

# Translines EXPRESS

Feb. 24, 2016

## Employee Recognition



**Congratulations to team members from the Syracuse Area as well as Lakin and Garden City Subareas for being selected as the Example of Excellence for the fourth quarter of 2015. The team was honored by Secretary Mike King on Feb. 18 in Garden City. The team helped the Kansas Department of Revenue to rebuild the 130-foot by 240-foot CDL course in Garden City so that it would not be shut down. The team worked together for about a month with cold, rain and short daylight hours that challenged the effort in addition to their everyday assignments. Left to right, front row, District Six Engineer Larry Thompson, Jose Mendoza, Mike Johannsen, Secretary Mike King, Ben Smith, Dennis Grubbs, Lance Reimer, (standing) Area One Engineer Gary Bennett, Ron Munyan, Hector Terrones, Jesus Casanova, Jeremy Cox, Frank Burns, David Gilchrist, Ron Vanover and David Marsh. Becky Brownlee is not pictured.**

## Aviation

**New Aviation Director:** Kansas businessman Merrill Eisenhower Atwater has been selected to be the state's next aviation director. Atwater, of Basehor, will work with the Federal Aviation Administration and aviation stakeholders across the state. He will oversee KDOT aviation programs, such as the Kansas Airport Improvement Program. "Merrill will be the champion for aviation in Kansas. He will promote aviation as an integral part of the state's overall transportation infrastructure, which includes a world-class highway system," said Secretary Mike King. "I am pleased Merrill has agreed to join us." For more than a year, Atwater has been national sales director for Housby, a diversified Des Moines, Iowa, company that comprises Mack and Isuzu truck retail sales, truck maintenance, auctions and more. Over



**Merrill Atwater**

the past decade, he has also been vice president of business development for Bar None Auctions in Sacramento, Calif.; senior executive of development and principal of Global Green Energy Parks of Kansas City, Mo.; and president of new business development for Fox Energy Corp., of Kansas City, Mo.

Atwater, as the great-grandson of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, took part in the national celebration of the 50th anniversary of the U.S. interstate system in the summer of 2006 and participated in a cross-country convoy that included stops in Abilene and Kansas City, Kan.

## Trivia!

### Fun February Facts

1. About how many heart-shaped boxes of chocolate are sold for Valentine's Day each year?
2. What year was President's Day established? Who did it recognize?
3. A version of Groundhog Day originated in European weather lore – what animals made the prediction back then?
4. What is February's birthstone and flower?
5. Before Julius Caesar remade the Roman calendar, February has as few days as \_\_\_\_\_.

## Kudos

KDOT offices received thank you notes through Facebook:

- Just keep doing what you are doing and stay safe and help keep everyone else safe.
- Keep up the great work. You have a big job fighting mother nature.

## District Six

**Sitka Junction reconstruction:** Work is expected to resume in March on a project to rebuild the intersection of U.S. 160/K-34 in Clark County, known locally as the Sitka Junction. The purpose of the project is to improve sight distance to the east for vehicles approaching the intersection on K-34 from the north or the south. The project calls for shifting the intersection about 50 feet south of the current intersection, with the roadway east of the intersection shifting as much as 100 feet south of the current alignment. A portion of the hill directly east of the intersection is also being removed.

APAC-Kansas, Shears Division, of Hutchinson is the primary contractor at a cost of about \$2.7 million. Work began last July and is expected to be completed by summer. Kris Norton's road squad and John Jones' bridge squad designed the project.



**Above, this view looking east from the Sitka Junction shows the new roadbed for U.S. 160. The current roadway is on the hill to the left. Below, looking west from the hill east of the US-160/K-34 junction. In the distance to the right is a shoo-fly detour that will be used as reconstruction of the intersection progresses.**



## Weather



**District Three Paint Crew Supervisor Jim Antrim took this photo of a sign at the U.S. 36/U.S. 383 junction in Norton County during the early February winter storm and joked that, "this is how icicles grow in 50-mile an hour winds."**

## Safety

### KDOT Safety TEAM (Together Employees Accomplish More)

*Here is an employee's story of an event that occurred on Nov. 20, 2015. This was an event that could have been catastrophic, but thanks to the quick warning of a fellow employee, major injuries were avoided.*

It was just like any other Friday. We were setting up the work zone when the incident occurred. The work zone was set up for concrete work in the driver's lane. It was going smoothly because the work zone was laid out the day before by our supervisor. All the locations for the signs were marked, so we started by placing them. The only thing left to do was set up the cones, and every precaution would have been covered. A lady in a Mercury car was coming up the ramp and instead of using the acceleration lane, she drove through the taper. I was completely unaware of this until after the fact. The only thing that alerted me that something was going wrong was when I heard my co-worker yelling NO.

I was standing beside the passenger rear of the pick-up truck on the shoulder picking up cones on the trailer. I heard a voice that caused me to turn and look up. That is when I saw the driver of the Mercury car blow through our taper. A GMC pick-up truck heading southbound hit the driver side of the Mercury. When I saw what was happening, I immediately jumped into the air. That is when the sign trailer banged into my knees. This



**Sharing safety alerts:** This is the fourth safety alert by a KDOT employee that is being shared in Translines to help prevent similar accidents from happening.



caused me to do a full summersault landing on my back, knocking the wind out of me. I laid there for minute with a throbbing leg, thinking that it could be broken. I was still holding the two cones in my hands and must have been in a little shock or something, because the next thing I heard was someone yelling at me, are you ok? He told me to lie down and wait for the ambulance. It seemed like I was laying there for a while but then I heard the fire truck and the ambulance. The ambulance personnel loaded me into the back of the ambulance and looked me over. They said that my leg was ok. It was just severely bruised and it would be sore for a couple of days, but not broke. This event opened my eyes to just how fast things can change. I know that if I had not heard my co-worker yelling NO, this event could have went a totally different way.

*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](mailto:translines@ksdot.org)*

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. More than 36 million.
2. 1885, President George Washington.
3. A badger or sacred bear.
4. Amethyst and primrose.
5. 23 days.

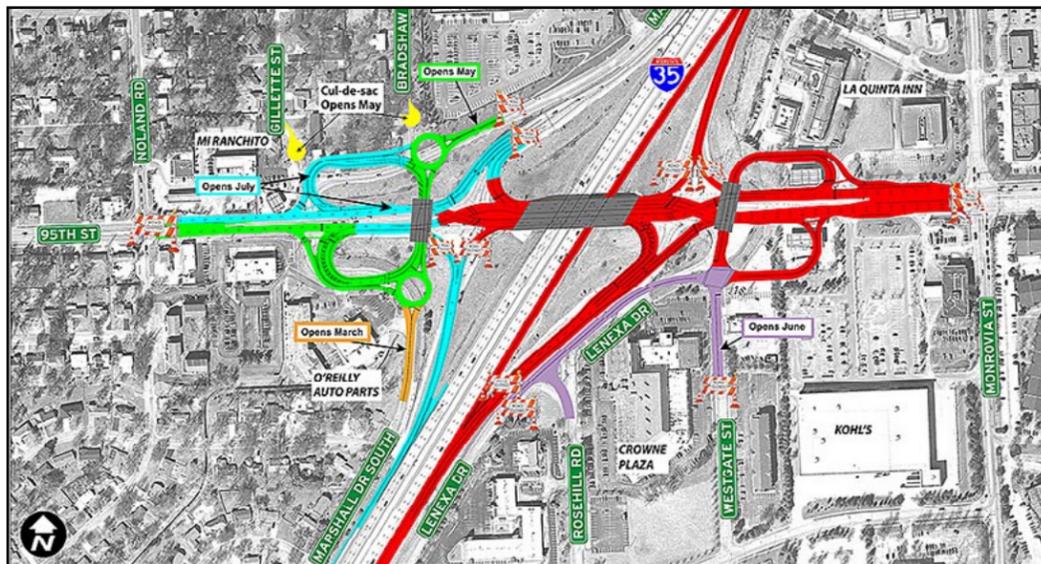
## District Five



Construction continues on ramp bridges at the I-235/U.S. 54 interchange in west Wichita. The \$143 million, three-year project began in November and is the first phase of the interchange reconstruction. Details including project features, current traffic impacts and future traffic changes are documented at [www.235red.org](http://www.235red.org).

## District One

**New DDI being constructed:** The 95th Street/I-35 Interchange in Johnson County was closed to traffic on Feb. 21 as crews work to rebuild it as a Diverging Diamond Interchange. Without full closure of the interchange for the next six months as well as closures on nearby ramps and other streets, this project would have taken two construction seasons to finish under moving traffic. When completed, this will be KDOT's fourth DDI in the Kansas City Metro Area. The new DDI will open in late August with final completion work slated for November. The reconstruction and improvements also include adding sidewalks, pedestrian crossings and new lighting. Utility relocation along 95th Street, Marshall Drive and Lenexa Drive has been underway since late



**Closures at the 95th Street/I-35 interchange - red shows closures until August, green shows closures from March to May, blue shows closures until July, orange shows closures until March and purple shows closures from April to June.**

January. This project is part of the three-year \$288 million Johnson County Gateway Phase 2 Design-Build Project. Kelly Keele's road squad and Mark Hoppe's bridge

Do you know of a KDOT retiree not receiving Translines?

Please let them know that if they are interested in receiving it, please send an email to [Kimberly@ksdot.org](mailto:Kimberly@ksdot.org).

## General



Winfield Superintendent Greg Dixon saw this badger near K-44, joking that it was a new post hole digger in Sumner County.

## KDOT Blog

### Kansas Transportation

Wednesday, Feb. 17

#### The Making of a Road

Kansas is known for its quality roads and building good ones means more than just putting down pavement. Typical construction or reconstruction projects generally consist of the following:

##### Planning:

KDOT collects and evaluates a vast amount of information about the roads including current conditions, traffic volume and crash statistics. This data helps determine what and how to build.

##### Design:

Surveys of the road location, surface and terrain, drainage capabilities and other factors are taken to help develop the design. Once the design has been developed, KDOT opens the project for bidding from contractors.

##### Earthwork:

More than just playing in the dirt, earthwork establishes the stable foundation for the road bed. Contractors build embankments using cuts and fills, and then level the surface out. Gravel layers are also added and compacted to bring the road to its designed height.

##### Paving:

It's finally time to lay down the surface, which is usually asphalt or concrete. The type of material depends on maintenance costs, traffic volume and materials.



##### Open to Traffic:

Almost...tests are conducted on the new pavement to measure vibrations. If the road is too rough, the pavement must be smoothed out. Striping and permanent markings are also applied. Once it passes inspection, construction zones are removed and the roadway is open for business!

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

## Transload

**Preliminary engineering to begin for Great Bend shipping facility:** A consortium of city and rail interests has been given the go-ahead to begin preliminary engineering for a transload shipping center at Great Bend.

KDOT, which will contribute \$3 million for the \$6.8 million project, gave approval for preliminary engineering after reviewing the business plan and financial model proposed by the Great Bend group. The consultant HDR will do the preliminary engineering.

The city of Great Bend, the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development, Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad (K&O), and Kansas Transload Services helped develop the plans. The transload facility will be built west of Great Bend at the airport.

"I'm extremely pleased how this group developed its proposal from concept to now beginning the preliminary engineering process

and I'm anxious to get construction started later this year," said Secretary Mike King. "This facility will have great business benefits for farmers and manufacturers, allow for reduced transportation costs and provide economic development opportunities for Great Bend and the region." Transloading is the process of moving goods from one mode of transportation to another, or in this case, from truck to rail and rail to truck. By blending the benefits of shipping by rail and local/short haul trucking, a transload facility can provide more flexible, cost-effective solutions for customers who may not have local access to freight rail service or those who need expanded warehousing.

Great Bend is one of two communities selected for development of a transload facility. The other is Garden City, which has yet to receive final approval for preliminary engineering.

## Weather/Safety



**The pickup truck at left cuts in front of the middle snow plow while crews clean a highway in Colorado.**

**Driver weaves through CDOT snowplows:** According to a story in Better Roads, the Colorado Department of Transportation caught a reckless driver weaving through snowplows on a dashboard camera and is using the footage to remind drivers to be safe.

The video, which can be seen [here](#) (from the attached pdf of Translines), shows a pickup truck driver speeding towards two snowplows then trying to weave between the plows as they clear the roads.

A CDOT snow plow driver talked with KKTU as said the

video makes him feel "capsized." He said the truck driver is taking a chance with his life by driving so aggressively between the plows.

"People try to pass me on the left, pass around going on the right. I've had people try to pass me on the right and actually get caught up in a windrow and cover themselves. You can actually get blinded by the snow when we're pushing it off the road," Jacob Aguilar said. "... It's not worth it. He's jeopardizing his life, he's jeopardizing other people's lives."

## KTA

# YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

## 2016 Customer Satisfaction Survey

**Customer survey:** The KTA is conducting a customer satisfaction survey to get input from the public to help improve its efforts involving projects, services, partnerships and other areas.

People are encouraged to share their thoughts on the online 2016 customer satisfaction survey [here](#) (from the attached pdf of Translines). The survey is open until March 14.

## District Four

**The 2016 District Four Partnering Workshop took place Feb. 18 in Independence. Above, the KCA/KDOT Excellence in Partnering Award for a \$1.5 million to \$5 million project went to the U.S. 160 Elk River Bridge replacement in Montgomery County. From left, Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger, Independence construction office employees Steve Gibson and Tim Burton, Ramon Bujanda of Bridges Inc., Independence construction office employee Robert Miller and KDOT Partnering Coordinator Scott Swanson. Below, the Excellence in Partnering Award for a project less than \$1.5 million went to the Fort Scott Riverfront Park improvements along U.S. 69. From left, Younger, KDOT Iola Area Engineer Darrin Petrowsky, Joshua Palik of Felsburg Holt & Ullevig, Joe White of BHC Rhodes, Ken Ashmore of Amino Brothers and Swanson.**



**Above, Fort Scott Riverfront Park; left, U.S. 160 Elk River Bridge.**