

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **New Kansas 511 content can help with summer travel plans**

The traditional summer travel season begins this weekend and the new Kansas 511 content and features can help with summer travel plans.

**New Content** includes:

- Kansas City traffic information – includes road condition, construction, incident/event and speed/congestion information for the greater metro area, including Kansas and Missouri
- National Weather Service warnings (tornado; severe thunderstorm; flash flooding; blizzard; winter storm and ice storm)
- Rest area locations/information

**New Features** provided on Kansas 511:

- “My Kansas 511” – now subscribe to free text or email message alerts about current conditions on routes of choice. Subscribers select the route, the time of day and the type of information they want, such as road closures. To subscribe, visit [www.kandrive.org](http://www.kandrive.org), KDOT’s traveler information portal and select “Plan Your Drive” or “Get More Travel Info.”
- System menu – new features and design
- Call transfers – provides the ability to access information across the state for the following information from 511: 1) transit information in Kansas City, Lawrence, Topeka, Salina and North Central Rural; 2) Tourism; 3) Central Permitting Office for commercial vehicles; and 4) Motorist Assist in Kansas City, Kan.; Topeka, Wichita,

Salina, Southwest Kansas, Southeast Kansas, Northwest Kansas and the Kansas Turnpike Authority)

- City or town segment location assistance – allows the caller to select a city/town and the system automatically provides the route segment where the city/town is located.
- Emergency messages – may now be interruptible (not interruptible in the past) and allows repeat callers to bypass the message.

A single call to 5-1-1 from any phone anytime, from anywhere in Kansas or 1-866-511-KDOT (5368) from anywhere in the U.S. will get you all of the information you need to plan your trips – or provide updates as you travel. In addition to the new content above, 511 information also includes route-specific road conditions, work zone information, including detours and closed roads, and travel-related weather information.

KDOT also encourages travelers to use other free traveler information services to assist them with trip planning or in staying informed as they travel. The services are free and available anytime travelers need them.

- **KanDrive**, [www.kandrive.org](http://www.kandrive.org), KDOT's traveler information gateway for Kansas and surrounding states, provides all essential information you need to plan your trip. Much of the same information can be accessed by calling 5-1-1 from anywhere in Kansas. KanDrive features include camera images, motion camera views, an interactive 511 map of Kansas roads, road conditions and work zones and links to helpful transportation resources, such as Kansas Turnpike information, Kansas Byways, weather information and metro traffic information.
  - **Camera snapshots** of the roadway are updated every few minutes from closed-circuit cameras installed along I-70 and other highways. A camera tour is provided so travelers can select and see all camera images on a specified highway.
  - **Motion camera views** are also provided for many cameras along I-70 between Goodland and Auburn Road west of Topeka. These can be accessed by clicking on the camera icon and then clicking on the "motion camera" link (if provided on that camera) beneath the lower right corner of the camera view. Still shots will be updated every two seconds.

- **Metro Traffic Management Center websites** - Traffic Management Centers in Kansas City (KC Scout) and Wichita (WICHway), use up-to-the minute information to provide travel speeds and camera views on select routes, posted message sign views and other helpful information for drivers. KanDrive provides links to KC Scout ([www.kcscout.org](http://www.kcscout.org)) and WICHway ([wichway.org](http://wichway.org)), the new Wichita metro website. A new link at the top of the 511 Map page, “Metro Traffic Sites” now provides drop down links to metro traffic information for both of these sites. The KC Scout mobile website can be accessed from <http://www.kcscout.com/mobile/>.
- **RSS feeds and GeoRSS feeds** have recently been added to the 511 map page (<http://511.ksdot.org>).

KDOT also encourages travelers to use other free traveler information services:

- The **511 Mobile** site at <http://511mm.ksdot.org> provides map, camera and electronic message sign views, road conditions, work zone and event information and links to weather. The site is accessible from multiple devices, including iPhones, Droids and Windows mobile devices, Version 6.0 and higher. Any devices not compatible with the new application will be able to access text information only for road conditions and work zones.

For everyone’s safety, drivers should buckle up, safely secure children in safety seats, slow down for work zones and avoid distractions such as talking or texting on their cell phone.

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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., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.

Click below to connect to KDOT’s Social Networks:

