

Translines EXPRESS

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Career Day Expo



Students at the Career Day Expo got a hands-on experience with the transportation industry. They set up work zone signs (above), operated an excavator (right), learned about railroads (below), used a camera (bottom left) and worked with small tools.



KDOT Hosts Career Day Expo: About 1,200 middle and high school students attended KDOT's second annual Construction Career Day Expo for area youth in Topeka on Tuesday. The event showcases careers in design, construction, development and project management facets of the transportation industry. It also provides information, resources and interview opportunities for those students interested in a career in the construction and transportation industries

"This is a great way to showcase careers at KDOT and in the construction industry, while providing a hands-on and fun experience at the same time," said Secretary Mike King.

KDOT not only sponsored the event, but provided more than 80 volunteers to guide students and work in booths that highlighted KDOT trades.





More than 100 stakeholders attend a public meeting in Baxter Springs on Sept. 27 for the U.S.166/400 expansion project. KDOT has allocated \$38 million in construction funding toward the U.S. 166 expansion in Cherokee County. The project scope includes expanding several miles of the highway to four lanes, starting at the Missouri border, and building an interchange at the U.S.166/K-26 junction. Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2017.

National Recognition



KDOT's Division of Aviation staff includes from left Deputy Director George Laliberte, Director Ed Young and Program Manager Jesse Romo.

Flying High: This has been a stellar year for KDOT's Division of Aviation, which has garnered national attention and awards. In November, the President's Award in Aviation will be bestowed upon the Division by the American Association of State Transportation and Highway Officials (AASHTO) for a body of work that includes several programs. Already this year, the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) gave both a state award and the national Honor Award for the Kansas Airspace Awareness Tool. The National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) gave two Aviation Innovation Recognition honors to KDOT Aviation and one Best Practice Award. KDOT Aviation continues to provide innovative programs such as "Airport Ops for Cops," "Aeris Vigilis" and others.

Driving Home Safety: A KDOT safety campaign extolling motorists to "Put down the phone. JUST DRIVE" has received national recognition. Judges for the AASHTO Subcommittee on Transportation Communications skills contest named Kansas the winner in the category of "indoor or outdoor advertising" at its recent meeting in Raleigh, N.C. The stark message was featured on blue billboards for eight weeks (January - March, 2012) in the Kansas City area, Topeka, Wichita, Manhattan and Lawrence.



Transportation Safety and Technology Bureau Chief Mike Floberg, Program Consultant Phyllis Marotta and Assistant Safety Program Manager show off the national award KDOT received for its safety efforts.

Example of Excellence



Secretary Mike King, left, poses with members of the Lincoln Subarea team.

Above and Beyond: The Lincoln Subarea team was recognized as an Example of Excellence for their outstanding efforts to keep K-181 projects on schedule. With the April construction letting approaching, the Lincoln Subarea was asked to step in and build two detours as part of two box replacements on K-181 in Lincoln and Mitchell counties in addition to their regularly assigned tasks. The crew got to work on what needed to be done, said Area Engineer Karlton Place, and Supervisor Lonnie Ehrlich immediately began contacting adjacent landowners, county road supervisors and the township boards to coordinate efforts. In the end, Place said, the detours were completed ahead of schedule and the final product was superior. Team members include: Ed Dohl, Kurt Dohe, Lonnie Ehrlich, Jason Hull, Trent Kobbeman, Larry Michael, Jonathan Nelson, Lance Wilton and Aaron Zier.

Transportation Achievement: State Multimodal Planner Joel Skelley, center, accepts the Missouri Valley Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers' (MOVITE) Transportation Achievement Award for



Operations at the MOVITE annual meeting last month in Lawrence. The award, which also went to consultant HNTB and Johnson County Transit, recognized the Bus on Shoulder on I-35 project. At left is HNTB's Joe Blasi and to the right is Cheryl Lambrecht, KDOT Senior Traffic Engineer and MOVITE president.

U.S. News

LaHood discusses jobs: U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood was part of an Oct. 1 panel discussion about transportation jobs training at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park. The discussion, which also included Secretary Mike King, BNSF Chair/CEO Matt Rose and others, focused on partnership opportunities aimed at designing job training to match skills with employer needs.

Wrapping up: Twenty days of Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day safety blogs wrap up today with United States Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood urging

motorists to take safety seriously. "All of our technological advances alone are not enough to move us toward zero highway fatalities. We need America's motorists to help. We need them to hear safety messages like the entries on this Kansas DOT blog page, and we need them to follow up by driving safely," said Secretary LaHood. Read Secretary LaHood's blog at <http://ksdotblog.blogspot.com>.



In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree John Leverenz who died Sept. 4 in Palatine, Illinois.

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

Around the State

Local Consult Update: As promised under T-WORKS, KDOT was back out around the state for local consult meetings the last couple weeks with meetings in each district and the metro areas. The eighth will wrap up tomorrow in Wichita. KDOT has heard from some 450 Kansans so far to help prioritize projects for their region or metro area. This has been an important process for planning additional projects for preliminary engineering work as T-WORKS projects move forward. Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger has said many times it is important to have projects on the shelf, ready to go, in case unexpected funding should become available. KDOT hopes to select projects for preliminary engineering work by the end of the year.



Attendees at the Local Consult meeting in Topeka rank projects they see as important for the region in the future.

U.S. 54



Local citizens and public officials gather around displays of U.S. 54 at a public information open house in Liberal on Oct. 2.

Planning Ahead: More than 100 people attended two events hosted by KDOT on consecutive nights for the purpose of discussing plans to upgrade a portion of U.S. 54 in Seward County to a four-lane expressway. In addition to the meeting in Liberal, KDOT had a meeting at Southwestern Heights High School at the eastern edge of the corridor study area. Expanding U.S. 54 to a four-lane divided highway has long been a priority of regional officials, citizens and highway improvement advocates. Under T-WORKS, KDOT plans to build a 9.5 mile four-lane expressway east of Liberal and develop preliminary engineering plans for a four-lane expressway that would extend to the Seward-Meade county line.

I-70 Sign Replacement



Eastbound I-70 in Topeka was closed to traffic on Sept. 28 to allow for a truss sign replacement. Scheduling and prep work helped keep the shutdown to only a few minutes.



A beautiful sunset photo was captured by Regional Geologist Neil Croxton of Salina.