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Local Attraction

KDOT’s Go Orange Day is the perfect opportunity for all KDOT employees and their families to celebrate a healthy lifestyle and draw attention to lung health. Employees and their families are encouraged to wear orange clothes and accessories on October 19 to show their support for the American Lung Association and to raise awareness about the risks of lung disease.

Meet Mike

The KDOT Transportation Conference in 2013 provides new inspiration for welcome new conference keynote. Mike King on Friday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the south tower conference room. Conference attendees are encouraged to attend the full day for major benefits and practical information.

Town Halls

KDOT update: KDOT joined Economic Lifelines this year for its half-day meeting to discuss legislative, construction, and maintenance projects. Employees gained valuable information and ideas that they can bring back to their respective offices. Economic Lifelines staff and KDOT employees discussed legislative issues. Lindsey Douglas, Kansas Road and Traffic Safety, along with Julie Lorenz of Economic Lifelines, shared information on current projects and the new T-Works program. Economic Lifelines staff also discussed their successful Fall CBW program. Town hall meetings will be held April 23 in Hutchinson and Overland Park.

Conferences

Retiree

Verne W. Walrafen, 71, Colwich, died April 5. He was employed by KDOT for more than 37 years and was a member of the Transportation Management Board. He was a long-time member of the Association of Retired KDOT Employees (ARKE) and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

T-Works Construction in High Gear

Construction work is at full speed in three areas of K-16 and K-18 replace- ment projects in Riley County. In high gear with numerous traffic changes and ongoing construction work, the K-18 Rehabilitation project is more than $30 million over budget and construction for the next portion of the work is expected to be completed by the end of 2013. The project includes the completion of the K-18 extension between New Baseline Road and Mill Creek Road.

KDOT prepares and provides information on activities during Work Zone Awareness Week, which is April 23-27. Work zone related information will be provided on the KDOT website and other social media. Work zone activities will be held April 27 at the KDOT Transpor-tation Center in Topeka. Employees are encouraged to attend for the opportunity to personally meet Secretary Mike King, discuss safety issues, and to see more conference photos.

Busy Spring Construction: One big letting down the road to new Go KDOT spring construction lettings are being enhanced with accelerated construction projects. In the 3.4 mile section of K-3, which covers 5 miles of K-16, accelerated construction will be completed in 2013, according to Sandy Tommer, Bureau Chief of Construction and Maintenance. About $50 million in preservation projects are being advanced to produce jobs ahead of schedule and to take advantage of the low cost of construction. The work is part of $1 billion bond issue under T-Works program, which includes road and bridge rehabilitation and reconstruction and road and bridge maintenance activities that have major preservation needs.

Photo of the Week

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KDOT is sharing information about the agency in another way now that allows users to create and manage theme boards for news, hobbies and more. People using Pinterest can "pin" things they find interesting. KDOT's boards include "Highway Safety," "Traffic Conditions," "KDOT Projects," "Local Attractions," "Community Events," "Street News," and "Photo of the Week.

District News
Tower Talk Eame. On April 12, a semi-trailer loaded with a wind turbine blade was expectedly tilted over the ditch on U.S. 56 south of Kansas Avenue in Lyon County. The trailer was carrying a section of a wind turbine tower which was being moved between construction sites. The trailer expectedly rolled over and into the ditch nearby. The driver was not injured but the roadway was closed for a short period of time. The driver was alert and did not attempt to remove the semi from the ditch. Due to the extensive size and weight, the services of a crane operator were necessary to remove the trailer from the roadway, while the wind turbine was moved to the side of the roadway in a nearby field.

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KDOT’s new Secretary of Transportation Ed Young met with agency employees at the KDOT’s main headquarters in Topeka on April 12. Approximately 100 people attended the meet and greet, which was an opportunity for employees to introduce themselves to KDOT’s new Secretary of Transportation.

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National News
High Tech Coasters: Hundreds of bars and restaurants around the state will soon be offering “technically advanced” coasters that will help customers find the right drinking companion. The coasters are connected to a website via a QR code — the same scene with a smartphone to access the website, which will display a list of local bars and restaurants that offer the coasters. The system is being called “High Tech Coasters” and will be available at participating bars in the Kansas City area. The website, officialcoasters.com, will allow users to find the coaster at a specific bar and verify the number of coasters at each location.

The coasters with AR tags are being produced by a company in California. The AR technology is being provided by a local technology company in Kansas City.

Local Attraction
A tranquil pond setting with a five-foot waterfall is provided for residents at the McCrite Plaza — translines@ksdot.org.

As part of the Kansas City Area Transportation Study, KDOT opened a new pedestrian bridge over K 61 south of U.S. 56 in Lyon County. The high-speed four-lane roadway intersection with 30th and K 61 was closed between 17 and 24, as KDOT and other transportation partners participated in National Work Zone Awareness Week. The goal of this campaign is to raise awareness of the hazards and dangers highway workers so everyone can learn more about how important safety in work zones is all year long.

The trailer and wind turbine section’s combined weight of the trailer and wind turbine was approximately 240,000 pounds. See more photos from the removal — http://pinterest.com/kdothq/.

Go Orange! Wear orange with pride next week, especially on Go Orange Day, which is April 24, as KDOT and other transportation partners will honor highway workers and their families in another way.

The trailer was carrying a section of a wind turbine tower which was being moved between construction sites to a new area with wetland plants. Photo By Duane Zimmerman, Bureau of Design. Send us a photo of your favorite local attractions — nature, museums, restaurants, arts, etc. at travelins@ksdot.org.
National Work Zone Safety Week

Drivers in Work Zones: "You could be the one to help put the lighter work in work zone safety. They might be saving your own life by yielding to the obvious and helping protect you and others who might be behind you."

The nation's top road safety official, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, yesterday helped mark National Work Zone Awareness Week (April 9 to 13) by recognizing the importance of every motorist's role in work zone safety. Secretary LaHood was joined by representatives of Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and other key transportation partners to highlight the dangers involved in highway work and the steps motorists and others can take to protect workers and themselves.

"Motorists can make a difference in work zone safety by decreasing their speeds, using extra caution when they see a lane closure, keeping their distance from the work zone, and giving workers the space they need to do their job," said Secretary LaHood. "KDOT and other partners are working hard to protect motorist and worker safety, but we all need to do our part to keep our roads safe and everyone healthy and alive."

KDOT’s annual event focuses on educating the public about the dangers involved in highway work during a week that coincides with the National Work Zone Awareness news conference. KDOT Supervisor Vincent Grier spoke about the dangers involved in highway work during a special event yesterday at KDOT headquarters. Grier told attendees that the 33 KDOT employees who have been killed in work zone crashes in Kansas since 2000 were "the victims of someone's inattention, and the worst part is that they could have taken steps to protect themselves before they were killed."

"I want to urge all motorists to take safety seriously, particularly during the upcoming summer months when construction projects will be all over the state," Grier added. "I have seen first-hand the impact of the car hitting the barrier wall. They hit the barrier wall and there was a car coming right at us in our lane, and there was no way to get out of the way of oncoming traffic."

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Traffic Safety

Traffic Safety Champions: Congratulations to Jim Brown and Jeff Hocking, both engineering managers for being honored as one of four People-Saving Champions at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration conference yesterday. Brown is the Traffic Safety Conference Chairman for Kansas, while Hocking is KDOT’s Traffic Safety Manager. Congratulations to our Kansas Transportation Safety Champions! They do it all for the safety of our roads, our communities, and our families.

"These people are true champions who were able to pursue a policy change which benefits all Kansas drivers," said Safety Director Cassie Lesher. "They are the true champions who worked the most to impact safety change and had a direct impact on the lives of drivers in Kansas by helping improve conditions in our traffic practices around the state."

Jim Brewer

"There is no substitute for people losing their lives or being harmed on our roads. It is too big a price to pay just to improve the roads or to be more efficient in traveling. Our roads do more than travel across a state. They are one of the basic necessities in providing a quality of life for people in Kansas. We need to do better and we need to be willing to spend the money necessary to do that."

District Three News

Sandy Towmey, Chair of the Board of Construction and Maintenance, Topeka, is working on the westbound lanes of the Interstate 70/35 interchange in Kansas City, Kansas. He is removing the on-ramp in the northbound direction, and completing the ramp in the southbound direction. The project will add a new lane to the interchange. Completion is scheduled for October 2013.

Secretary King: KA-PASS Program "take the ribbon last mile" sign on North 45th Street near "plow zone" by Dickie Rose

"We need to do a better job of educating the public about the work that goes into road construction, and the steps they can take to protect themselves," said Secretary King. "These KA-PASS signs are just one way to keep the public informed about the progress of road projects, and the steps they need to take to keep themselves safe."

National News

16 and 2 not Apparent: For decades, the signs warning drivers to be extra cautious at the intersection of 16th Street and 2nd Avenue, a unique four-way stop in Tipton, have been without numbers to identify the numbers of those who are going through the intersection. In late March, the state of Iowa posted the names of those drivers who are going through the intersection at the intersection of 16th Street and 2nd Avenue. This is part of an effort to increase awareness of the intersection and to encourage drivers to use caution at the intersection

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