

# EN ROUTE TO FRIDAY

Nov. 19,  
2020

The road to staying connected

## Innovative Technology, Cost Share projects announced



Gov. Laura Kelly and Secretary Lorenz announced 19 projects totaling \$6 million in funds from the Cost Share and Innovative Technology programs. Photo by Multimedia Services.

Innovation can sometimes come in the form of small ideas and changes but make a huge difference.

Last week, Gov. Laura Kelly and Secretary Julie Lorenz announced 19 projects totaling \$6 million in funds from the Cost Share and Innovative Technology programs. These two programs invest in technology and local community transportation needs.

The announcement marked the first-ever awards for KDOT's Innovative Technology program made possible by the Eisenhower

Legacy Transportation Program.

“Through these programs, we will continue to strengthen our state’s infrastructure, promote economic development, and improve access to new and evolving transportation technology,” Gov. Kelly said.

Projects announced included a smart infrastructure project in Lenexa using embedded sensors that can connect with vehicles to improve traffic flows and a shared-use path in Lebo that will connect the city’s downtown with a business park.

“Many of the projects announced have been long-standing problems in communities that the state hasn’t been able to tackle,” Lorenz said. “Collectively, these projects make travel safer, upgrade our infrastructure, provide more mobility options and deliver necessary innovations to foster economic growth. They solve old problems and provide new opportunities.”

For a complete list of projects, click [here](#). To see a replay of the press conference, click [here](#).

# Keeping Kansans informed: Kandrive.org now in mobile app stores

Kandrive.org works like an app and can now be found in your device's app store!



Additional updates to the new KanDrive.org traveler information website will make it even more convenient to receive timely information on current road conditions across the state, according to KDOT.

Now, the KanDrive.org app is available to install on cell phones from the Google Play and App Store - Apple. After creating an account, motorists also can sign up for text alerts on specific highways.

Go to [www.KanDrive.org](http://www.KanDrive.org) and get started today.

## National Christmas Tree makes its way through Kansas



It is hard to believe but the holidays are just around the corner with only five weeks until Christmas. And earlier this week a few lucky Kansans got a glimpse of the 2020 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree as it makes the more than 2,100-mile journey from western Colorado to the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington D.C.

Kansas Highway Patrol Public Resource Officer Trooper Tod Hileman shared his experience escorting the tree on I-70 on social media. The KHP troopers followed along just in case any emergency situations occurred along the journey.

The tree will arrive at its destination by Friday, Nov. 20.

## Bridge sensor replacement in District Two completed



The Concordia crew and District Specials crews worked together on Tuesday, Nov. 17 to replace the bridge sensor on the U.S. 81 bridge over U.S. 24 in Cloud County. After setting up traffic control the team got to work replacing a failed bridge sensor with a new one.

The new bridge sensor will monitor the bridge temperature to determine if the bridge is frozen or wet, which will help provide vital information to travelers during inclement weather.

*In the photo, Jeff Bogart, EO Senior in Concordia, assists Donnie Burkholder, District EO Specialist, from below as he installs wiring for the new sensor.*

## National symbol spotted: KDOT crews photograph bald eagle



One benefit of working outdoors on a KDOT highway maintenance project is getting to witness the thrills of nature.

Recently, while straightening U.S. 56 signs and picking up debris near the town of Chase, in Rice County, Equipment Operator Specialist Gerald Aguilera and Equipment Operator Jerry Watkins spotted a bald eagle in a field.

The awesome bird was struggling to pick up a dead armadillo after eating on it. "He just couldn't get it picked up," Aguilera said. "He tried and tried." Aguilera managed to click a picture of the national symbol as it flew away.



There will be no En Route to Friday next week, and KDOT offices are closed Thursday, Nov. 26 and 27. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

## KDOT KUDOS!

I wanted to say "THANK YOU" for sending out the big tractor to mow our side hill. I was so blessed to see it happening last Friday which was the day we started putting up our Christmas Nativity scene that fastens to the fence and lights up at night. To have all that grass cut will make it more visible plus it just looks manicured! We really appreciate you taking care of this in a timely manner!!

-Melissa Cooper, Manhattan, Kansas