

Translines EXPRESS

Nov. 15, 2017

Example of Excellence



Congratulations to members of the I-70 Repair Team for being selected as the Example of Excellence for the third quarter of 2017. The team was honored at a ceremony on Nov. 2 in Russell. Members worked together to finish repair work on three I-70 bridges. It was estimated to take four weeks, but the team completed all the work in less than two weeks. Pictured from left to right (front row) include: Secretary Carlson, Catherine Patrick, Ashley Hopper, P.J. Weinhold, James Driscoll, James Ehrlich, Brad Prester, (back row) Larry Thompson, Kevin Zimmer, Gerald Hammerschmidt, Doug Hecker, Max Dirks, Derek Walker and Donald Waldschmidt. Not pictured is Robert Schremmer.

Traffic Safety

Buckle up: KDOT and law enforcement agencies across the state are working around the clock to ensure Thanksgiving travelers are wearing their seat belts. The high-visibility **Click It. Or ticket.** campaign aims to reduce the number of fatalities that occur when vehicle passengers fail to buckle up.

“Wearing a seat belt could truly be the difference between life and death,” said Chris Bortz, KDOT



Traffic Safety Manager. “Tragically, more than half of the people who died in a fatal traffic crash during Thanksgiving 2015 were not wearing a seat belt at the

time of the crash.” In 2015, seat belts saved the lives of 13,941 passenger vehicle occupants nationwide. If seat belt use had been at 100

percent, an additional 2,804 people would still be alive this Thanksgiving.

Trivia!

Actors – part 4

1. This actor, who grew up in Wichita, starred in two long-running TV series about law enforcement in the 1980s and 1990s.
2. This actor, who was born in Lawrence in 1909, may have been Beaver's dad, but he was also in more than 80 movies and nearly 60 television shows.
3. This actor, who spent many years in Kansas, was known as Big Guy on "WKRP in Cincinnati."
4. This actor, who was born in Dodge City in 1936, starred in numerous movies such as "Easy Rider," "Blue Velvet" and "Speed."
5. This actor, who grew up in Lenexa, has starred in numerous movies and is known as Mike Hannigan on "Friends."

General

Honoring the military:

KDOT recently partnered with Union Pacific Railroad and Fort Riley to honor the military.

Union Pacific has deviated from their standard bright yellow locomotive paint-scheme only a handful of times in their long history. Their most recent endeavor? The Spirit, or locomotive No. 1943, which was unveiled at Fort Riley on Nov. 6. This locomotive was painted specifically to honor every branch of the Armed Forces.

"The first locomotive started rolling across Kansas in 1860, beginning now more than a century of partnership, reliability and prestige," said Secretary Richard Carlson, who spoke at the unveiling ceremony. "This locomotive

is a visual example of Union Pacific's dedication to the military and to the people of Kansas."

With 2,196 miles of track in Kansas, and a capital investment of more than \$75 million, as well as state and community support, Union Pacific remains an integral part of life in Kansas. Union Pacific operates a transcontinental corridor through the northeastern corner of the state and a north-south "couplet" of main lines from Kansas City to the Gulf Coast.



The Spirit, or locomotive No. 1943, was unveiled at a ceremony at Fort Riley on Nov. 6. The locomotive was painted specifically to honor all branches of the Armed Forces.

In addition to Secretary Carlson, Fort Riley's Garrison Commander Colonel John Lawrence, Assistant Vice President of Public Affairs for Union Pacific Liisa Stark, as well as Union Pacific's Director of Public Affairs for Kansas and Missouri Lindsey Douglas spoke at the ceremony.

Locomotive No. 1943 will travel across Union Pacific's tracks throughout the United States, displaying support for service members who serve the nation.

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

Kansas Transportation

Tuesday, Nov. 14

#MoveOverKS Encourages drivers to be cautious of road workers

KDOT has initiated a campaign called #MoveOverKS, which is designed to remind drivers on all roadways to give roadside workers space to do their jobs. Images were taken of several KDOT highway workers who are reminding drivers why they should #moveover and give them space. The images will be on KDOT's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Steve Baalman, Topeka Metro Engineer, said that the use of cell phones makes it noticeably scarier to work along highways. "We too often see folks with their faces buried in their cell phones," Baalman said. "Obviously with the texting, it's very spooky for us."

Baalman said that despite the risks, working along the highways is worth it. "I presume most folks are like me," Baalman said. "We like the work, the service and the sense of accomplishment. It makes it worthwhile for those folks who are driving it every day."

Kansas enacted the Move Over Law in 2006. It requires motorists on four-lane highways to switch to the lane farthest from any stationary vehicle displaying flashing lights, if they can do so safely.

flashing lights, if they can do so safely.



Above, Equipment Operator Senior Roy Whitcomb and Equipment Operator Mark Wiley, from the Garnett Subarea office; below left, Equipment Operator Senior Luke Schreefer, from the Clay Center Subarea office; and below right, Equipment Operator Burke Richter, from the Garden City Subarea office; participate in the #MoveOverKS safety campaign.



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

District Two



Above and right, the support column for the overhead sign on I-70 near the I-135 junction was destroyed in a crash on Sept. 28. Below, work takes place to replace the columns and install the sign.

Quick repairs: A semi-truck taking the northbound I-135 ramp to eastbound I-70 rolled and hit the overhead sign truss on Sept. 28. The crash closed all lanes of traffic on I-70. The Salina Subarea crew was at the scene controlling traffic from 8 p.m. until 5 a.m. The truss itself was undamaged and was set on the ground by the Subarea crew with the help of a tow truck driver. However, the south support column was destroyed along with the guardrail (which has been replaced by the Salina Subarea crew.)



Work began to secure materials and on Nov. 6, Fulsom Brothers, Inc., installed the new south support column. The next day, the westbound driving lane of I-70 was shut down shortly before 9 a.m. A hydraulic crane was set up and hooked to the truss to get the load balanced. At 9:20 a.m., both westbound lanes were closed by the KHP while workers attached the ends of the truss to the support columns. Less than seven minutes later, the passing lane was reopened and by 10:15 a.m., I-70 was completely open.

The project was overseen by the Salina Construction office with Philip Nelson, Engineering Technician Senior, and Jalena Hood, Engineering Technician, doing the inspection.



FAA Award

Atwater receives award:
KDOT Aviation Director Merrill Atwater was presented the 2017 Federal Aviation Administration Impact award on Nov. 6 at the Kansas Statehouse. The award recognizes leadership and ingenuity in the promotion and support of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Atwater was selected by the FAA's Regional Administrator Joseph N. Miniace.



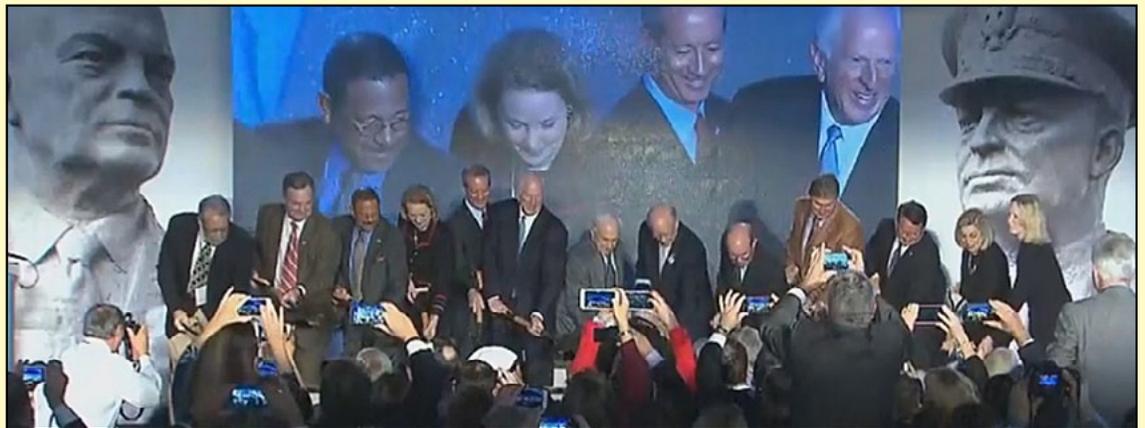
Aviation Director Merrill Atwater, center, was presented the 2017 Federal Aviation Administration Impact award on Nov. 6 at the Captiol. Also pictured, from left to right, include Secretary Richard Carlson, FAA Regional Administrator Joseph Miniace, Gov. Sam Brownback and FAA Deputy Regional Administrator John Speckin.

“Merrill’s commitment to developing aviation in Kansas is as deep as his roots,” said Gov. Sam Brownback. “There is no greater champion of aviation and innovation in the state, which is why it is suitable that this award is presented to Merrill Atwater.” “Merrill Atwater is an incredible advocate for aviation in Kansas,” said Secretary Richard Carlson. “From education to economic development, Merrill has the ability to see the vision of an aviation project or

development and how it can impact the people around it. He is very deserving of this honor.” Atwater has served as the Aviation Director since February 2016. He works with the FAA, collaborates with aviation stakeholders across the state and oversees KDOT aviation programs.

General

Honoring Eisenhower:
Members of President Dwight D. Eisenhower’s family, government officials and memorial committee members broke ground for the memorial at an event on Nov. 2 in Washington, D.C. The new monument, designed by



A ground-breaking ceremony took place Nov. 2 in Washington, D.C., for the Eisenhower Memorial. The memorial is expected to open in 2020.

Frank Gehry, will celebrate Eisenhower’s success as Supreme Allied Commander during World War II and his time as the 34th President of the United States. Sculptures by Sergey Eylanbekov will also be featured. Eisenhower’s great-grandson and KDOT’s Aviation Director Merrill Atwater said that the groundbreaking ceremony was an amazing event. “Kansas will be represented in Washington, D.C.,”

Atwater said. “And that’s pretty exceptional. The memorial is a whole square on the Mall.” There are only five monuments in Washington, D.C., that are named after presidents. Now, Eisenhower’s memorial will join them. The Eisenhower National Memorial is expected to open on May 8, 2020. Learn more about the memorial [here](#).

District Five



Above, the northbound side of the Big Ark River bridge was constructed this year. At right, the new 25th Street bridge has the stamped concrete “decoration.”

I-235 wraps up: After two construction seasons, five bridges on I-235 in northwest Wichita were replaced and traffic returned to normal in late October. In 2016, the southbound I-235 bridges over the Wichita – Valley Center Floodway and the Big Arkansas River were replaced. This year, the northbound bridges were built plus the 25th Street bridge over the interstate.

A Smart Work Zone was used to monitor traffic conditions and congestion, advise drivers of travel times through the construction zone and provide camera views to the WICHway traffic management center so traffic and incidents could be monitored.



Dondlinger Construction of Wichita was the prime contractor and the Wichita Hillside Construction office performed the inspections. Mark Hurt’s bridge squad and Kris Norton’s road squad designed the project.

KTA



KTA is finishing up work up many of its 2017 construction projects. Here South Topeka’s southbound ramp is lengthened to allow more time for acceleration before merging onto the turnpike (photo from June).

Traffic Incident Response Week

Watch for responders at traffic incidents: Every minute of every day, emergency responders across the country work to help save lives at the scene of traffic incidents. But every year hundreds of emergency responders representing fire, law enforcement, emergency medical services, towing and transportation agencies are struck and either injured or killed while responding. To raise awareness of the dangers these emergency responders are exposed to and to remind drivers of their obligation to use caution when approaching a traffic incident, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has declared Nov. 13 – 19 as Traffic Incident Response Week.

In 2015, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported a 7.2 percent increase in roadway fatalities over 2014. In 2016, another 6 percent jump was reported. Emergency responders work at each one of these scenes and unfortunately, are sometimes victims of secondary crashes caused by inattentive drivers.

KDOT, the Kansas Highway Patrol and partner agencies across Kansas remind drivers to move over for any emergency or maintenance vehicle with flashing lights.

The Kansas Move Over law requires drivers on four-



Incidents along the highways can be dangerous for all responders.

lane roads or highways to move over when passing emergency vehicles. On two-lane roads, drivers should slow down and proceed with caution.

To help emergency responders in Kansas, a FHWA Traffic Incident Management multi-disciplinary training course is presented to promote a shared understanding of the requirements for quick incident clearance and best-practice safeguards for responders and motorists. More than 3,000 emergency responders in Kansas have received the training.

Johnson County Gateway

The Johnson County Gateway project won first place in the Infrastructure category of the 2017 Excellence in Concrete Construction Awards from the American Concrete Institute in October. The national award recognizes the \$288 million project that was completed in November 2016.



District Five



KDOT employees from the Wichita West Subarea office help Wichita Fire Department crews in the area train to rescue people from confined spaces using old concrete culvert tubes. The tubes are placed in a configuration where they can practice multiple rescues at the same time and different tight quarters situations like a flooded tube, a collapsed building, etc., according to Equipment Operator Specialist Ryan Wallace. This is the second year the groups have worked together on rescue training efforts.

General

Stolen history: According to an article in Better Roads, an Indiana man has been accused of illegally dismantling a historic railroad bridge in Hammond and selling the metal for \$18,000, The Associated Press reports.

A photo provided to Bridgehunter.com by the Indiana State Department of Natural Resource, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology shows the bridge in its original state.

Kenneth Morrison had asked the city to buy and dismantle the bridge in 1991, but was denied. He was denied a second time in September 2014, AP reports. Between December 2014 and January 2015, he allegedly dismantled the Monon Bridge and sold the

metal to scrap dealers.

The bridge was built in 1909 and used by the former Hammond Meatpacking Co. plant. It was one of only two bascule bridges in the region, AP reports.

Morrison had said he was saving the city money by dismantling the bridge. He has been indicted on a charge of interstate transportation of stolen property and released on \$20,000 bond.

This is not Morrison's first run-in with the law over scrap metal. The AP reports that in 1995 he was sentenced to a year in prison and ordered to pay \$50,000 after his attempt to dismantle a metal storage tank caused a 5,000-gallon waste-oil spill.

To see photos of the bridge, click [here](#).

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Don Johnson
2. Hugh Beaumont
3. Gordon Jump
4. Dennis Hopper
5. Paul Rudd

Retiree

The following employees will retire from KDOT in December.

District Two

Phillip Whitehair, Equipment Operator Senior, Abilene

District Four

Roy Nilges, Equipment Operator, Garnett

KTA

KTA brief - Each year, the Kansas Turnpike recognizes employees celebrating years-of-service anniversaries. For 2017, KTA recognized 49 employees that collectively have 785 years of service to the KTA. See the employee reaching service anniversaries [here](#).

KDOT Employee Council Holiday Ornament Order Form

2017

Headquarters: Contact your Council Rep.

Districts/Retirees: Mail form to -
Ruby Hilton, ESOB - 13th Floor,
700 SW Harrison, Topeka, KS 66603

Year	Quantity	Cost	Total
2017		\$5.00	
2016		\$3.00	
2015		\$3.00	
2014		\$3.00	
2013		\$3.00	
2012		\$3.00	
2010		\$3.00	



Great Gift Ideas!

Please Print -

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ (Retirees only - home address)

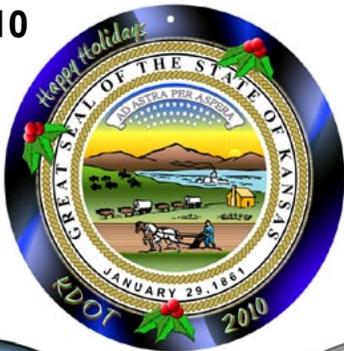
Work phone: _____

Make checks payable
to KDOT Employee
Council

For more details, call
Ruby at (785) 291-3980

----- Past Ornaments Still Available -----

2010



2012



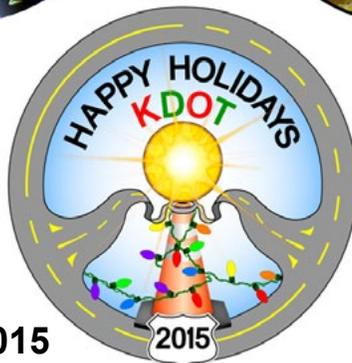
2013



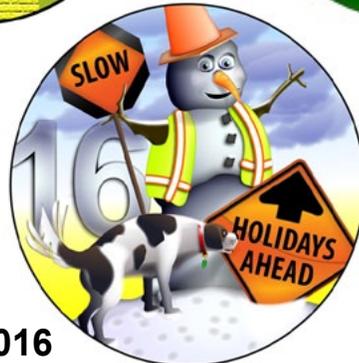
2014



2015



2016



Supply is limited on ornaments from previous years - first come, first serve



Give the Gift
of Kansas



FROM THE LAND OF
KANSAS

Order online at shop.fromthelandofkansas.com
by Dec. 10 for guaranteed holiday delivery.

\$25



The Konza Gift Box

Bring the beauty of the Konza prairie home for the holidays with these one of a kind Kansas made products. Your gift includes products from across the state: Schlaegel's Homegrown Popcorn, Cranberry Trail Mix, Grandma Hoerner's Big Slices, Kansas Wildflower Honey, chocolate covered sunflower seeds, specialty orange cookies, Sand Hill Plum jelly, Grannie's Homemade Mustard, and traditional German Peppernuts! *Feel the joy of supporting local Kansas businesses as you enjoy the holidays.*

\$50



The Ad Astra Gift Box

Celebrate this holiday with plenty of Kansas products to go around (or save for yourself, all season long!) Your gift includes products from across the state: Kansas Wildflower Honey, Louisburg pumpkin butter, Wright Enterprises Sunflower Oil, specialty orange cookies, chocolate covered sunflower seeds, "Sticky Spoons" homemade jelly, traditional German peppernuts, and a From the Land of Kansas mug made in Manhattan, KS! *Know that your purchase helps Kansas businesses to grow!*

**Prices do not include tax and shipping.

**To guarantee delivery by Dec. 25, your order must be placed by Dec. 10. If you are ordering a quantity of more than 15 gift boxes, please call 785-564-6759 to ensure your delivery can be fulfilled by Dec. 25.

Packaged By: *Prairie Harvest*

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