

Translines EXPRESS

May 24, 2017

District Five

Q-Line improved: Wichita Transit launched an improved Q-Line service on May 13, providing more routes, operating more hours and running more frequently in downtown and surrounding areas. The Q-Line trolleys are free, and the routes have also been expanded. The Q service now offers two evening and weekend routes and two weekday lunch routes, connecting downtown and Old Town with Delano Douglas Design District and College Hill. There will be an Old Town Route, a Douglas Route, a Delano/Old Town Route, and a Government Center Route. The Q will add two lunch routes from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Government Center Route will connect riders from Main and Central to Old Town via Douglas, and the Delano/Old Town Route will connect riders from Delano to Old Town along Douglas. Trolleys will run every 10 minutes. The new, expanded service is made possible through a public-private partnership between Wichita Transit, Wichita Downtown Development Corp., and other downtown businesses. The Q is an important asset to downtown, providing easy-to-use frequent transportation for residents, visitors and eventgoers. Route and schedule information is available at www.wichitansit.org/qline.



Q-Line trolleys services have been expanded in the Wichita area.

Run for the Wall



Riders in the Run for the Wall event stop at the KTA Service Area east of Topeka on May 22 while on their way to Washington, D.C. A story and more photos are in this edition.

**Have a safe and happy
Memorial Day**

All state offices will be closed
on Monday, May 29.

Trivia!

Nobel Prize honorees, academic achievers

1. Jack St. Clair Kirby, who grew up in Great Bend, was an electrical engineer who took part in the realization of the first integrated circuit in 1958. For what did he win his Nobel Prize? He also invented these two items.
2. Marvin Pelton, who grew up in Wichita, became the 12th president of this university in 2011.
3. He was the Chancellor of the University of Kansas

from 1939-1950 and was born in Abilene.

4. Earl Sutherland, who was born in Burlingame, won a Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1971. Where did he receive his bachelor of science degree?
5. Milton Eisenhower, the younger brother of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, was born in Abilene. Name the three major universities where he served as president.

District Five

Scenic overlook: Barton County celebrated the grand opening of the Wetlands and Wildlife National Scenic Byway Overlook along K-4 on May 22.

Construction of this project began earlier this spring. Federal funds were provided through KDOT for the construction, engineering and inspection costs of this project. The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism shared the design costs with Barton County.

Barry McManaman, Barton County Engineer, said that this scenic overlook would be a big attraction not only for local residents but also those traveling the wetlands. The Cheyenne Bottoms wetland area is the largest inland marsh in the United States. It is a critical stopover place for migratory birds and waterfowl.

"We anticipate there will be quite a few people who will stop to see the Cheyenne bottoms," McManaman said. "It's been a project a long time in the making, and the Barton County Commissioners are thrilled to see it done. It's a pretty neat facility and we are pleased with the way it turned out."



Attendees cut the ribbon at the new scenic overlook in Barton County.



Above and at left, views from the new scenic overlook.



KDOT staff plant wildflower seed and milkweed plugs along I-35 around the safety rest areas near Ottawa.

Promoting pollinators: There is a lot of buzz going around about the fact that several pollinator species are declining at surprising rates. KDOT, along with many other state DOTs in the Midwest, are doing something to change that. KDOT's Environmental Program Administrator Scott Shields said wildflower seed and milkweed plugs were planted on May 23 that will benefit many pollinator species. KDOT Ottawa Subarea staff assisted with the project. "We have a pilot project and have planted approximately 15 acres of wildflower seed on the three plots around the safety rest areas southwest of Ottawa along I-35," Shields said.

Engineering Technician Specialist Melissa Davidson said that this project is part of the Monarch Highway. KDOT was awarded a grant from the Monarch Joint Venture, a partnership of federal and state agencies, non-governmental agencies and academic programs who are all working together to protect monarchs and their migration.

According to Davidson, the Monarch Joint Venture provided KDOT with 1,152 milkweed plugs, consisting of three varieties: common, butterfly and antelope horn milkweed.

Davidson said that the site will attract many pollinators such as butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, beetles, moths and even bats.

"These pollinators are necessary for crop and native plant pollination, which is crucial to the ecosystem," she said. "Several butterfly and bee species are in decline,



Once the seeds shown at left are planted, they help attract pollinators, like the butterfly above, which are critical to the ecosystem.

or have disappeared from parts of their range because of habitat loss. It is imperative to protect our natural environment to ensure the success of pollinators."

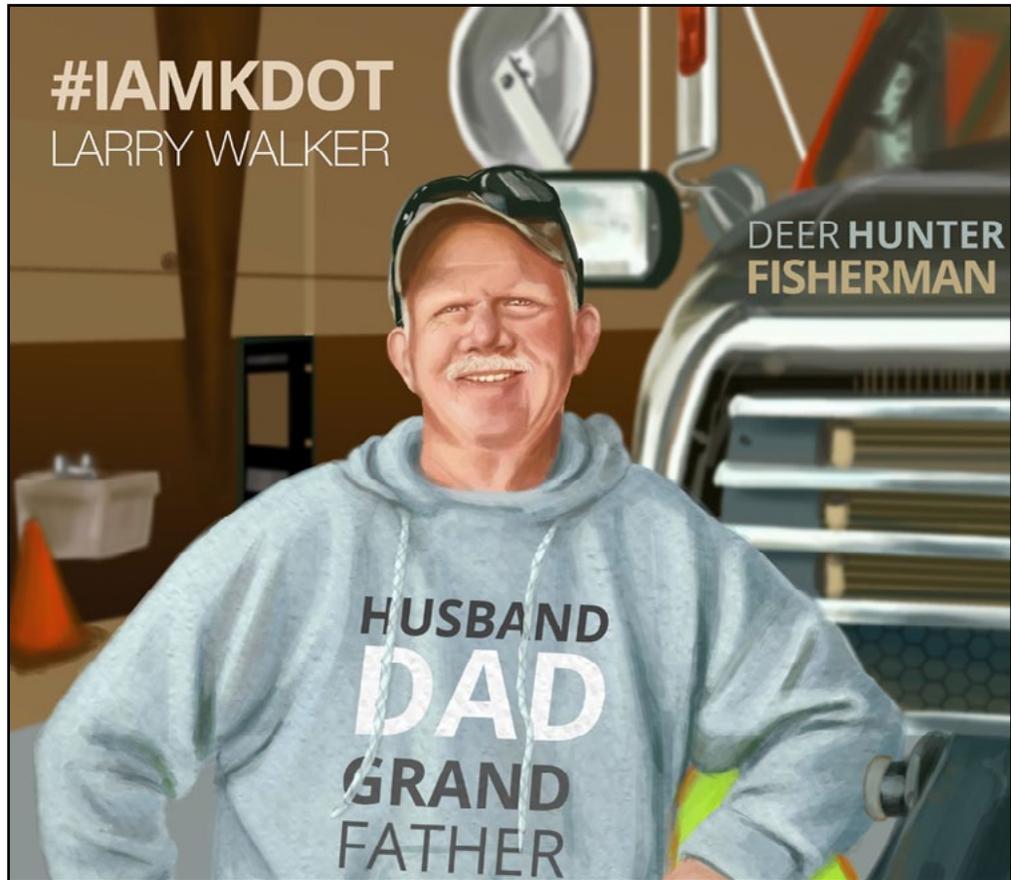
Kansas Transportation

#IAMKDOT

This month's #IAMKDOT feature is Larry Walker, who is an Equipment Operator Senior at the Independence Subarea. This year, Larry will celebrate 39 years with the Kansas Department of Transportation. During his employment with KDOT, Larry has proven that he is dedicated to keeping Kansans safe. His coworkers said that whenever he receives a phone call for emergency work, he is quick to respond and report to duty within minutes.

Because his father Carl "Corky" Walker, was also a long time KDOT employee, Larry had an early association and understanding about the dedication it takes to work at this agency. Larry has been married to his wife, Tracy, for 35 years. They have three daughters and six grandchildren. During his spare time, he is an avid deer hunter and fisherman. He also has a lawn care business and maintains several yards in the summer months throughout the Independence community.

#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 other 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

Retirees

The following employee retired from KDOT in May.

Headquarters

Ruby Douglas,
Construction and
Materials, Administrative
Assistant

The following employee
will retire from KDOT in
June.

District Two

Elmer Donley Jr,
Equipment Operator,
Ellsworth

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Physics. Invented the handheld calculator and the thermal printer.
2. Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts
3. Deane Malott
4. Washburn College, in 1937.
5. Kansas State University,
Pennsylvania State University and Johns Hopkins University.

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

Please let them know that if they are interested in receiving it, send an email to Kim.stich@ks.gov

District Six



In the photos above and below, the Marshall of Dodge City came to the Superintendents meeting in Dodge City on May 10 to deputize Independence Area Superintendent Marcus Leck, thus making him an honorary deputy. Leck is the President of KDOT's Superintendents Association. The presentation was organized to honor Leck for his efforts as he has served as president for three years. Part of his duties include coordinating the annual meeting that focuses on maintenance projects, training, issues and equipment.



District Five

New cruisers: The City of Wichita started a new transportation system in early May. BikeShareICT will make 100 cruiser bikes available on-demand from 19 stations throughout downtown Wichita.

BikeShareICT leverages Zagster, a provider of city bike share programs around the country, to supply the bikes, bike stations, and the app that gives users access. Annual memberships are \$30. For college students, annual memberships are \$20. Riders can also borrow bikes for \$3 per hour.

“We want to ensure everyone has access to safe and active transportation, and we want to revitalize our downtown to better attract and retain young talent, and bike-sharing is a powerful tool towards both ends,” Wichita Mayor Jeff Longwell said. “Now is the perfect time to begin bike-sharing in Wichita, and Zagster is a perfect partner to help us achieve our goals.”

The program is sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) and the Knight Foundation Fund through the Wichita Community Foundation. BCBSKS, the state’s largest health insurer, is making an initial contribution of \$194,000 to provide bikes and marketing support for the first year of the program.



Becky Tuttle, Project Manager for Health ICT and Chair of the Health & Wellness Coalition of Wichita, credits the collaborative funding partnership with making this new program possible.

“Without this fantastic financial support, and the technical assistance from the City of Wichita, this amazing amenity in our community would not be coming to fruition,” Tuttle said. “BikeShareICT will allow another safe form of active transportation in our community and we are excited to be a part of this opportunity to make our community healthier.”



There are 100 new bicycles available for people to ride that are located at 19 stations around Wichita as part of the BikeShareICT program.

Headquarters

Chuck Miller and Laura Miller (at right), KDOT purchasing personnel, participated in a Reverse Vendor Fair hosted by the Kansas Association of Public Purchasing Professionals on May 10 in Topeka. More than 200 vendors and 25 governmental agencies participated. Through this event, KDOT buyers learn about new products or trends on existing goods and services purchased for the agency.





New overhead trusses were recently installed at the South Topeka toll plaza. The signs along with toll booth and lane improvements are part of the construction project.



Steel girders were set on the northbound side of the Arkansas River bridge in south Wichita (I-35/KTA MM 45) as part of the current bridge reconstruction and widening project.

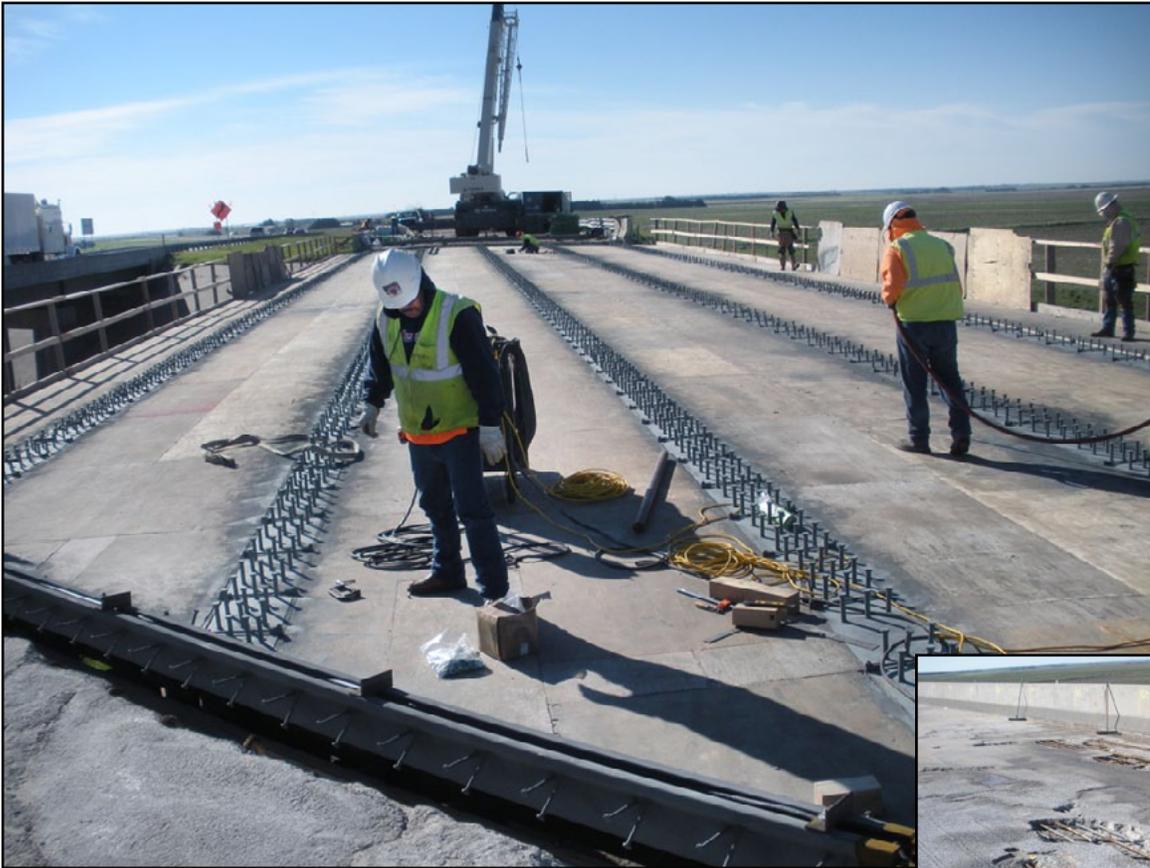


New purple K-TAG signs were recently installed overhead at Southern Terminal, I-35/KTA. Purple indicates lanes restricted to vehicles with registered electronic transponders compatible with the tolling system.



Seamless regional travel expanded earlier this week. K-TAG now works on all the toll roads in Texas. Read the news release [here](#) and learn how to make interoperability work for you here.

District Three



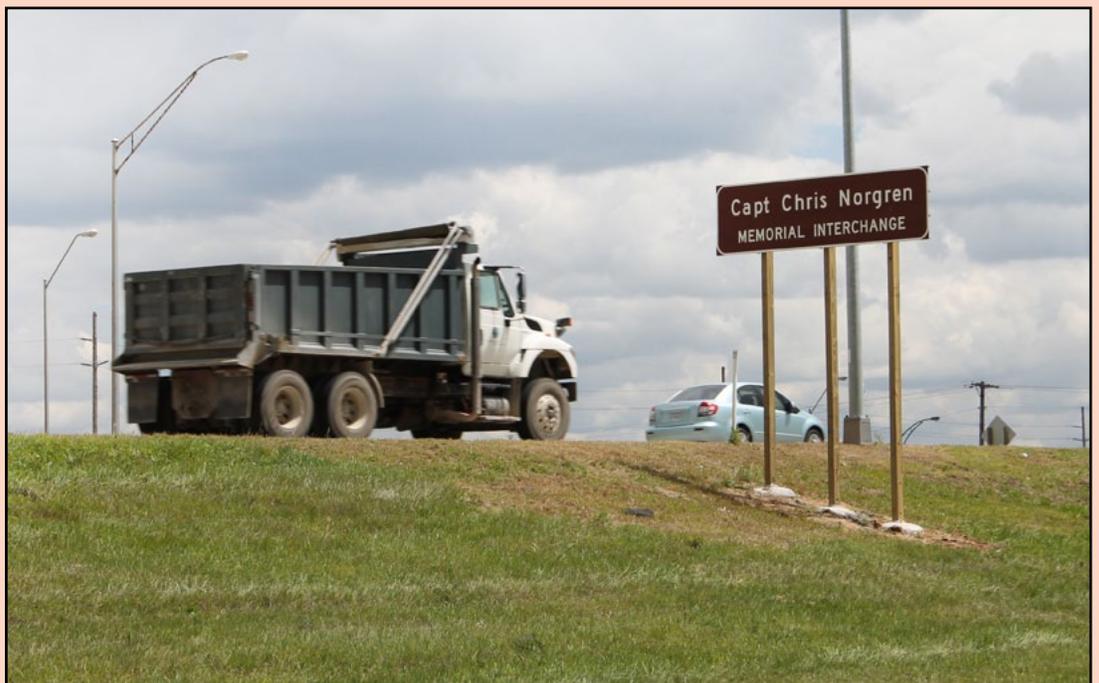
Workers are replacing the section of the I-70 bridge in Ellis County near Walker that goes over Old Highway 40. The work involves patching and placing a silica fume overlay on the section that goes over the railroad.



Work will be done on both the east and westbound bridges with work currently happening on the eastbound lanes. Bridges Inc. is the primary contractor for the approximately \$2 million project. Kris Norton's road squad and Michael Ingalls' bridge squad designed the project.

District Five

The I-235 and Central Avenue interchange in west Wichita was designated the Capt. Chris Norgren Memorial Interchange at a ceremony on May 20. Capt. Norgren was killed along with five other U.S. Marines while supporting earthquake relief efforts in Nepal after a 7.8 magnitude quake on April 25, 2015. The KDOT Wichita Area Crew installed the signs.



Run for the Wall



Above and right, Run for the Wall motorcycle riders get gas and line up at the KTA Service Area east of Topeka on the morning of May 22.



Above, flags were placed along part of the grounds of the service area to show support for the riders, as seen below.

Run for the Wall: More than 300 motorcyclists rolled through Kansas and stopped at the Kansas Turnpike Authority's Service Area east of Topeka on May 22 as part of the 29th annual Run for the Wall where they were welcomed by the KTA, Kansas ABATE chapter and KDOT. Run for the Wall recognizes the sacrifices and contributions of veterans who served the nation. It began in 1989 and was started by two Vietnam Veterans, James Gregory and Bill Evans.

Dallas Hageman has participated in the Run for the Wall for 10 years and said that the ride exists to honor and recognize those who were Killed in Action, Prisoners of War or who are Missing in Action. "We ride for those who can't," Hageman said. "So up at the front of the pack we have an open spot we call, 'The Missing Man Spot,' and we are all there for that one guy or gal that can't be there." Hageman said that while some riders are not veterans, they ride as a way to say, "thank you," to those who have served.



"This is the best way I have found, as a civilian, to give back a very, very small portion of what they have given to me and that's my freedom," Hageman said. The 10-day journey consisting of three different routes. Each route will come together on May 26 at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. Check out a video of Monday's stop - <https://youtu.be/UG9zV1haKb8>.