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Travel Information: Where Safe Summer Travel Starts

With Memorial Day weekend and the summer travel season nearly here, the Kansas Department of Transportation reminds travelers that it provides travel information resources to assist them in planning their trips and as they travel.

The Kansas 511 Advanced Travel Information System and http://511.ksdot.org can help make trips safer and less frustrating. By calling “511” from anywhere in Kansas or 1-866-511-KDOT (5368) from anywhere in the U.S., travelers can get specific road conditions, construction detours, and travel weather information for Interstate, US and Kansas state highways, as well as Kansas Turnpike routes.

With updates every 15 minutes, Kansas 511 can be a resource to help keep travelers informed about changing weather conditions during all seasons.

Kansas 511 received nearly 24,000 calls and almost 28,000 people visited KDOT’s companion 511 Web site during the tornadoes and rain storms that resulted in flooding in 20 counties in Kansas earlier this month.

Information is provided 24 hours a day and is free from a landline phone. For cellular phone users, the call will most likely count against their minutes, but no roaming fee should be involved.

With summer being the height of road construction projects, summer travelers are more likely to encounter detours, road closures and/or traffic through construction sites.
By calling 511 before traveling, callers can find out if planned routes are impacted by road work and can make alternative plans as needed.

Kansas 511 also provides similar information for Nebraska, and Nebraska 511 provides information for Kansas. Travelers may also access Colorado travel information by calling “511” from anywhere within Colorado. However, Colorado 511 is not yet accessible outside of the state. Kansas 511 provides phone numbers for callers to access road weather information in Missouri, Oklahoma and Colorado.

Road condition information is entered by KDOT crews across the state. The same road condition and more detailed construction/detour information are also available on KDOT’s internet site at http://511.ksdot.org or through KDOT’s main web site, www.ksdot.org, under “Road Conditions.” Specific information for the Kansas City metropolitan area can be accessed at www.kcscount.org. A link is also provided from this site for statewide information under “Contacts and Links—Transportation Links.”

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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., 2nd Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice) (TTY).