



KDOT is studying innovative ways to address needs for heavily traveled Interstate 35 in the metropolitan Kansas City area. Photo by KDOT Photographic Services.

Interstate 35

Moving Forward Study: The Kansas Department of Transportation hosted “A Symposium on Strategies to Manage and Improve I-35 Traffic Flow” Monday as part of the I-35 Moving Forward Study. The symposium brought together regional stakeholders, transportation leaders and KDOT staff to examine innovative and practical strategies from around the country and abroad to keep traffic moving safely and reliably today and in the future. Recognizing that I-35 is both critical and congested, KDOT is studying ways to address immediate, mid-term and longer-term needs for I-35 over the next 30 years. The event featured Nick Thompson, Director of Policy, Safety and Strategic Initiatives for the Minnesota Department of Transportation, whose keynote address included innovative work that is being done to improve capacity and flow in the Twin Cities Metro area.

KDOT Program Honored: KDOT’s Federal Funds Exchange Program received the Excellence in Program Operations award last Thursday at the 2012 American Public Works Association (APWA) and Kansas County Highway Association joint conference in Newton. The innovative program, developed by the Bureau of Local Projects, allows local governments to swap their federal funds at a discount for state funds that have fewer requirements. “The Federal Fund Exchange Program has definitely benefited city and county agencies that are members of the Kansas Chapter of APWA,” said Suzanne Loomis, conference co-chair. “Most importantly, it gives them flexibility in local project management.” Because federal funding comes with specific standards and requirements, projects built with federal funds cost more than projects built with local money. KDOT created the fund exchange program in response to those concerns giving locals the flexibility to design and build projects.

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



KDOT employees in District Three participate in a training session on using the Automatic Flagger Assistance Device in work zones.

District News

Automatic Flagging: District Three is now using an Automatic Flagger Assistance Device (AFAD) in selected work zones to help keep workers safe. The machines are placed on each end of a work zone to control traffic, which allows the flagger to be in a safe zone nearby controlling the device. KDOT first tested an AFAD in District One in 2005, then has been slowly buying more as funds allow, with District Three just receiving two sets. In addition to the safety benefit, the device can reduce the number of people needed to control traffic in short work zones where the flagger has an unobstructed view of both machines. One person can do the work that traditionally took two people, allowing more people to do actual roadway work.

U.S. 24 Plan On Hold: KDOT has decided to suspend work on the U.S. 24 Corridor Management Plan in north Topeka. The planning process has been under way for nearly four years and consensus has yet to be reached regarding the future overall vision for the highway corridor. KDOT has therefore determined it would be prudent to step back from the planning process for a period of time, as opposed to moving forward without a clear vision.

National News

Distracted Driving Kills: U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has released the latest video in the U.S. Department of Transportation's "Faces of Distracted Driving" series, featuring the story of Calli Ann Murray from Rohnert Park, California. On Dec. 1, 2010, 2-year-old Calli Ann Murray and her mother Ling were walking home from a park just blocks from their home. As they crossed the street, a young driver texting on her cell phone struck Calli and Ling with her car. Calli was killed instantly, and Ling was critically injured. "I hope all drivers who hear her story will remember to keep their eyes on the road, their hands on the wheel and their cell phones in the glove compartment," said Secretary LaHood. "Faces of Distracted Driving" is a video series that raises awareness about the potentially tragic consequences of texting and using cell phones while driving by sharing the stories of families who have been affected by this deadly epidemic. In 2010, more than 3,000 people died in crashes related to distracted driving. See Calli's story and watch the "Faces of Distracted Driving" – [here](#)



Left, Megan Reed performs in Pittsburg High School's spring musical in a motorized wheelchair. She was involved in a crash and didn't have her seatbelt on. Right, an x-ray provides a vivid image of her femur that was snapped in half during an automobile crash earlier this year.



Traffic Safety

Megan's Story: "It takes one time of forgetting – or even choosing – not to wear your seatbelt to change your life, or even end it. I was lucky," said Megan Reed, a 17-year-old who spent time in a motorized wheelchair after a car crash where she wasn't wearing a seatbelt. Reed told her story last Thursday at the Click It or Ticket event in Wichita. "I remember thinking that this was it, and that my life would end within the branches of the trees ahead," she said in describing her crash. As it happened, "the biggest bone in my body was snapped in half." Further information about Kansas seat belt enforcement can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/DriveSafeKansas> or <http://twitter.com/#!/drivesafekansas>.

Hear That Click: In 2009, seat belts saved an estimated 12,713 lives nationwide. And saving lives is what Click It or Ticket is all about. KDOT is participating in the national enforcement mobilization that starts next Monday, May 21. The two-week awareness effort highlights the fact that officers enforce seat belt laws year-round. Of the more than 22,000 passengers who were killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2010, 51 percent were not wearing seat belts. And motorists are 75 percent less likely to be killed in a rollover crash if they are buckled up. These are just a few statistics that show why everyone in a motor vehicle should buckle up every time.



Baby geese and their mother enjoy a stroll at Lake Shawnee in Topeka. Photo by KDOT Photographic Services.

By the Numbers

Information on the go:

- 90 - percent of Americans who live in a house with at least one cell phone
- 97 - percent of millennials (ages 18 - 34) own a cellphone
- 68 - percent of 66-74 year olds who own a cell phone
- 48 - percent of those over 75 who own a cell phone



KDOT's new Secretary of Transportation Mike King was officially sworn last Wednesday by Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach. Holding the Bible is Secretary King's wife Peggy. Photo by Kansas Secretary of State's Office.