is held every July.



Ryan Barrett, left, Road Squad Leader in Design, and his partner Jimmy Calderon show off their gold medals after winning the doubles competition at the Sunflower State games in Topeka.

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A grant to reconstruct the I-70 and K-7 interchange was one of five projects that recently received federal funding in Kansas. A total of \$3.34 million will go toward preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation and construction of the west half of the Wyandotte County interchange. Photo by KDOT Photographic Services.

Federal Funding

Five Projects Funded: The Federal Highway Administration has announced \$5.45 million in 2012 discretionary funding grants for five projects in Kansas. The project to receive the largest funding is in Wyandotte County for the reconstruction of the I-70 and K-7 interchange – a project necessary to reduce traffic congestion, improve access and support future economic development. Grant funding of \$3.34 million will go toward preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation and construction of the west half of the interchange. Two projects will go toward supporting the national scenic

byways program in the state. Also included are improvements at the Fort Larned National Historic Site and a fitness and school trail in the city of Hiawatha. The national discretionary program represents special funding categories where the FHWA solicits for candidates and selects projects for funding based on applications received. Nationwide, more than \$363 million in grant funding will be allocated for all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Click [here](#) to see a description of the Kansas projects.

Condolences

Condolences to the family and friends of a 22-year-old roadside worker who died Sunday when a vehicle driven by a Topeka man hit him in a construction zone on Interstate 470. Curtis James Harlan of Arma died on impact following the 6:05 a.m. collision, according to the Kansas Highway Patrol. Harlan was an employee with R.A. Knapp Construction Inc., a Kansas City contractor hired by KDOT to work on a pavement repair project on I-470 in Topeka. The KHP report doesn't specify the cause of Sunday's collision, saying simply that the vehicle struck the Knapp employee, "who was working on the roadway."

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Construction workers pave shoulders recently for new K-61 near Inman. The four-lane roadway between McPherson and Hutchinson will be dedicated on Friday. Photo by KDOT Photographic Services.

Coming Up

Dedication Set: Formal discussion of a four-lane K-61 between Hutchinson and McPherson goes back nearly two decades. Maybe longer. But Friday, the long wait will be over when the 22-mile new highway is dedicated. The \$110 million construction project was the last project to be let under the 1999 Comprehensive Transportation Program and is one of the last CTP projects to be completed. The project was derailed at one point by funding issues, which were resolved when Kansas received its piece of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Designers and builders had to overcome sink holes, sand hills and prairie dogs. And in doing so, they have delivered, as promised, a four-lane road that will enhance safety, make travel more efficient for the 8,000 vehicles that travel the road daily and provide a link between Hutchinson and the interstate system at McPherson. Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger will be among the speakers at the 10 a.m. ceremony at Union Valley School in Hutchinson. KDOT's design leader for the project is Bob Hirt.

KLINK Projects Announced: Thirty-five projects totaling \$11.7 million in overall cost and \$6.3 million in state funds have been selected for funding under the Kansas Department of Transportation's 2014 city connecting links (KLINK) resurfacing program. "KLINK projects are important to communities statewide providing funding to address roadway surfacing needs on city connecting links of the State Highway System," said Secretary Mike King. "Projects range in scope from surface replacement and overlay to minor patching and joint repair." Through the Local Partnership Program, the state's participation in the cost of the project is 75 percent for cities with a population of less than 10,000 or 50 percent for cities with a population of 10,000 or greater, up to a maximum of \$200,000. Click [here](#) to see a list of the KLINK projects.

KDOT Praised

Dear Mr. King: A short note to compliment and thank you for your impressive rest areas along I-70. From Colorado, we frequently travel I-70 in a motorhome and particularly appreciate the extra "parking loops" you have built into many of your rest areas. If "resting" overnight, these loops allow us to move away from the semi-trucks who frequently come and go at all hours. This week we stayed overnight in the westbound rest area near WaKeeney and found that it even had a sanitary dump for RVs. The trees provided welcome shade from the hot evening sun. Going east in June, we enjoyed an "overnight" at your rest area near Russell. Before leaving in the early A.M., I was trying to clean my RV windshield and one of your maintenance men came over to tell me that I could use his sprinkler hose. We've traveled the USA in various motorhomes for 15+ years, and I must tell you that your rest areas with the added RV-friendly loops are the best. Please pass our thanks to your design and maintenance personnel. Thank you, Bob Sherrill



This photo was submitted by District Five Public Affairs Manager Martin Miller. The Kansas Underground Salt Museum at Hutchinson is 650 feet underground in salt deposits that are 275 million years old. Send us a photo of your favorite local attraction —nature, museums, restaurants, arts, etc. to translines@ksdot.org

Route 66

Come Travel the Road: New brochures featuring the latest historic byway are now available. The brochure is packed with information on how people can get their kicks on Kansas Route 66 Historic Byway. Many events and attractions are highlighted in the brochure such as the “4 Women on the Route” welcome center in Galena that was once a gas station and is now home to “Tow Tater,” the inspiration for “Tow Mater” from the movie “Cars.” People can also drive across the last remaining Marsh arch bridge on the highway near Riverton. The historic byway is 13.2 miles long in southeast Kansas and stretches through the towns of Galena, Riverton and Baxter Springs. For copies of the brochure, contact Sue Stringer, KDOT Local Byway Liaison, at 785-296-8669. For details on all Kansas Byways, click [here](#).

Learn about all the things to see and places to visit along the Kansas Route 66 Historic Byway in a new KDOT brochure. At right, one of the spots is the Rainbow Marsh arch bridge near Riverton. Photo by KDOT Photographic Services.



Headquarters

Workforce Reduction. About 40 members of the KDOT headquarters staff received layoff notices Monday as part of an effort to maximize resources and reorganize staffing. "Like all state agencies, KDOT is committed to serving Kansans in the most effective and efficient manner possible. This restructuring of headquarters will allow the agency to be fiscally re-

sponsible while continuing to focus on its core responsibility of providing a statewide transportation system that meets the needs of Kansans now and in the future," said Secretary Mike King. There are no plans at this time for additional layoffs, he said. The number of layoffs is less than 5 percent of headquarters staff.

Traffic Safety

New DUI Law: Steve Howe, Johnson County district attorney, was among leaders who urged legislators to toughen Kansas drinking and driving laws. Howe and others told reporters at a news conference at Kansas City, Kan., police headquarters last Thursday that the state's new "refusal" law will go a long way toward making the state's streets and highways safer for everyone.

"Professional drunks would repeatedly drink and drive and were becoming a great threat to the community," Howe said. "Those who refuse to take the breath test now will suffer the same penalty as if they took the breath test and were deemed to have been drinking and under the influence. Professional drunks no lon-



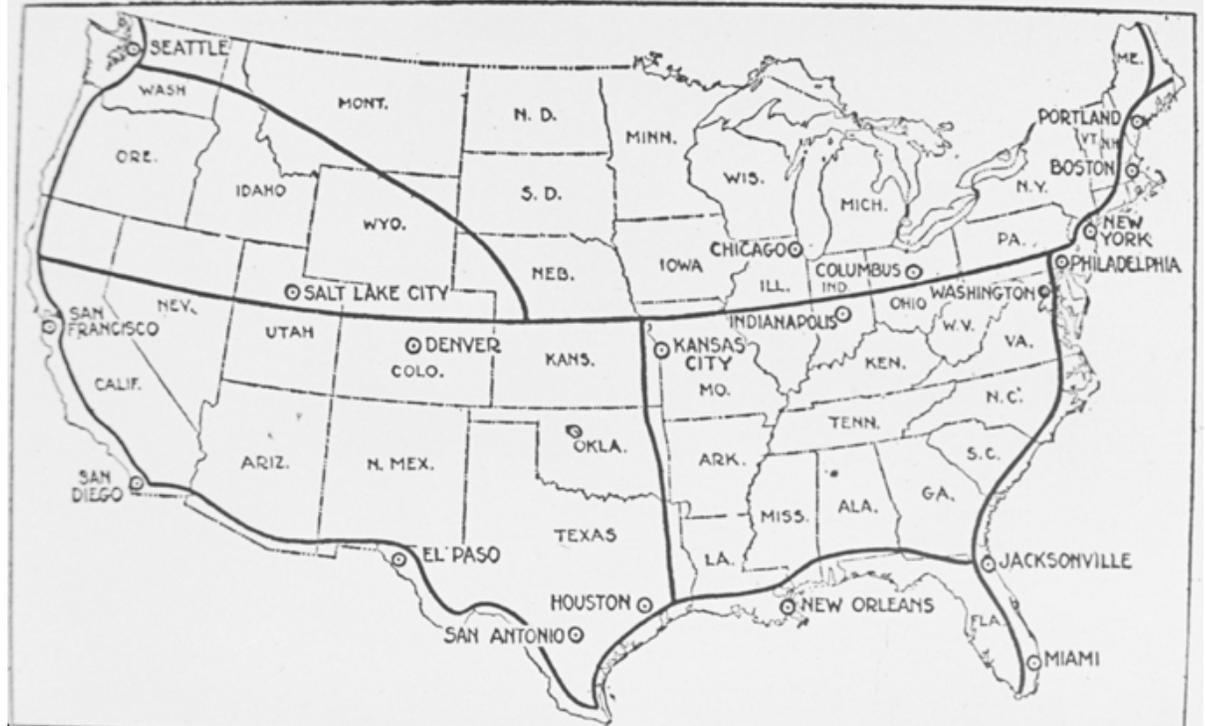
Kansas City, Kan., police officers attend the news conference detailing the new DUI law.

ger have the opportunity to skirt the law." Pete Bodyk, manager of KDOT's Traffic Safety Section, said law enforcement officers statewide would be participating in extra enforcement of DUI laws starting today and continuing to Sept. 3.

A contractor repairs a bridge over K-96 near Maize by heating areas on the steel girders, then coaxing the steel to return to its proper position. The bridge was struck by an unidentified truck in July. Flame On of Snohomish, Wash., is the contractor. Photo by Tom Hein, District Five Public Affairs Manager.



Future Concrete Highways of the Nation



A Look Back

This map from 1928 shows the routes Sen. Coleman Dupont envisioned for 200-foot-wide concrete highways across the United States.

Future Concrete Highways: Eighty-four years ago Sen. Coleman DuPont of Delaware had a vision. He envisioned future generations whizzing across the United States on 200-foot-wide concrete highways built by the government without a single crossing to slow traffic. According to the bill he introduced in August of 1928, the roads would be termed military highways and as such would be constructed under the entire supervision of the federal government. The roads were planned for future speedy and heavy traf-

fic. Four strips, each 50 foot wide were contemplated. The two outside strips would be intended for trucks and other traffic going at 30 miles an hour or less, while the two center strips would be for fast traffic. The unusual part of the bill was that none of the highways was to pass through any town of more than 2,500 population. The highways were to skirt cities such as Philadelphia, New York, Indianapolis, Denver and San Francisco rather than delay traffic by becoming part of them.

Kendra Stevenson took this scenic photo of a windmill and abandoned farmhouse in Graham County while conducting a Road Safety Audit field review. Please send your scenic photos to translines@ksdot.org



K-61 Dedication



The John Neal Memorial Highway, which is in Reno County north of Hutchinson, was dedicated at the K-61 ribbon cutting/dedication ceremony. John Neal was a Hutchinson community leader who served as Chairman of the Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce's Transportation Coalition and was a tireless advocate for highway improvements in the Hutchinson area. The K-61 project was approved for funding in 2000, but Neal died in 2005, before construction began.



Above, Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger talks about growing up near Hutchinson and personally understanding the benefits of expanding K-61 to four lanes during a dedication ceremony in Hutchinson Friday. The 23-mile expansion project began in 2009 and stretches from McPherson to Hutchinson.

Unique Names



You Live Where? A new poll across seven English-speaking countries has chosen Toad Suck, Arkansas, as having the “most unfortunate” town name in the U.S. Toad Suck, an unincorporated community in Perry County, took top dishonors, edging out Climax, Georgia, and Boring, Oregon, according to a news release. The poll was conducted by the genealogy site Findmypast.com, and polled respondents in the U.S., U.K., Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Toad Suck reportedly takes its name from a once popular drinking location for boaters on the Arkansas River. The toadsuck.org site explains in more detail, “While they waited, they refreshed themselves at the local tavern there, to the dismay of the folks living nearby, who said: ‘They suck on the bottle ‘til they swell up like toads.’ Hence, the name Toad Suck.”

The Top 10 list was voted in the following order:

1. Toad Suck, Ark.
2. Climax, Ga.
3. Boring, Ore.
4. Hooker, Okla.
5. Assawoman, Md.
6. Belchertown, Mass.
7. Roachtown, Ill.
8. Loveladies, N.J.
9. Squabbletown, Calif.
10. Monkey's Eyebrow, Ky.

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Oversized Load



A KC-135E Stratotanker travels along Topeka Boulevard to its new home at Forbes Field in Topeka.

Roadway Becomes Temporary Runway: While it didn't go down the street under its own power, a KC-135E Stratotanker from the Kansas Air National Guard took a trip along Topeka Boulevard on Aug. 22 to its new home at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard at Forbes Field in Topeka. Planning the route was tricky as the jet weighs 60 tons, is 136 feet long, has a 130-foot wingspan and is 38 feet high. This jet was one of the first assigned to the 190th Air Refuel-

ing Group in 1977. It was used in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and flew more 10,000 hours on deployments before its final mission in 2007. KDOT and others assisted in traffic control. "It's nice that we will be able to keep this part of Kansas National Guard history where future generations will be able to see and appreciate it," said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general.

Social Media

Pilot Program Ends: The pilot program initiated late last year to allow KDOT employees access to Facebook during work hours will end August 30. At that time, only employees who utilize Facebook as part of their job responsibilities will continue to have access. SOM 1.15.7 regarding "Use of Social Media" has been revised to reflect this change by removing language that allowed employees to use Facebook and other social media sites during work hours. Senior managers are responsible for submitting the names of employees who need Facebook access to IT. KDOT recognizes that many employees use social media during non-working hours. Even when posting off premises and while off duty, employees should be mindful that their postings could have an adverse effect on KDOT's business interests. For guidelines on the use of social media, please refer to SOM 1.15.7.

State Fair Time

Break Out the Pronto Pups: The importance of work zone safety will be featured at the KDOT booth this year at the 99th annual State Fair, which runs from Sept. 7-16 in Hutchinson. Stop by the booth located in the middle of the Eisenhower Building next to the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office booth. State maps and brochures on various transportation topics, including the 11 Kansas Byways, WICHway, and KanDrive will be distributed. For more information on the Kansas State Fair, visit the website at www.kansasstatefair.com.

Congratulations: Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger, far right, poses with KDOT employees celebrating 40 and 50 years of state service on Aug. 17 at the Statehouse.

They include, from left to right, Duane Zimmerman in Topeka, Engineering Technician Specialist, 50 years; Ronald Edwards, Equipment Operator Senior in Jetmore, 40 years; and Frank Britt, Regional Materials Engineer from Kansas City, 40 years.



Work Zone Safety

New Equipment Improves Safety:

Improves Safety: KDOT maintenance forces began using a mobile traffic cone platform in March 2011 to place and retrieve traffic cones within certain road work zones. Prior to implementing the platform, crew members were walking behind trailers, manually placing cones and tearing them down amongst the highway traffic. "By using the cone platform, our employees spend less of their time and resources setting up and removing the cones in certain work zones," explained KDOT Field Maintenance

Engineer Tim Cunningham. Cunningham said KDOT has 14 units spread throughout the six districts for use and evaluation. The first two units were prototypes and were built by employees in the District Five shop. The last 12 units were built by Henderson Manufacturing, of Manchester, Iowa. Each person standing on the platform is harnessed to the platform



Equipment Operator Senior Rick Rowlison (reaching for cone) and Equipment Operator Senior Dan Zordel, from the Hays Subarea office, work from a mobile platform on I-70 in Russell County. "The Hays crew uses our basket quite a bit," said District Three Safety Specialist Gary Schilowsky. "I definitely see that this operation is safer for our crews, not to mention it saves a lot time." Photo by Gary Schilowsky

into a safety belt. Yet, the employee is still able to bend over and place/pick up the cones. On a multi-lane highway, the entire operation is performed as a mobile operation. The truck with the mounted platform is shadowed by a truck with a crash-attenuator and a truck pulling a caution/light board, in conjunction with posted advanced warning signs.

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U.S. 50 Crash



Attenuator at Work: A truck pulling a grain hopper loaded with wheat on U.S. 50, one mile west of Kinsley, collided with a KDOT dump truck carrying glass beads as the District Five Paint Crew was striping the highway on Aug. 20. The semi struck the crash attenuator on the back of the dump truck, which was following the paint truck as it was striping. The semi truck driver escaped the truck before it burst into flames. The crash attenuator successfully prevented any injuries from this crash, even though the semi cab was completely destroyed by fire and the KDOT truck was undriveable due to axle damage.

Computer Information

Search and Rescue. If you haven't used the search function on the KDOT home page recently, you're in for a pleasant surprise. Late last month, the KDOT Office of IT Services switched to the more versatile USA Search for its search engine. USA Search, which Bing provides free to government agencies, provides search results that resemble other popular search engines such as Google. USA Search will also provide monthly analytics that will identify information the public is most frequently searching for on the KDOT website. The new search function also will be incorporated into the agency's internet web redesign, which will be implemented in 2013.

External Web Access: KDOT employees who access KDOTWEB (<http://kdotweb.ksdot.org/>) from outside KDOT's network (home, on the road, etc.) will need to switch to KDOTXTRA (<https://kdotxtra.ksdot.org/>) by Saturday when external access to KDOTWEB will be turned off. Employees who rely on KDOTWEB for access to KDOT's Outlook Web App Email link, the State Employee Service Center (to access Employee Self Service or Healthquest), KanRoad, or other websites will find all these same links on KDOTXTRA under the "Helpful Links" tab. Sites available under the Helpful Links tab of KDOTXTRA include RCRS, DTNWeatherSentry, Employee Info, GIS maps, 511 Road conditions, KDOT email, Self Service, HealthQuest and General Employee info page. Please review the KDOTXTRA home page (<https://kdotxtra.ksdot.org/>) for more information. Helpful hint: To directly access KDOT's Outlook Web App email link, go to <https://email.ksdot.org> or simply enter email.ksdot.org in the URL of their browser.

KDOT Mailbag

After a visit to San Diego, Calif., my wife and I spent the night in Denver on our drive home to Wisconsin. Having thought we were on the correct Interstate, I-70, we were surprised and dismayed when seeing the sign welcoming us to Kansas. It was our intention to travel to I-80 east in Nebraska. We pulled in to the first wayside/travel center and received assistance from a gentleman who was very helpful and courteous. He promptly provided a map with explicit directions to use state highways to get us back on track. Our dismay turned to joy as we undertook a new adventure in a state we'd never been to. I'd also like to comment on the great condition the state highways are in. It was our first trip through Kansas and thanks to the gentleman's assistance, was most enjoyable.

Thanks,
John Thom

Geometric Improvement Program



Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger speaks at the news conference Tuesday in Leavenworth announcing Geometric Improvement projects.

18 Cities Selected for Funding: Projects that will improve intersections and address road deficiencies in 18 cities throughout Kansas will receive fiscal year 2015 funding under KDOT's Geometric Improvement Program. The state will provide \$10.9 million for the projects, which will be built at an estimated cost of \$15.4 million. The cities will provide matching funds to cover the remainder of the costs. The percent of state

funding is based on the size of the city and ranges from 75 percent for the largest cities to 100 percent for the smallest. KDOT received 40 applications requesting \$27 million in funding (for projects totaling \$37 million). Roads selected for Geometric Improvement funding are part of the state highway system but located within city limits. To see the list of selected projects, go to www.ksdot.org under News Releases.

Public Transit

A New Ride: According to the Albany Times Union in New York, the 1,000 Capital Region employees of ShopRite Supermarkets will be able to use the bus to get to and from work thanks to a new program. The Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) program, offered previously to area colleges and universities for their students, is expected to be used by two-thirds of the company's employees. The cost of owning and operating a car averages nearly \$10,000 a year, according to the American Public Transportation Association. And ShopRite Supermarkets also benefits. "It's a lot cheaper to have people riding buses than building parking spaces," said Carm Basile, CDTA's chief executive officer.

Being Prepared



Crisis Training: A crisis can hit at any time, and first responders always want to be prepared. Toward that end, Jason Bryant, KDOT Network Service Supervisor in Wichita, was in Salina Tuesday conducting training on the many ways KDOT uses the Communications on Wheels (COW) trailer during a crisis. People from county emergency management centers and other first responder agencies from across the state attended.