

# Translines EXPRESS

Jan. 24, 2018

## District Three



### Storm hits northwest Kansas:

The first significant snowstorm of 2018 hit District Three on Jan. 21 and 22, dumping several inches of snow across the region and prompting numerous road closures. Closures on I-70 started early Sunday evening and reached as far east as WaKeeney before the route was reopened at 12:30 p.m. on Monday. St. Francis and Atwood saw the area's highest snowfall with 11 inches. Other totals included nine inches at Goodland, seven inches at Norton and six inches at Colby and Plainville. See more photos and information on the next two pages.

*At left, a KDOT motor grader clears I-70 in Sherman County.*

## In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of retiree Willis "Bill" Pitts who passed away on Jan. 10 in Garden City. He served in World War II. Pitts worked at KDOT for 42 years, retiring in 1988 in Garden City as a Mineral Supervisor.

Condolences to friends and family of retiree Richard McKinney who passed away at his home in Erie on Jan. 15. McKinney was an Equipment Operator Senior in Erie and previously worked in District Six. He retired with 27 years of service in 2012.

## District One

**Koehn to lead District One:** Leroy Koehn has been named the District One Engineer. He replaces Hugh Bogle who recently retired.

Koehn graduated from the University of Kansas in 1992 and worked in the private sector before coming to KDOT in November 1994 as an Engineering Associate II in Horton. In 1999, he became the Construction Engineer in Garden City, then was promoted to Area Engineer in Horton in 2006. He has served as the Metro Engineer in Bonner Springs since 2016.

"One of the things that's truly endearing about KDOT is the huge network," Koehn said. "There are plenty of people who are willing to help you out and are working for the same common goals." Koehn has lots of hobbies including motorcycling, snow skiing, upland gamebird hunting, camping and flying as he is a private pilot. He also bicycles and has participated in Bike Across Kansas several times. He and his wife, Mary, reside in Lawrence.



**Leroy Koehn**

## Weather/Kudos

Here are comments received by KDOT offices on the two recent winter storms in Kansas:

### Email:

♦Just wanted to compliment the Jefferson County team on how well Highway 92, north of McLouth was treated. It was the best I had ever had to travel in 30 years. I travel from Oskaloosa to Leavenworth, daily. Highway 16/92 from McLouth to Oskaloosa - was awesome, both highways put Leavenworth to shame. Of course parts of Leavenworth received more snow than Jefferson, but Leavenworth always seems to do a decent job of treating Highway 92. I know most people are quick to let you know how bad things, but not when things are good. Travel this AM on these highways was as excellent as yesterday. Thank you for taking care of travelers.

### Facebook:

♦Crawford County KDOT knows how to clear the roads! Thanks for making my trip home safe for the last 40 miles!!! – Laura Guilfoyle-Krom

### Twitter:

♦From the KHP - Let's all give a big round of applause and THANK YOU to our partners @KDOTHQ for all of their work today on our roads. We appreciate you!

♦Thankful for all the road crews in @PittsburgKS and the local @SEKansasKDOT for making our roads safer after our first snow of the year.



*Above was the view outside the the Phillipsburg Area office on Monday.*

♦It's a high wire act. But, seriously, those @KDOTHQ crews are doing an amazing job, along with our @kshighwaypatrol, keeping roads clear and safe today across Kansas. Stay safe out there if you have to drive! - J.R. Claeys

♦The work continues for @NWKansasKDOT today. They'll be out treating and plowing roads again. Also a fun fact - did you know they use beet juice to treat the roads? They say it works great with salt brine. Pretty cool! - KWCH

♦I-70 from Hays to Wakeeney is in great shape. Great work

♦Thank you to all the men and women working this morning/ last night to clear the roads. I've been in their shoes. A lot of people like to criticize for what they didn't do, but not many thank them for what they did do. So again, thank you.

♦Thank YOU for all of you hard work! You'd never even know there was a blizzard on I-70 yesterday. - KWCH

### Phone call at Norton office -

♦From Tom Vacura and his wife from the Jennings area - they both wanted to say that the Norton Crews did a commendable job on removing the snow on the highways this last weekend. Tom and his wife said they appreciate what the crews do and make it less miserable to travel the highways when it's bad outside.

*At right is a photo of the U.S. 36/U.S. 81 junction in Oberlin that was posted on the Northwest Kansas Facebook page by Abby Smith Hisson. In her post she said - "Northwest Kansas KDOT, thank you to all the crews who have been out taking care of the roads! Greatly appreciated!!!"*



## District Three

*The KanDrive camera views at exit 17 at Goodland show the conditions of I-70 at two different times. The photo at right is from late afternoon on Sunday, Jan. 21, soon after I-70 was closed to the traveling public. The photo below is from mid-morning on Monday, Jan. 22, a couple hours before I-70 was reopened.*

I-70 at Goodland exit 17



I-70 at Goodland exit 17



*Portions of nine different highways in northwest Kansas were closed to traffic at different times during the Jan. 21-22 storm.*

## District Two



*The original Minneapolis Subarea building was built in the early 1960s and was due for an upgrade. Work began late last spring and the crew moved from their temporary quarters and into the new building, as seen below. One of the main reasons for this project was to have bays large enough for KDOT dump trucks to be able to park inside. The original building would not accommodate one of the new trucks.*

*As seen in the photo above, now four KDOT dump trucks will easily fit inside the new building.*



## District Five



**U.S. 56 reconstruction:** Crews have been busy tearing out pavement from U.S. 56 through Kinsley as part of a rehabilitation project that started earlier this month. The nearly \$3.5 million project will replace existing pavement with new concrete pavement and curb and gutter along 1.18 miles of the highway. Pavers Inc. of Salina is the primary contractor.

U.S. 56 through Kinsley was old enough that maintenance fixes and overlays were no longer feasible options for maintaining the highway, Construction Engineer Nick Squires said.

The project started at the west city limits of Kinsley, known as “Midway USA,” on Winchester Avenue and will continue to the east city limits on North First Street.

The first part of the project will reconstruct U.S. 56 from Eighth Street to Niles Avenue (U.S. 183). As work continues, portions of U.S. 56 from Winchester Avenue to Eighth Street will be reconstructed. Traffic is routed along a signed state route detour. The last phase of the project will focus on U.S. 56 from Niles Avenue to North First Street, and traffic will be carried through the project as lanes are completed.



***Reconstruction is underway on U.S. 56 in Kinsley as seen in the photos above.***

### Correction

**Correction** - the link to the video on how tow plows work in the last edition of Translines didn't work properly. The link is <https://youtu.be/n3Ta4Z3Pe9Q>.



## District One

### Lewis and Clark Viaduct reconstruction:

Work will soon begin on a portion of the Lewis and Clark Viaduct. Closures for the reconstruction of the I-70 westbound bridge are scheduled to take place on Feb. 2 at 10 p.m. Temporary closures to install traffic control equipment may take place leading up to the two-year westbound closures.

Westbound I-70 will be closed from the Broadway interchange in Kansas City, Mo., west to the connections in downtown Kansas City for the duration of the two-year construction project. The main detour route will use I-670 westbound and the secondary route will use I-35 southbound. To detour to Kansas City, Kan., motorists can use the Central Avenue Exit from I-670.

To improve traffic operations using the Central Avenue Exit:

- A second lane will be added to the 3rd Street/James Street exit ramp from I-70.
- Temporary signals will be added to two intersections.



In preparation for the reconstruction, demolition of the Lewis & Clark Viaduct westbound lanes is tentatively scheduled for early March. The public will be able to watch the demolition on KDOT's Facebook page. Debbie Tanking's road squad and Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project.

## Biking Across Kansas



*Biking Across Kansas participants from last year ride along the Smokey Valley Scenic Byway. Photo by James Castle*

**Biking across the state:** Registration for the annual Biking Across Kansas event opens Jan. 29. The event, which began in 1975, will be taking a route across the southern part of the state this year. It starts at the Colorado border and some of the cities it goes through include Johnson City, Ulysses, Meade,

Greensburg, Clearwater, Winfield, Fredonia, Arma and Fort Scott.

The total route is 559 miles long with the event starting on June 8 and finishing on June 16.

For more information, go to the BAK website at <https://bak.org/index.php>.

## Headquarters

**KDOT 101:** The Secretary of Transportation recently spoke in front of two legislative committees. The Senate Committee on Transportation and the House Committee on Transportation both invited the Secretary Richard Carlson to give a general overview of KDOT. The overview included descriptions of the modes that KDOT oversees, as well as programs that it administers, funding and projects.

## Trivia!

### Kansas

1. Kansas was the 34th state to enter the Union. Which state was the 33rd and when did it join?
2. Which state followed Kansas and was 35th to enter the Union?
3. When was the first Kansas Day celebration? And where did it start?
4. Kansas has two official state marches – when was the first adopted and what it is called? And the second?
5. Parts of Kansas are flatter than a pancake. But by ranking each state's percentage of flatness, what state is actually the flattest? And what other states are ahead of Kansas in this ranking?

**Do you know a KDOT retiree not receiving the electronic Translines newsletter?**

**Please let them know that if they are interested in receiving it, send an email to [Kim.stich@ks.gov](mailto:Kim.stich@ks.gov)**

## Retirees

The following employees will retire from KDOT in February.

**District One**  
**John Hula**, Equipment Operator Senior, Marysville

**District Four**  
**Michael Giffin**, Equipment Mechanic Specialist, Pittsburg

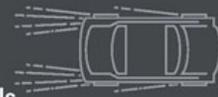
## KTA

# DRIVING TECHNIQUES FOR ICE & SNOW

≡ WHEN STAYING HOME ISN'T AN OPTION

### TECHNIQUES FOR "Help, I'm Stuck!"

- 1. Don't spin your wheels.
- 2. Turn wheels back and forth to clear path.
- 3. Use sand, salt, litter or gravel for traction.



- ### TECHNIQUES FOR "I want to pass!"
- 1. Don't pass snow plows.
  - 2. Maintain safe driving speed and distance for conditions.
  - 3. Increase windshield wiper speed for visibility.



## Kansas Transportation

Wednesday, Jan. 24

### #IAMKDOT: Ted Coleman

This month's #IAMKDOT feature is Ted Coleman. Coleman is the Subarea Supervisor for the Wichita-East Office and he said that he "bleeds KDOT orange." He has been working for KDOT for more than 33 years. During his college years at Kansas State University, he would work for KDOT during the summer in Hutchinson. Coleman then became an Equipment

Operator Trainee and eventually an Equipment Operator at the Hutchinson Subarea.

During his career he worked his way up from Equipment Operator to Equipment Operator Specialist to his current position.

Coleman said that he enjoys having fun and helps people realize their dreams. He said he would describe himself as a Dallas Cowboys fanatic, a science buff, a motivational writer and a survivor of esophageal cancer. He loves to travel, and he said he loves his son more than anything in this world. "My life goal is to be an authentic person of faith, and to be someone who encourages, equips and empowers others for honest journeys of their own," Coleman said.

In this month's illustration, Coleman is depicted rescuing a dog that had been lost for several days



in Wichita. He crossed four lanes of traffic to save it.

*#IAMKDOT is an illustration project that recognizes KDOT employees who work hard to keep Kansans moving. This series also serves as a reminder for travelers to slow down and remember that underneath those neon vests are individuals with families, friends and hobbies waiting for them at home.*

Do you know a KDOT worker that deserves recognition? Nominations are open - email Mallory.Goeke@ks.gov today to get started.

**To see more stories on transportation topics, check out the regular posts on the Kansas Transportation blog at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>**

*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 [Kim.stich@ks.gov](mailto:Kim.stich@ks.gov)*

## District Two



*The Linger Longer soda fountain in Bennington is a step back in time and one of only a few remaining. It is located in a 106-year-old building and features a tin ceiling and an antique cash register. The same soda fountain and back-bar where they hand-mixed fountain drinks with spigots and pumps is being used. There are also more than 2,000 Dr. Pepper collectibles and antiques, the second largest on display in the world. A file photo at right shows Engineering Technician Specialist Kevin Dolton, from the District Two Materials Lab (in light gray shirt), with his family enjoying a treat.*



### TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Oregon, Feb. 14, 1859.
2. West Virginia, on June 20, 1863.
3. 1877, in a school in Paola.
4. First - 1935, The Kansas March. Second – 1992, Here's Kansas.
5. Florida is the flattest, followed by Illinois, North Dakota, Louisiana, Minnesota, Delaware, then Kansas.