A federal court decision released Tuesday will allow KDOT to build the long-awaited South Lawrence Trafficway as planned. The $150 million project will begin at the end of this bridge over U.S. 59 on the southern edge of Lawrence and stretch six miles to the east. Photo by KDOT Photographic Services.

Court Affirms SLT Alignment: Following a decision by the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver on Tuesday, KDOT will continue the process of acquiring the right of way necessary to construct the South Lawrence Trafficway (SLT) in Douglas County. The 10th Circuit upheld the ruling of the United States District Court for Kansas that affirmed the process used by the Federal Highway Administration in selecting the 32nd Street alignment for the project. This decision allows KDOT to proceed to build the Trafficway as planned. The SLT will be a six-mile, four-lane freeway connecting the existing west leg of the K-10 corridor to K-10 at a point east of Lawrence, via a route around the southern edge of the city. The $150 million project is expected to have an economic benefit to the region of $3.7 billion, the largest of any project under the 10-year, $7.9 billion T-WORKS transportation program. The project will include the creation of more than 300 acres of new wetlands as well as bike paths and a camping grounds area.

“With the court ruling now behind us, KDOT can work in earnest to complete the project plans and meet the current schedule of beginning construction in Fall 2013,” said State Transportation Engineer Jerry Younger, KDOT’s Deputy Secretary of Transportation. Preliminary right of way appraisal efforts began in December of 2011 with the staking of potentially affected properties. Following a review of the initial appraisals, KDOT will present offer letters to property owners this summer.

MAP-21: On June 29, by a vote of 373-52 in the House and a vote of 74-19 in the Senate, Congress gave final clearance to the $105 billion Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), reauthorizing federal highway, transit and safety programs at current funding levels through Sept. 30, 2014. The legislation will end a three-year series of nine short-term extensions of SAFETEA-LU. The legislation expedites project delivery, establishes policies to improve freight movement, enhances innovative financing options and consolidates the number of highway programs by about two-thirds, with a focus placed on the National Highway System. The two-year authorization bill, which also extends the existing authorization through the end of the current fiscal year was signed by the President on July 6, and will formally take effect on Oct. 1, 2012. KDOT is continuing to analyze the direct impacts of MAP-21 to Kansas.
The heavily traveled I-435/I-35/K-10 interchange will see future improvements under KDOT’s T-WORKS program to address increasing traffic demands. Photo by KDOT Photographic Services.

**T-WORKS - Gateway Project**

**Johnson County Gateway:** The I-435/I-35/K-10 interchange is a significant transportation hub and an economic engine for the region and the state. It is also one of the most congested interchanges in the state. An estimated 230,000 vehicles use the interchange today with that number expected to increase to 380,000 by the year 2040. Contributing to this growth is the BNSF intermodal facility to the south, the development along K-10 west to Lawrence, Village West to the north, Missouri to the east, and the redevelopment of the Kansas City downtown area to the northeast. Improvements to the interchange are critical to ensure that vehicles can continue to safely and efficiently access all these areas of economic development. That is why KDOT spent 2009-2011 creating an improvement plan to better handle future traffic demands, accommodate public transportation, and support economic development as the region continues to grow. The concept study team prioritized the improvement recommendations and developed a phased construction plan to build the project over time. As part of T-WORKS, the Legislature approved the use of design-build as an alternative delivery method on one project in Johnson or Wyandotte county. Because of its size and complexity, the Johnson County Gateway Phase 2 was selected as the design-build project for Kansas. In March 2012, KDOT selected HNTB to serve as its Project Manager Consultant (PMC) to assist KDOT in selecting and overseeing a design-build team. HNTB is currently developing the preliminary design, which will be used to establish the right-of-way footprint, to determine potential utility relocations and underground mine remediation, and to obtain conditional agency approvals and environmental permits.

This diagram shows the difference between Design-Build and the traditional Design-Bid-Build method of project delivery.
**T-WORKS - Gateway Project**

**What Is Design-Build?:** Design-build streamlines project delivery and allows the designer and contractor to begin collaboration early, which can result in faster project delivery, more efficient use of materials and innovative solutions to meet the project goals. The PMC and KDOT are working closely to establish the procurement process in order to develop the Request for Proposals (RFP) document. At this time, there are many questions to be answered and decisions to be made. KDOT will continue to share information as it becomes available.

**Questions:** All questions regarding the Johnson County Gateway design-build should be directed to the KDOT Project Manager, Burt Morey at 913-764-4525 or bmorey@ksdot.org. Additional information can be found on the project website: [www.jocogateway.com](http://www.jocogateway.com)

**Project Goals:** KDOT has developed a set of project goals for the Johnson County Gateway design-build project (Phase 2). These goals will serve as a guide for all decisions during the selection of a design-build team and throughout construction. The project goals are to:

- successfully deliver to Kansas its first design-build transportation project
- deliver Johnson County Gateway Phase 2 within the T-WORKS budget
- provide the highest value capacity improvements
- minimize travel delays during construction
- complete Johnson County Gateway Phase 2 by Summer 2017

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## JOHNSON COUNTY GATEWAY SCHEDULE

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**Put the Brakes on Fatalities**

**Kansas Kids Are Winners:** All Kansas kids ages 5-13 are invited to enter artwork on different ways to improve safety on our roadways in the annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day poster contest. This campaign focuses on all types of traffic safety – whether you are in a vehicle, on a bike/motorcycle or even walking – it’s important to safely get to where you are going. And the kids can win fabulous regional and statewide prizes – bicycles, helmets, family packages to Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure and the Courtyard by Marriott of Salina and QuikTrip Corporation fuel cards. Entries must be postmarked no later than Friday, Sept. 14. For more information on how to enter the poster contest as well as this national safety campaign, go to KDOT’s website, [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org) and click on the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day logo.

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*Signs commemorating the career of Kansas lawman David Mee were unveiled during a ceremony June 27. The signs designate a 17-mile stretch of K-9 in Nemaha and Jackson counties as the David Mee Memorial Highway. Mee served in law enforcement for 33 years. Photo by KDOT Photographic Services.*
Fires Extinguished: Two wildfires the end of June in Decatur County burned about 5,000 acres and destroyed several farm outbuildings, but the good news is no one was injured. Fire departments from neighboring Colorado and Nebraska were called in June 26 to help fight the two wildfires outside Oberlin, located in far northwest Kansas. Battling sweltering triple-digit temperatures and dry conditions crews succeeded in extinguishing wildfires the following day. With hot weather continuing in the forecast, fire danger and dangerous outdoor burning conditions continue to be a concern for many counties. “Minimizing our state’s fire risk under these dry conditions will take everyone’s vigilance,” said Angee Morgan, Kansas Department of Emergency Management deputy director. “We urge Kansans to be extra careful when using outdoor grills, smoking materials and other open flames.”

District News

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 translines@ksdot.org
Edgerton Intermodal Facility

Project Update: BNSF is now more than halfway done with its new intermodal facility in Edgerton. KDOT helped get the project started in 2010 by giving BNSF a $35 million grant from our Rail Assistance Program. The grant will be repaid from the state utilities sales tax generated on the intermodal facility and the separate logistics park development. At full build-out, more than 17,000 vehicle trips per day, of which 7,000 will be commercial trucks, are forecast to be generated by the facility. In March, KDOT broke ground for the I-35 and Homestead Lane interchange project, which will provide improved access to development in the area. In addition, a section of Homestead Lane is being constructed as a paved four-lane road from 199th Street north to 191st Street as part of this project. Construction on the interchange is expected to be completed in late fall 2013.

Brewer On The Tube: Jim Brewer, KDOT State Road Office Engineering Manager, is featured in the July 2012 episode of News in Design for AASHTO Transportation TV. In the approximately five-minute interview, Brewer provides insight on the future of design, designer expectations and a retrospective of his distinguished career. Brewer, a 45-year KDOT employee, is well-respected in the AASHTO community. He has been actively involved in the technical decisions for, and the authoring of, several sections in the AASHTO Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets. Brewer’s episode of News in Design and many more videos are available at TransportationTV.org.

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 translines@ksdot.org.
Above, part of Homestead Lane is being constructed to accommodate new truck traffic at the intermodal facility. Below, trucks will enter the facility to pick up or drop off containers being transported by rail.

National News

Show Me The Money: Results from a study released earlier this month suggest that speeding drivers would slow down, if given a good financial incentive. In an effort to find ways to keep drivers from speeding, researchers attached a small GPS device to measure drivers’ speed against the posted speed limits. Participants were offered a $25 prize at the end of each week of safe driving, or driving within four miles of the posted speed limit. Each time participants would speed, they’d lose money, (the amount was determined by how much faster than the speed limit they were traveling). The study was conducted to see how effective financial incentives would be in reducing speeding, which is responsible for 31 percent of all fatal crashes. Researchers found that the financial incentive offered to participants in the study “resulted in significant reductions in driving faster than the posted limit.”

Condolences

Retiree
Glenn H. Swank, 95, Topeka, died July 11.
New Pedestrian Bridge: One of the final and most visible pieces of the 23-mile (McPherson to Hutchinson) K-61 System Enhancement expansion project was set into place Friday. The item was the new pedestrian bridge over K-61 just south of 30th Avenue in Hutchinson. The new pedestrian bridge replaced a bridge built in 1964 that had to be removed to accommodate the construction of the widened K-61 and 30th Avenue intersection. The 155.5-foot long steel bridge was prefabricated by Contech Engineered Solutions at a plant in Alabama and shipped to Hutchinson in three sections. Dondlinger & Sons Construction Co., Inc. of Wichita, was the bridge subcontractor that assembled the pieces and set the bridge in place. The design and color of the bridge, along the stone pattern used by Dondlinger in the bridge abutment, was designed to closely match decorative fences that the City of Hutchinson has placed along K-61 in this area. The ramps allowing people to access the pedestrian bridge from ground level still need to be installed so the bridge will not be usable for another four weeks. Some of the local entities surrounding this bridge that generate pedestrian traffic are Union Valley Grade School, Dillon Nature Center, and the City of Hutchinson’s pedestrian/bike path.
The new Tallgrass Prairie National Visitor Center is located two miles north of Strong City on K-177. Photo by KDOT Photographic Services.

**Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve**

**Visitor Center Dedication:** The Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve celebrated its grand opening of the Visitor Center and Administration Building last Friday afternoon. The center features historical details about the preserve, a bookstore and various exhibits. The new building will help visitors learn more and see the tallgrass prairie ecosystem that is primarily in the Flint Hills of Kansas. The preserve includes 10,894 acres with five hiking trails and bus tours to view the area. It was named one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas in 2008, and the following year, a small herd of bison was introduced on the prairie. The preserve is located two miles north of Strong City along the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway on K-177 and is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Check out more pictures on the visitor center [here](#).

A robin takes a break from the sweltering summer heat wave to cool off in a bird bath at Gage Park in Topeka. Photo by KDOT Photographic Services.
T-WORKS

K-18 Freeway: The initial phase of a three-phase project to construct a four-lane K-18 freeway between Ogden and Manhattan should be completed by this fall, weather permitting. The project involves four-lane freeway construction and building an interchange at K-114. The two-mile project, which began earlier this year, also involves relocation of the Union Pacific Railroad. Phase two and three construction began in 2011 and is expected to be completed in fall 2013. The project is needed to support the significant population and economic growth that’s occurring between Fort Riley and Manhattan. Total cost of the freeway construction is $120.4 million.

Find Design Plans Fast: Would you like to be able to find design plans conveniently from your own desk? All KDOT employees now have the ability to locate and retrieve any loaded design plans. The plans are now stored electronically in ProjectWise. This is a web-based, independent storehouse found on KDOT’s intranet. Currently, 61% of the files are stored electronically. Any KDOT user can go to ProjectWise from the KDOT intranet site and locate nearly any plan. The KDOT Computer Training Component (KCTC) is developing a training video to assist you in your efforts to find plans on your own in ProjectWise. This video will soon be available on the intranet. ProjectWise is also covered in the KCTC Microstation course.

Stop The Text. Stop The Wrecks

Fact 1 – Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55 mph, that’s enough time to cover the length of a football field.

Fact 2 – A texting driver is 23 times more likely to get into an accident than a non-texting driver.

Fact 3 – Using a cell phone while driving delays a driver’s reactions as much as having a blood alcohol concentration at the legal limit. Learn more and see videos here.
Highway Highlights

A Look Back: In an effort to downsize in the KDOT Library and increase electronic information available to employees online, historical copies of the agency newsletter are being placed on the intranet. According to Becky Welsh, NHI and Research Coordinator, staffers started scanning the newsletters this summer and are now up to the 1960s. The editions go back to 1917 when the publication was known as Kansas Highways. “It takes you back – I’ve really enjoyed looking at them,” Welsh said. Back in the ‘40s and ‘50s, the newsletter had personalized information from each bureau with a small town newspaper look. And they were very formal, always using Mr. or Mrs., Welsh said. There were lots of photos of the Interstates as they were being built. Once there was a photo of a truck that was overloaded and broke an old bridge. The goal is to finish the 1970s publications this summer and to continue the effort as time permits. To see the newsletters on the KDOT Intranet, click here and type in Highway Highlights.

Our Neighboring States

MoDOT Budget Slashed: The Missouri Department of Transportation is facing funding troubles head-on by slashing its transportation program. Missouri approved a new 2013-2017 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, which reduces the state’s transportation construction program from roughly $1.2 billion to about $700 million. This news comes one year after MoDOT implemented the Bolder Five-Year Direction, which is reducing the number of MoDOT employees, facilities, and equipment to save MoDOT $512 million by 2015. Had the Bolder Five-Year Direction not been implemented last year, MoDOT would be facing a transportation program of less than $600 million for the years 2013-2017. “We’ve been talking about diminishing revenue streams since 2006 and we’ve taken action,” said MoDOT Director Kevin Keith. “The Bolder Five-Year Direction implemented last year helps, but the reality is we can’t cut our way to an improved

External Web Access: KDOT employees who access KDOTWEB (http://kdotweb.ksdot.org/) from outside KDOT’s network (home, on the road, etc.) will need to switch to KDOTXTRA (https://kdotxtra.ksdot.org/) by Sept. 1 when external access to KDOTWEB will be turned off. Employees who rely on KDOTWEB for access to KDOT’s Outlook Web App Email link, the State Employee Service Center (to access Employee Self Service or Healthquest), KanRoad, or other websites will find all these same links on KDOTXTRA under the “Helpful Links” tab. Sites available under the Helpful Links tab of KDOTXTRA include RCRS, DTNWeatherSentry, Employee Info, GIS maps, 511 Road conditions, KDOT Email, Self Service, HealthQuest and General Employee info page. Please review the KDOTXTRA home page (https://kdotxtra.ksdot.org/) for more information. Helpful hint: To directly access KDOT’s Outlook Web App Email link, go to https://email.ksdot.org or simply enter email.ksdot.org in the URL of your browser.

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A beautiful Kansas sunset in western Trego County is captured by Neil Croxton, KDOT Regional Geologist. Send us a photo you have taken of arts, museums, nature, restaurants, etc. to translines@ksdot.org

**PHOTO OF THE WEEK**

**Wichita Work:** A T-WORKS project to reconstruct the I-235/U.S. 54/Central Avenue interchange in Wichita will help relieve traffic congestion and improve safety. The initial phase of the $116 million project is scheduled to be let in September 2015. At I-235/U.S. 54 the existing cloverleaf interchange with tight loops ramps will be replaced in multiple phases with flyover bridge ramps providing a free flow traffic operation referred to as a directional interchange. The project, which is estimated to have an $88 million economic impact, will improve east-west connections and is one of Wichita’s top priority projects.