

Translines EXPRESS

Dec. 19, 2018

Example of Excellence



Congratulations to members of the Eureka Tornado Assistance Team for being selected as the Example of Excellence for the third quarter. The team was honored by Secretary Richard Carlson on Dec. 17 in Eureka. Team members from numerous KDOT offices in District Four and District Five worked together after a tornado hit Eureka on June 26. They closed highways, cleared streets, picked up debris and assisted where needed. The tornado also damaged all the buildings at the KDOT Eureka Subarea office, making it more of a challenge to respond. Members of the team include employees from the Chanute District office, District Four Special crew, District Four Paint crew, District Four Shop, Iola Area office, Eureka Subarea, Fort Scott Subarea, Iola Subarea, Yates Center Subarea, Independence Area office, Altoona Subarea as well as District Five crews from the El Dorado Area and the El Dorado Subarea.

*Happy
Holidays!*

Please note: Due to the holidays, there will not be a Jan. 2 Translines edition. The next edition will be on Jan. 9, 2019.

**2018 Discretionary Day -
take on or before Dec. 28.**

**State offices are closed on
Monday and Tuesday, Dec.
24 and Dec. 25, and also on
Tuesday, Jan. 1.**

Trivia!

Agriculture - from Kansas Historical Society

1. The first Department of Agriculture traces its roots back here, before Kansas was a state. When did agriculture activities begin?
2. A Kansas Agriculture Society was organized two years later to keep records and reports on agricultural production in Kansas (still before Kansas achieved statehood). Why are early records of this organization sparse?
3. Once Kansas became a state, many counties agreed with having an agricultural society and formed their own groups. What was the main function of the societies at that time?
4. When did the Kansas Legislature form the Kansas State Agricultural Society?
5. When did the federal government create an agricultural department?

KTA



Two more projects have been completed for the 2018 season. At left, reconstruction of the S.W. 85th Street bridge crossing over the I-335/KTA at MM 169.6, and above, a drainage project on I-35/KTA at MM 4.4 and 6.26, a few miles north of the Kansas/Oklahoma border.

KTA Brief: Westbound I-70 drivers with a valid K-TAG can access K-4 from the East Topeka plaza by using the dedicated K-TAG lane located to the far right of the cash toll area.

In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of retiree Dick Varner who passed away on Dec. 1 in Topeka. Varner worked as a Mechanic at KDOT for nearly 30 years.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. In 1855, during a meeting of the first territorial legislature an agricultural committee was formed with laws passed to protect and aid farmers.
2. The records were kept at the Kansas Historical Society in Lawrence. When Quantrill raided the town, he burned the society's records along with a large part of Lawrence.
3. To host a county fair so that farmers could exchange ideas with neighbors, highlight successes and provide entertainment.
4. March 5, 1862.
5. May 15, 1862.

Retiree

The follow employee will retire from KDOT on Jan. 1.

**District Three
Tom Plummer,**
Engineering
Technician Senior,
Oakley

District One/Maintenance

Pretreating efforts:

Communications Director Laurie Arellano spent time with crew members from District One, Area Two in the Kansas City metro area on Dec. 14 and rode along during a pretreatment action to help clear up some misconceptions about how and when anti-ice salt brine is used.

Equipment Operator Senior Steve Borjas said crews treat bridges and overpasses ahead of time when possible if frost or ice conditions are predicted. Bridge surfaces are more likely to freeze overnight because they are exposed to cold air from the top and the bottom.

If there is no rain, the pretreatment is effective for about two weeks. Borjas said this helps address problem areas that are known to ice more quickly and gives crews a head start on snow and ice removal when storms hit.

According to Maintenance Bureau Chief Clay Adams, prior to KDOT's adoption of the use of brine, it was a standard practice that an office would have an employee report to work early and run the



Crews pre-treat I-35 in Johnson County. Liquid treatment sticks to the road longer than sand and dry salt and requires fewer trips back to the Subarea to refill.



routes with a truck to monitor frost on bridge decks. When he or she noticed that frost was forming, they would spread salt on the deck. By being proactive, Adams said KDOT reduces the need for these early morning frost checks, which saves money and prevents the frost from forming.

KDOT has been transitioning away from treating roads with a mix of salt and sand to using straight salt that has been pre-wetted with salt brine to help it stick the highway. By pre-wetting the salt with brine, it allows the material to start melting the snow and ice immediately. When the conditions are right, crews are able to use liquid brine by itself to keep the roads treated.



Above, Equipment Operators use pavement sensors to determine where treatment is needed during ice events to identify colder places on roadways. At left, Equipment Operator Senior Steve Borjas works to pre-treat the highways in Johnson County.

District Four

Below, the north end of the U.S. 169 pavement reconstruction project in Allen County underwent a traffic switch in early December when the new roadway between Hawaii and Minnesota roads opened to traffic. Work on the entire seven-mile improvement started in the spring of 2018. Activity consists of replacing the concrete pavement on the mainline and interchange ramps, and reestablishing a new subgrade base.



At the same time, the south end of the project, from Delaware Road north to Hawaii Road, was closed for removal of the pavement and reconstruction, as seen above. The state route detour remains in effect on K-39, U.S. 75 and U.S. 54 until the project is finished next year. KDOT awarded the construction contract of \$16.2 million to Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc. Aaron Frits' road squad and Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project.

Kudos

Garden City Subarea Supervisor Hector Terrones was out checking routes recently when he saw a vehicle along U.S. 83 south of Garden City. The vehicle slid off in the ditch and had a flat tire as a result. Terrones and an area farmer stopped to help the two motorists in the vehicle get back on the road. The farmer had just left and Terrones was finishing up when District Six Public Affairs Manager Lisa Knoll, who was traveling to a project site, saw Terrones and stopped to take a photo.



Kansas Byways

New signs greet travelers: Travelers on the 12 scenic or historic byways in Kansas have even more reason to enjoy their trips thanks to new or upgraded interpretive signs at 39 locations across the state. Kansas Byways are a collection of routes that highlight the beauty, history and heritage of Kansas; help stimulate the economy through tourism; and promote a positive image of the state.

The Kansas Byways program is jointly managed by KDOT, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT), the Kansas Historical Society (KHS) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Nine of the routes are scenic byways (two of which are national scenic byways) and three are historic byways.

The \$1.44 million project included construction of five new kiosks housing interpretive panels, the rehabilitation of 12 existing kiosks and their signs, 26 interpretive signage plazas and 12 Kansas Byway welcome boards – one for each byway. In all, 142 panel surfaces were produced.

KDOT and KDWPT received a \$220,000 National Scenic Byway grant from the FHWA in 2010 to develop the Kansas Byways Interpretive Plan. KDOT and KDWPT evenly split the required 20 percent match of \$44,000.



A visitor looks at the signs in Ray Miller Park along the Glacial Hills Scenic Byway.

In 2014, KDWPT received a two-phase Transportation Alternative Grant from the FHWA administered through KDOT for design and construction.

Members of the local byway committees appreciate the enhancements.

“The kiosk and new interpretive signage add so much to the history and understanding of the surrounding area for tourists to stop and read,” said Kaye Kuhn, Gypsum Hills Scenic Byway in south central Kansas.

For information on the Kansas Byways, visit <https://www.travelks.com/ksbyways/>.



New signs on K-156 highlight the Cheyenne Bottoms along the Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway.

Kansas Asphalt Pavement Association

The 2018 Workmanship and Engineering Awards for the Kansas Asphalt Pavement Association (KAPA) took place on Dec. 6 in Lawrence. KDOT projects were honored in several categories.

State Transportation Engineer Catherine Patrick and Dan Scherschligt, KAPA Executive Director, presented the awards and are pictured with all the winners in the photos below.



Overlay less than one-inch - Second place was awarded to Cornejo & Sons of Wichita for U.S. 50 in Reno County. Scott Koopman, right, accepted the award for KDOT.



Overlay one-inch or greater award - First place is awarded to Hall Brothers of Marysville for K-15 in Washington County. Greg Rietcheck, left, accepted the award for KDOT.



Overlay less than one-inch - First place goes to APAC Kansas Inc. Shears Division, Hays Branch in Hays, Kansas for K-96 in Wichita and Scott counties. Craig Schlott, right, accepted the award for KDOT.



Director's Award - Second place is awarded to Venture Corporation of Great Bend for U.S. 24 in Sheridan County. Rob Percival, left, accepted the award for KDOT.



Overlay one-inch or greater award - Tied for second place was Shilling Construction Company of Manhattan for K-63 in Pottawatomie County. Matt Mackeprang, right, accepted the award for KDOT.



Director's Award - First place is awarded to APAC Kansas Inc. Shears Division, Hutchinson Branch of Hutchinson for U.S. 69 in Linn County. Troy Howard, right, accepted the award for KDOT.

Kansas Transportation

Thursday, Dec. 13

Rail depot preservation project wraps up in Lawrence

Following nearly nine years of planning and almost a year of construction, the historic Santa Fe Depot used by Amtrak and BNSF is set to be completed this month.

The City of Lawrence, which owns the facility, will cut the ribbon in February 2019 to rededicate the facility following the \$1.8 million renovation project. It is funded through KDOT's Transportation

Alternative Program (TAP) funds, which is federal funding for non-traditional transportation projects. "We're excited to be at this point," said Diane Stoddard, City of Lawrence Assistant City Manager. The building dates to 1955 and is on the National



Looking outside the window at the newly-restored Lawrence Santa Fe Depot.

Register of Historic Places.

The City of Lawrence, in cooperation with local preservation organizations, applied for the TAP funding, which reimburses 80 percent of the funds while the other 20 percent are provided by the project sponsor.

Federal TAP grants administered through KDOT fall into three general categories: bicycle/pedestrian, historic and scenic or environmental. The depot project received funds in the historic category because it supports rail transportation in Kansas. The project preserved much of the interior, including artwork, furnishing, lighting and architectural features. It also provided the ability to build ADA-compliant access and restrooms, repair the roof and install geothermal HVAC and solar panels. The rededication event is set for Feb. 22, 2019, at the depot.



Crews work outside at the Santa Fe Depot in Lawrence.

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

*Please join us for a retirement party honoring
Secretary Richard Carlson*



Thursday, January 3, 2019

2 – 4 p.m.

*Eisenhower State Office Building
4th Floor, Auditorium A & B
700 SW Harrison Street, Topeka, KS*

KDOT Employee Council Holiday Ornament Order Form

2018

Year	Quantity	Cost	Total
2018		\$5.00	
2017		\$3.00	
2016		\$3.00	
2015		\$3.00	
2013		\$3.00	
Total enclosed			



Great Gift Ideas!

Please Print -

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ (Retirees only - home address)

Work phone: _____

How to Order:

Headquarters: Contact your Council Rep.

Districts/Retirees:

Mail form to -

Ruby Hilton,
ESOB - 13th Floor,
700 SW Harrison,
Topeka, KS 66603

Make checks payable to KDOT Employee Council

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

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

2017



2016



2015



2013



Give the gift of KANSAS!



As a Kansas state employee, you receive an exclusive offer (up to 66 percent off retail price!) to subscribe to KANSAS! - the premier travel magazine of the Sunflower State.

Each issue of KANSAS! takes readers on a journey through engaging stories and vibrant photography - enjoy recipes, trip itineraries and more! PLUS, your gift subscription comes with an official 2019 KANSAS! calendar.

No need to stand in a long checkout line, just click [here](#) and fill out your giftee's information - we can even bill you in the new year.

For more information, please email andrea.etzel@ks.gov