

# Translines EXPRESS

March 19, 2014

## Research

**Sharing knowledge:** About 30 contractors from Tanzania are visiting several construction sites; plant, equipment and technology suppliers; and other transportation organizations to learn more about technologies and best practices used in highway construction in the U.S.

The group visited KDOT's Materials and Research Center this morning to see materials testing and how it ties into KDOT's Quality Control/Quality Assurance program and specifications, according to Assistant Construction and Materials Bureau Chief Greg Schieber.

"This will give them an idea of how we test materials and accept them to be used within a project," he said. Assistant Geotechnical Engineer Rick Miller reviewed the agency's pavement management system used to manage, rate and select highway for preservation actions. Research Bureau Chief Rick Krieder went over KDOT's research capabilities and many of the overall techniques used. "The tour gave them an appreciation of how we as a state DOT operate with materials acceptance and



***KDOT employee Rick Miller, left, demonstrates the use of the Falling Weight Deflectometer used to measure the in-place strengths of a pavement section this morning during the tour with contractors from Tanzania.***

pavement management, and how it's contributed to the good performance of our roadway system," Schieber said.

The group saw several construction locations in Wichita earlier this week and will head to Dallas for more tours tomorrow.

## Go Orange!



***Green is over - now it's time to Go Orange! As part of KDOT's National Work Zone Awareness Week, everyone is encouraged to send in photos of people wearing orange in support of our highway workers. Doesn't matter if it's a selfie or a group shot, we'll post them on KDOT's Flickr page - send photos to [Kimberly@ksdot.org](mailto:Kimberly@ksdot.org).***

## Trivia!

### *NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Championship*

1. As of 2011, how many teams start in the tournament?
2. What team has the record for the most championship titles? What team is second?
3. When did the tradition of the winning team cutting down the net begin?
4. When was the first television broadcast of the tournament?
5. How many times has a #1 seed lost in the first round to a #16 seed?
6. What active coach has won the most national championships?
7. How many times have all four #1 seeds made it to the Final Four?

*Answers below*

## Letter to the Editor

Governor Brownback:

We of the Flint Hills Tea Party Educational Fund extend our sincere thanks to the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) for another job well done on March 1-2. It may have been just another workday for these crews, but for us it was a very special day.

Our Educational Fund team works all year to raise money for scholarships for Kansas high school students. Our work culminates in the statewide "YES for Liberty" Constitution Bee, held the first Sunday in March. Our finalists represented every corner of the state of Kansas, from Lawrence to Lost Springs, Great Bend, St. George, Russell, and Wichita among others. We held our collective breath as word of the storm reached us. Would the students be able to drive to Manhattan? Our concerns proved unfounded - the roads were passable across the state, thanks to KDOT, county, and local road crews.

Our top three winners were from Rolla (\$3,500), Burlington (\$1,500) and Wamego (\$750). These scholarships might not have been awarded if the Constitution Bee had been canceled. Everyone had a wonderful time. They started homeward knowing that the roads would be passable because KDOT crews had been out all day - all over Kansas. Thanks for a job well done!

Sincerely,

Board of Directors

The Flint Hills Tea Party Educational Fund, Inc.

## District Three



***Venture Corporation of Great Bend Kansas began work on K-147 in Trego County. The project consists of a one-inch mill and 1-1/2-inch asphalt overlay. The project is scheduled to be completed in mid-April at a cost of \$1.8 million.***

## In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Jim Abel of Perry, who died March 7 in Topeka. He was an Engineering Technician at the District One Materials office prior to his retirement.

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. 68  | 4. 1969   |
| 2. UCLA is first, University of Kentucky is second       | 5. None   |
| 3. In 1947 by coach Everett Case of North Carolina State | 6. Mike Kryzewski, Duke University                          |
|  | 7. Once, in 2008 - Kansas, North Carolina, UCLA and Memphis |

## Traffic Safety

**Share the road:** Last week in Topeka, the Traffic Safety unit of the Bureau of Transportation Safety and Technology took part in the Capital City Motorcycle Show by reminding both riders and drivers to “Share the Road.”

KDOT took part in the event with a press conference explaining the importance of having a Class M endorsement as a motorcycle rider. “About 50 percent of motorcyclist fatalities each year involve riders who are not properly licensed,” Traffic Safety manager Chris Bortz said.

KDOT also set up a demonstration of the DMV course to show the skills needed to pass the Class M endorsement.



**Marshall Madill, president of the Topeka Chapter of the Christian Motorcyclist Association (CMA) spoke at the safety event about surviving a 65 mph crash with a deer last summer because he was wearing a helmet.**

## District Two

**I-70 construction continues:** Construction resumed on I-70 in Dickinson County this past Monday with traffic being reduced to one lane in each direction by the end of the week. This preservation project involves roadway rehabilitation including bridges and ramps. In order to minimize the duration of ramp closures this year, Ideker Construction will complete the work in four phases. Phase 1 (March 17 to April 26) - demolition of the westbound bridge over K-43, completion of work in the East bound lanes at Jeep Road, and building a cross-over at the K-15/I-70 interchange. Eastbound ramps at Jeep Road will be closed during this time. Phase 2 (April 28 to June 14) - construction of the bridge over K-43. The westbound K-43 ramps will be closed and the westbound I-70 lanes will be completely shut down. Entrance and exit ramps at Jeep Road and K-15 will be open during this time. Phase 3 (June 16 to July 26) - westbound K-15 ramps will be shut down at K-15 and the westbound I-70 lanes will still be under construction. Westbound I-70 traffic will be able to access Abilene from either Jeep Road or Fair Road. Ramps at K-43 will be open.

Phase 4 (July 28 to Sept. 6) - will close down the I-70 westbound ramps at Jeep Road. Ramps at K-15 and K-43 will be open at this time and construction on the westbound lanes on I-70 will wrap up. By following this schedule no two consecutive interchanges will be closed at any time. The calendar completion date for this project is Nov. 1. For more info go to <http://bit.ly/1qLSeHu>.

## Operation Lifesaver

**The Big 4-0:** Kansas Operation Lifesaver is turning 40 years old this year and is making big plans to celebrate. The Kansas office will mark the anniversary by joining in the national Operation Lifesaver campaign of “See Tracks? Think Train!” which rolls out in April. The ambitious Kansas plan is to do 40 enforcement events in 40 cities. Operation Lifesaver was started in 1972 in Idaho to raise awareness of railroad crossing safety. After early success in Idaho, the program was adopted by Nebraska in 1973 and by Kansas and Georgia in 1974. Today, Operation Lifesaver operates in all 48 continental states and Alaska. KDOT contributes to funding for the non-profit Kansas Operation Lifesaver through a federal grant. The organization was managed by KDOT employees for 16 years and is now under a consultant contract. For more information about Kansas Operation Lifesaver visit <http://www.ksoli.org/>.

## KTA

**Have you seen this vehicle?** The K-TAG mobile is the latest marketing tool of the Kansas Turnpike. Its job is to create awareness of K-TAG and help increase the number of drivers using K-TAG to electronically pay for their tolls. Increasing K-TAG usage is one of the Turnpike's current initiatives. More people using K-TAG can improve efficiencies, keep traffic moving and help with overall safety at the toll plazas.

You may find the K-TAG mobile on the Turnpike, driving



***Look for the new K-TAG mobile when traveling on the turnpike.***

in towns the Turnpike is near or participating in a community event. Be on the look-out for it, and when you see us make sure you say 'hi.'

## District Five



***The District Five Bridge Crew took advantage of nice weather this week to complete concrete patches on K-96 in Wichita plus use flowable fill concrete to eliminate voids under rip rap on a K-96 bridge over I-235.***

***Have an idea for a news brief or picture that could be featured in an upcoming edition of Translines Express?***

***Please e-mail to [translines@ksdot.org](mailto:translines@ksdot.org)***

## District Three



**Secretary Mike King talks with KDOT employees James Kitch and Kurtis Kerns on March 7 at the Grainfield office. Secretary King also stopped at KDOT offices in Hill City and Hoxie to visit with employees. The conversation focused on equipment and wages.**

## Transportation Blog

Check out Tuesday's transportation blog that uses the theory of picking teams for the NCAA bracket based on states with the best highways. At right is the final four using this highway-performance inspired bracket with Kansas having two of the four teams. Which team would win in this system? To find out, and to see a complete list of highway seeding versus the teams' actual seeding, go to <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>.

Transportation Final Four		
	<b>Coastal Carolina Kansas North Dakota State Wichita State</b>	

*(Note: since Wichita State and K-State are in the same region, only one of them could get to the Final Four.)*



Transit-related app for Google Glass: Ever wonder when the next bus is going to arrive? If you're in Utah, you can find out by putting on your glasses--your Google glasses that is.

Utah.gov, the state's portal, has launched OnTime for Glass, the first-of-its-kind transit tracking app for Google Glass. (Google Glass is a wearable, voice-controlled Android device that resembles a pair of eyeglasses and displays information directly in the user's field of vision - photo at left.) With OnTime, Glass users will be able to receive notifications for an approaching train or bus, view route information and track public transit vehicle locations in real time.

To learn more about this, check out the KDOT transportation blog at <http://goo.gl/FQD76k>.

## Scenic



*KDOT employee Neil Croxton took this photo of a sun dog over the Manchester water tower in Dickinson County.*

## Scholarships

**Scholarship opportunity:** The 2014 Lanford Family Highway Worker Memorial Scholarship Program is being offered to sons, daughters or legally adopted children of highway workers who were killed or permanently disabled in roadway work zone accidents, related construction or maintenance activities, including mobile operations and the installation of roadway safety features.

The applicant's parent must have been employed by a transportation construction firm or a transportation public agency at the time of his or her death or disabling injury. Scholarships have a value of up to \$5,000. Applications must be postmarked by April 4, 2014, and sent to Kashae Williams, program manager, at ARTBA-TDF, 1219 28th St, N.W., Washington, DC 20007. If you have questions, please email Williams at [Kwilliams@artba.org](mailto:Kwilliams@artba.org). Application can be found at <http://www.artba.org/foundation/awards-scholarship/>.

## Highway Trust Fund

**Possible shortfall:** The U.S. DOT has updated its Highway Trust Fund Ticker, and a chart on the page shows that the Highway Trust Fund could shortfall as early as the end of July, according to an article in *Better Roads*.

The DOT notes that the HTF "will encounter a shortfall before the end of fiscal year (FY) 2014," adding that "the surface transportation program continues to outlay at a greater pace than receipts are coming in" and that the balance has dropped by nearly \$3.3 billion since \$9.7 billion was transferred from the General Fund after the start of the fiscal year. By the end of February, the highway account cash balance stood at \$8.6 billion.

To see the DOT's Highway Trust Fund Ticker, go to <http://www.dot.gov/highway-trust-fund-ticker>.