



Kansas State Fair

At left, John Wiens accepts a certificate from State Fair Space Sales Director Sue Stoecklein celebrating KDOT's 20th continuous year of having a booth at the Kansas State Fair. Wiens has been the fair coordinator from Hutchinson for 20 years as well. Below, Dwight Radke, Administrative Officer, and Duane Heine, Engineer Technician Senior, talk with attendees at the KDOT booth on the fair's opening day.



Social Media

A new way to contribute: KDOT now has a new platform to share stories and information called Blogspot.

Blogspot is a website that allows organizations or people to publish blogs and provide feedback on the blogs in addition to keeping all blogs archived for future reference.

The agency will kick off the new blogging page tomorrow with the beginning of the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day safety blogs (see article at right). Blogs on other topics will be added in the future, so check back regularly. In addition to the safety page, the link to this page will be on KDOT's main website, www.ksdot.org, along with the other social network links.

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day blogs: Starting tomorrow, a 20-day series of traffic safety blogs will begin to help promote Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day. This safety campaign focuses on all types of traffic safety with the ultimate goal of a fatality-free day across the country.

In addition to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, people from around Kansas will be writing blogs - Sgt. Matt Vogt from the Valley Center Police Department; KDOT employee Jeff Romine; Lory Williams from KBUF Radio in Garden City; KDOT retiree Mike Crow; Richelle Rumford from Stomont-Vail HealthCare in Topeka; Carlotta Meeker, a graduate student from Andover; and many more. They all are sharing their stories of why safety is so important.

The series will end Oct. 10, the official day for Put the Brakes on Fatalities. Check out the blogs daily by clicking on the safety logo at www.ksdot.org.



Local Consult Meetings

Coming soon to a location near you: KDOT has scheduled eight regional meetings to update Kansans on T-WORKS projects in their areas and gather input on how state transportation dollars are being invested. In our last round of Local Consult meetings two years ago, participants were asked to prioritize projects based on the funding available for their region. Their input played a critical role in determining the highway modernization and expansion projects selected for construction in T-WORKS. This time we don't have any additional dollars available for major projects, but

we will ask communities to prioritize a few projects that could be selected for preliminary engineering work, should more funding become available. KDOT Public Affairs, Governmental Affairs and Planning staffs are working hard to prepare for the series of meetings, which start Sept. 24 in Salina, followed by Hays Sept. 25, Dodge City Sept. 26 and Hutchinson Sept. 27. The following week, meetings will be in Olathe Oct. 1, Topeka Oct. 2 and Chanute Oct. 3. Wichita hosts the final meeting Oct. 11.

K-47 Ceremony



At left, Secretary Mike King, with other state and local officials on stage, speaks at the dedication ceremony for K-47 at Altoona on Aug. 30. K-47 had been closed for reconstruction since May 2011. The T-WORKS project expanded the roadway to two 12-foot driving lanes with eight-foot shoulders, leveled hills and eliminated steep ditches. Koss Construction Company of Topeka was the primary contractor on the \$11.7 million project.

Safe Routes to School

Cities Receive Funding: Eleven projects intended to encourage children to walk or bicycle to school have been selected for funding through the Safe Routes to School program administered by KDOT.

A total of \$1.34 million will be allocated for projects including development of a Safe Routes to School plan and infrastructure construction.

The federal program, created in 2005:

- Enables and encourages children, including those who are disabled, to walk or bicycle to school
- Makes walking/biking to school safe and appealing
- Facilitates projects that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

The following cities will receive \$15,000 each in Phase I funding, which covers the costs of developing a Safe Routes to School plan: Beloit, Erie, Hutchinson, Lyndon, Minneola and Stockton.

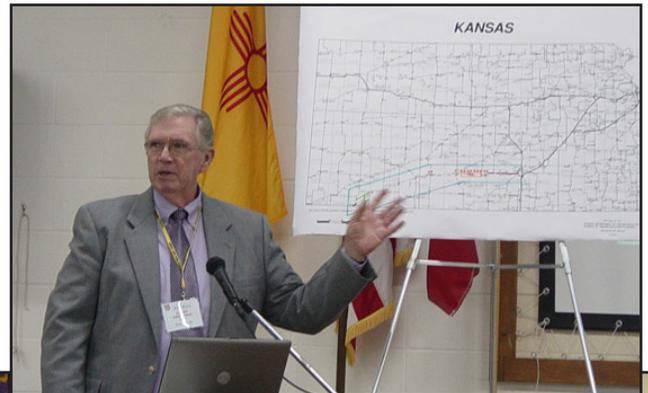
Receiving Phase II funding for infrastructure improvement are Chanute, Colby, Hillsboro, Hugoton and Rose Hill. Each city in this phase will receive \$250,000 for projects such as sidewalk improvement or construction, pavement markings and signage.



Program Receives National Award: “Ops for Cops,” a program developed by KDOT’s Aviation Division to provide legal and tactical advice to law enforcement officers called to airports, has received national recognition. The National Association of State Aviation’s Education Program Award was awarded to KDOT on Tuesday in Salt Lake City. “Ops for Cops” was presented jointly over the past year by KDOT, the Drug Enforcement Administration, Transportation Security Administration, local law enforcement and airport management groups. The program has been offered in El Dorado, Johnson County, Pratt and Hutchinson, and is scheduled for several other communities in the coming months.

SPIRIT

District Six Engineer Larry Thompson addresses the 17th annual SPIRIT Conference in Liberal on Sept. 7. SPIRIT, Southwest Passage Initiative for Regional and Interstate Transportation, is a multi-state organization advocating improving U.S. 54 to a four-lane divided highway from El Paso, Texas, to Wichita. Members of the group and state DOT representatives meet annually to discuss current expansion efforts and ongoing and upcoming projects. Secretary Mike King and Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger also spoke to the group about KDOT’s commitment to the current T-WORKS program and future improvements to U.S. 54. Under T-WORKS, KDOT will build a section of four-lane highway starting near Liberal and complete preliminary engineering for possible future improvements to the Seward/Meade county line. Construction on the U.S. 54 expansion project is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2018.



Office Politics

Do’s and Don’ts of Political Activity at Work: Here are a few do’s and don’ts concerning political activity by state employees from the Department of Administration.

You are free to take part in any political activity off site, on your own time. With few exceptions, being a state employee does not prohibit your right to participate in our political process. Employees are encouraged to support the candidates of your choice, and to vote on

election day. At work, however, it is important to keep several Kansas laws in mind.

First, it is illegal for a state employee to use his or her position of authority to influence another state employee to perform any political act. Second, it is illegal for a state employee to use state property or his or her time on the job for campaign purposes.

For more information, please check out K.S.A. 752953(a) and K.S.A. 254169a.

On a sultry August day, workers resurface the previously milled roadway of K-68 west of Ottawa. The project also adds 2½-foot shoulders to the narrow driving surface, which will be completed with edge line rumble strips. It's one of numerous preservation projects now taking place on highways in southeast Kansas, with more scheduled before the season's end. Hamm, Inc., of Perry is the contractor on the \$2.4 million project.



Speed Limits

Everything is bigger in Texas: Texas will soon open a stretch of highway with the highest speed limit in the country, giving eager drivers a chance to rip through a trip between two of the state's largest metropolitan areas, according to an article in USA Today. The Texas Transportation Commission has approved a speed limit of 85 miles per hour for a 41-mile toll road several miles east of the increasingly crowded Interstate 35 corridor between Austin and San Antonio.

While some drivers will want to test their horsepower and radar detectors, others are asking if safety is taking a backseat. "The research is clear that when speed limits go up, fatalities go up," said Russ



Rader, a spokesman for the non-profit Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. He said higher speed limits get people to their destinations faster, "but the trade-off is more crashes and more highway deaths."

A 2009 report in the American Journal of Public Health studied traffic fatalities in the U.S. from 1995 to 2005 and found that more than 12,500 deaths were attributable to increases in speed limits on all kinds of roads. Most highways in the U.S. top out at 75 mph, and there are no longer any roads in the U.S. with no speed limit. Some highways in rural West Texas and Utah have 80 mph speed limits.

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



The new 150-foot pedestrian bridge that spans K-61 in Hutchinson will be open by Friday. Koss Construction Company of Topeka was the contractor on the \$1.1 million project.

Work Zone Fatality

MoDOT Worker Killed: Missouri Department of Transportation Kansas City District Motorist Assist Operator Clifton J. Scott, 50, was killed in the line of duty on Sept. 21. He was providing traffic control assistance at an I-70/I-470 crash site in Independence, Mo., when he was struck by a motorist. Scott was a 15-year veteran of the Department. His survivors include a fiancé, brother, sister and a 14-year-old son.

In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree Jon Holley who died Sept. 22 in Topeka.

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U.S. 59



Secretary Mike King, along with other officials, speaks at the U.S. 59 ribbon cutting ceremony on Sept. 18.

Expansion Project Nears Completion: The Douglas County stretch of the Lawrence-to-Ottawa U.S. 59 expansion was dedicated Sept. 18 at a ribbon-cutting at the U.S. 59/56 interchange. The Douglas County project, which won't be open to traffic until early October, includes realignment of the existing two-lane highway to a four-lane freeway. Three interchanges and 23 bridges were constructed along U.S. 59, which began in early 2009. The combined construction cost of the 19-mile Douglas/Franklin county projects is \$145 million (\$82 million for Douglas County; \$63 million for Franklin County). The U.S. 59 project was funded through Kansas' 10-year Comprehensive Transportation Program.

Local Consult



Above, attendees review funding details regarding projects in north central Kansas.

Local Consult 2012 is under way, with the first of eight regional meetings on Monday in Salina. Below, Planning and Development Director Chris Herrick updates attendees on T-WORKS projects in their area. Participants also learned about possible future sources of revenue to fund transportation.



U.S. 54 Receives ACPA National Award: The American Concrete Pavement Association (ACPA) gave a Gold Award for Excellence in Concrete Pavement for the 10-mile U.S. 54 four-lane project in Kingman and Pratt counties completed in 2011. This award honors quality concrete pavements constructed in the United States and Canada each year, encourages high-quality workmanship in every concrete pavement project and serves as a forum for sharing information about highly successful projects. The awards program recognizes contractors, engineers and project owners who completed outstanding projects. Koss Construction Company was the prime contractor and worked with the KDOT Pratt Construction Office on the project.

I-135

Interchange Plans Taking Shape: McPherson County officials met with KDOT personnel on Sept. 19 to review initial plans for a proposed interchange at Mohawk Road north of the existing McPherson exit on I-135. The meeting gave city and county officials a chance to see the preliminary designs for the Mohawk Road interchange. KDOT staff then answered questions and listened to suggestions on how modifications to the design concept might better serve the future needs of the community. The interchange will provide improved access to the expanding McPherson industrial area. Plans call for the project field check to occur in Au-



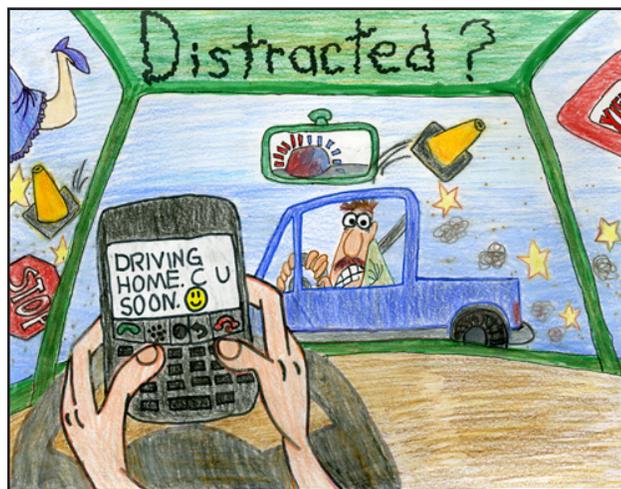
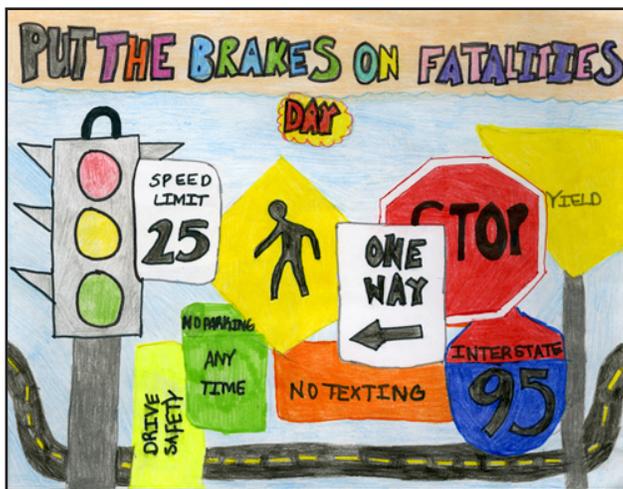
KDOT Road Design Leader Deb Tanking, second from right, discusses the specifics of the interchange design with city and county officials at a Sept. 19 meeting.

gust 2013 and utility relocations to be completed in mid 2015 prior to the beginning of construction.

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

Poster Winners: Five-year-old Cresinda Bandel, Oskaloosa; 10-year old Addison Gehrt, Westmoreland; and 12-year-old Heather Woleslagel, Hutchinson; are the statewide winners in the annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day poster contest. The winners receive family packages to Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure and the Courtyard by Marriott of Salina as well as \$50 fuel cards from QuikTrip Corporation.

Eighteen regional winners of the contest will receive a bicycle and a helmet donated by Safe Kids Kansas. A total of 614 kids across Kansas took the time to think about safety and participated in the contest, which increases traffic safety awareness. Numerous transportation organizations across the state sponsor the event. For more information, go to www.ksdot.org and click on the safety logo.



Above, the artwork of Cresinda Bandel, Oskaloosa; far left, Addison Gehrt, Westmoreland; left, Heather Woleslagel, Hutchinson.

20 Great Safety Stories: Kansas State University Football Coach Bill Snyder is today's featured blogger in the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day safety blog series, which reached its halfway mark. A total of 20 people are sharing personal stories and experiences showing why traffic safety is so important. Just a few of the upcoming bloggers include KDOT's Jeff Romine, Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Rick Wingate, Kansas State University Basketball Coach Bruce Weber and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood.

The blogs can be seen at <http://ksdotblog.blogspot.com/>

- check them out, then forward the link to friends and family so everyone can work together to put the brakes on fatalities.



Dear KDOT,

I have been reading the safety blogs. What stands out is how important self-responsibility, using appropriate safeguards, and not allowing things or people to distract while driving are to maintaining life and limb.

One can never replace a loved one, or good health, and memories of causing someone else pain last a lifetime.

Although Scotty's death was seven years ago now, we relive it some part of each day. Fortunately, we have lots of memories of good times together and a wonderful grandson who looks and acts so much like Scotty did that good memories help to press back the not so good ones. No one can replace him as a son, brother, grandson, nephew, father, or friend. I think often of all the good he did in his life and how the world would have been a better place if he were still here to share his gentle, caring heart.

Keep encouraging people to share their experiences and views. It is a vital component of a safety program.

Sincerely,

Shirley McDonald,

mother of KDOT employee Scotty McDonald who was killed in a June 2005 work zone crash



Engineering Associate I Dustin Nickel from Oakley checks for concrete curing under the plastic on the bridge deck.

Prairie Dog Creek Bridge: Bridge repair work along U.S. 83 in Decatur County continues on the bridge over Prairie Dog Creek about 10 miles south of Oberlin. Work on the bridge includes removing 1.5 inches of concrete, patching the bridge deck and a silica fume overlay, which is taking place this week. Traffic is controlled by lights on both ends of the project. Wildcat Concrete Services of Topeka is the contractor on the \$293,000 project. Weather permitting, the work will be complete by mid-October.

WICHway, Wichita's Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), was recognized with the 2012 Outstanding Achievement Award for Facilities by the Missouri Valley Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (MOVITE) at their fall meeting. Accepting the award from MOVITE president and KDOT Senior Traffic Engineer Cheryl Lambrecht (2nd from the right) are WICHway Manager Tom Hein, KDOT ITS Engineer Shari Hilliard, and project consultants Bruce Baldwin and Matt Volz.



These aren't the wild variety now in bloom along Kansas highways, but they lend credence to the state's nickname, the "Sunflower State."

Open Enrollment

Be ready. Open enrollment in next year's health plan begins Monday and extends through Oct. 31. Now is the time to make sure you can access Kansas Self-Service to complete your enrollment. If you have forgotten your password, follow these steps:

1. Go to www.kansas.gov/employee/.
2. Click on "Employee Self-Service" - on the right side of the page.
3. Click on the "Sign In" button.
4. While on the sign in page click "Forgot Password."
5. Enter your "Employee ID."
6. You will need to answer your personal question and provide your date of birth.
7. Then follow the instructions to open the Self Service page.

If the system states that you are locked out, please call the Kansas Service Desk at 785-296-1900 or 866-999-3001. Remember that your password lasts for 30 days.



Van Dyke Brothers, Inc., move a large electric transformer from old U.S. 56 and Lone Elm Road in Olathe along K-7, 75th Street and 83rd Street to the new Westar Energy Substation on Sept. 16. The transformer is 17 feet wide, 18 feet high, 227 feet long and weighs more than 684,000 pounds. Traffic was stopped in all directions at the K-7/75th Street intersection for several minutes so the transformer could make the turn. The move took about two hours.

Celebrate the holidays with a KDOT ornament!

KDOT Ceramic Holiday Ornament

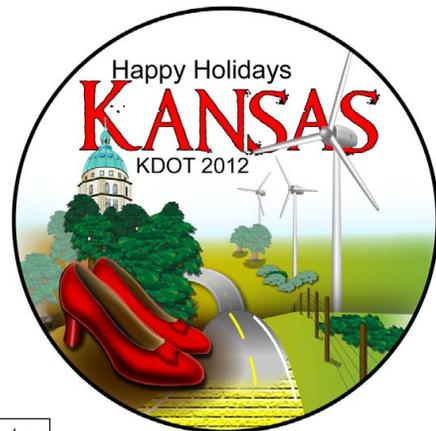
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