

# Translines EXPRESS

Oct. 5, 2016

## 2016 Construction Career Day Expo



*More than 1,300 middle and high school students from the Topeka area attended KDOT's fifth Construction Career Day Expo on Sept. 27 at the Kansas Expo Center in Topeka. See more photos from the event in this edition.*

## Aviation

*The 2016 Fly Kansas Air Tour took to the skies last week and stopped at several airports around the state for people to learn about aviation and get an up-close view of the airplanes. More information and photos of the event are in this edition.*



## Trivia!

### Kansas creators/ inventors

1. This was invented by a Dairy Queen owner in Coffeyville in the 1950s.
2. This unique aircraft was invented by Goodland natives William Purvis and Charles Wilson in 1909.
3. He created the arc lamp.
4. He created his own auto company in 1925.
5. This was found in Dexter in 1903.
6. Billy Ingram and Walter Anderson founded this restaurant in Wichita in 1921.

## Retirees

The following employees retired from KDOT on Oct. 1.

### District One

Gary Melcher, Equipment Operator Senior, Seneca

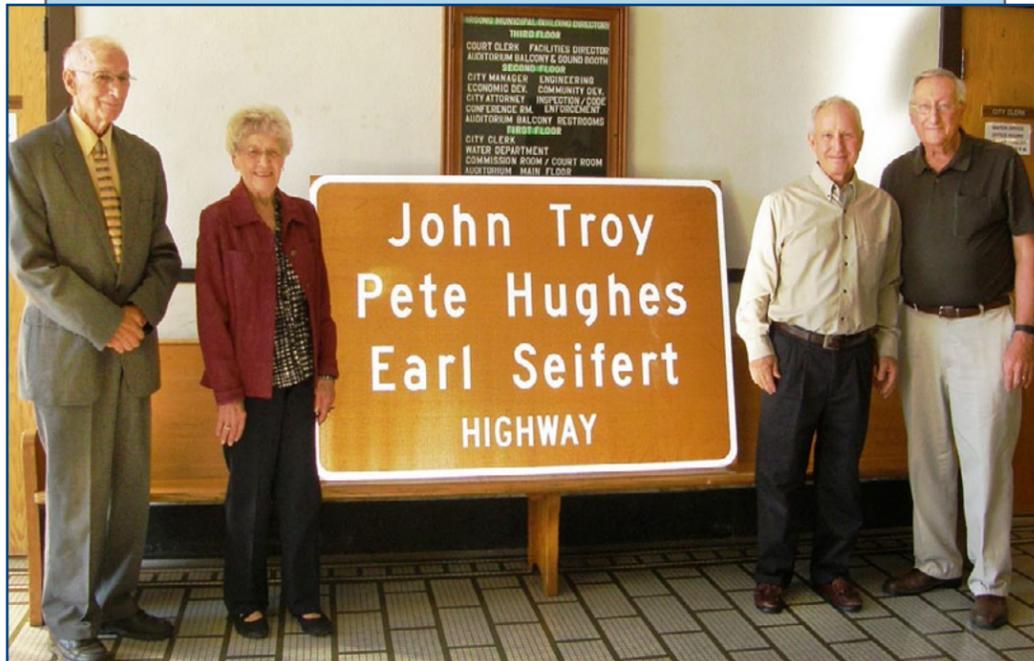
### District Two

Wendell Cooper, Equipment Operator Senior, Strong City

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Icee
2. Helicopter
3. W.C. Coleman, founder of the Coleman Company, from Labette County
4. Walter P. Chrysler, from Ellis
5. Helium
6. White Castle

## District Four



**Signs designating a four-mile section of U.S. 400 in honor of three men from the Parsons area were dedicated Sept. 29. John Troy, Pete Hughes and Earl Seifert were instrumental in the development of U.S. 400 in southeast Kansas, traveling to Washington, D.C., in the 1990s to push for the '400' designation that was considered a breach of the highway numbering system. Unveiling one of the signs were, from left (above): Pete Hughes; Marjorie Troy, widow of John Troy; Don Seifert, son of Earl Seifert; and Rep. Rich Proehl. The highway section named for the trio runs from Queens Road east to Udall Road at Parsons.**

## KTA

**Bridges to be lifted along KTA:** Construction to increase the vertical clearance of 10 bridges crossing over the Turnpike/I-35, between south Wichita and the Oklahoma border began in September and will be completed in late summer 2017.

Construction at each bridge location will take approximately two months to complete, with work occurring at two or more locations at the same time. Each bridge is planned to be lifted to provide at least 15'-9" of clearance. Learn more about the process here: <http://bit.ly/2ceDe6p>.

Work will begin with the bridge located at mile marker 35.405 I-35/KTA (103rd St. South, Sedgwick County.) Two more will be completed this fall and seven bridges crossing I-35/KTA will be finished in 2017.

Burns & McDonnell of Kansas City, Mo., was awarded the \$3.7 million contract.

### Other KTA news:

◆ October is KTA's anniversary month.

For 60 years, KTA has connected travelers to Kansas' three largest cities and surrounding communities. Watch the special 60th anniversary video [here](#)

◆ KTA's PurpleWave auction is still going on. Sale items include several vehicles, equipment and more. The auction runs until Oct. 11, check it out [here](#)



## Traffic Safety

**Drugged driving summit:** A new Kansas poll conducted for AAA found that 9 out of 10 Kansas motorists view people driving after using alcohol, prescription or illegal drugs as a threat to their personal safety. However, only two thirds view driving after using marijuana as unacceptable.

"Public awareness of drugged driving as an emerging safety issue is critical to preventing unnecessary harm and loss of life from motor vehicle crashes in Kansas," said AAA Spokesman Jim Hanni. "These results raise concerns about the lack of awareness in Kansas of how drugged driving crashes are increasingly affecting other parts of the country experiencing serious problems. This is especially significant when you consider the number of years it took to get the public to fully understand the dangers posed by drinking and driving."

AAA's survey was released at the first-ever Drugged Driving Summit in Kansas and the central region of the U.S. in Topeka today. KDOT and AAA sponsored the event.

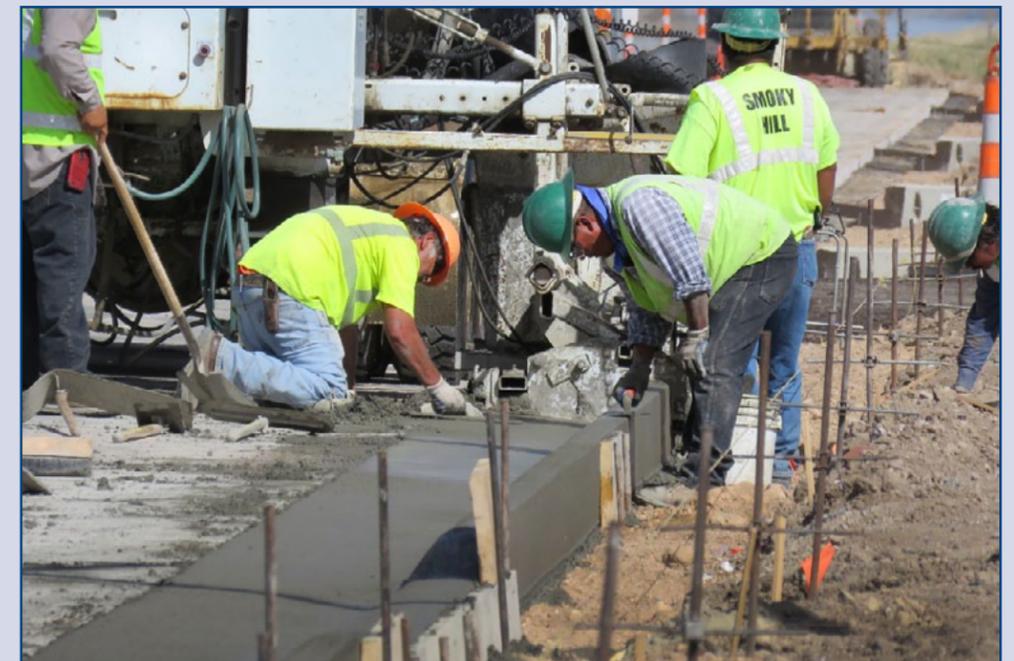
"The goal of this first Kansas summit is to educate stakeholders, address challenges and discuss collaborative solutions to a critically important and growing danger that threatens the safety of all roadway users. We want to get out in front of drugs and driving issues in Kansas, sooner than later," Hanni said.



**Above, Interim Secretary Richard Carlson welcomes attendees to the first Drugged Driving Summit this morning in Topeka. At left, Attorney General Derek Schmidt and KHP Col. Mark Bruce are two of the speakers during the event.**

## District Six

**A U.S. 56 reconstruction project through Copeland will replace the asphalt pavement with concrete, as well as repair or replace curb and gutter and storm sewers. The project will be carried over into 2017. Currently, the contractor, Smoky Hill, LLC, of Salina, is reconstructing the eastbound lanes of U.S. 56. The project costs \$2.7 million and should be completed in June.**



## Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

Those participating in the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day proclamation signing on Sept. 30 with Gov. Sam Brownback (seated) are, from left to right, Laramie Turner, KTA; Rick Backlund, FHWA; Steve Swartz, KDOT; Stephen La Row, KHP; Maria Torrez-Anderson, Kansas Family Partnership; Interim Secretary Richard Carlson; Kim Stich, KDOT; Kim Qualls, KDOT; Jamie Lane, Kansas Contractors Association; Don Hughes, KHP; and Adam Winters, KHP.



## KDOT Blog

### Kansas Transportation

Thursday, Sept. 8

#### A happy ending

Instead of TBT (ThrowBack Thursday), this is going to be WBW (WayBack Wednesday), and a blog from the 2011 Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day series is below. The story may be five years old, the safety message still rings true today.

By Daina Hodges

Tears welled in my eyes and goose bumps crept across my skin when I heard his voice crack as the emotions began rising in his throat. The certified child passenger safety technician was sharing a story with me about a rollover crash which involved a mother and her young child.

The vehicle they were in ultimately came to rest on its top. Those first on the scene didn't take time to consider the fates of those in the vehicle before they raced to provide help. The mother was clearly shaken and in pain but mostly worried about her child she could hear crying unsoothed by her efforts to provide comforting words. The child was found hanging upside down from his car seat.

Emergency responders removed the mother and child from the vehicle to find that aside from minor injuries (bumps, bruises, scrapes and scratches) they were both okay. The mother's fears from the



wreck and the thoughts of consequences that could have been were soon replaced by thankfulness. Just a week prior to her crash she had made the time commitment to attend a child passenger safety check lane to learn how to correctly use her

child's car seat. She'd always been adamant about buckling the car seat into the vehicle but something about the way it moved when she put her child in and leaned when she turned a corner bothered her. The certified technician at the check lane showed her how to lock the seatbelt to hold the car seat in tight and also discussed the fit of the harness on the child and how it needed to be adjusted. The mother contacted that technician to

express her sincere gratitude.

The technician was clearly moved as he shared the story with me and the realization he may have saved a life and I, in turn, was also met with emotion and pleased to call him a hero.

Daina Hodges is the Outreach Coordinator for Safe Kids Kansas.

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

## 2016 Construction Career Day Expo

**Career opportunities:** KDOT and many other organizations participated in the Construction Career Day Expo on Sept. 27 to give students a chance to see various career opportunities in the construction and transportation fields. KDOT staff in Topeka assisted in tours and District One employees from the Gage Subarea office brought in several vehicles, pieces of equipment and mobile work zone signage. Everyone talked with the students and helped them learn more about the agency.



**Top right:** Landon Middle School students compete in a sign set-up challenge. **Top left:** Jardine and Chase Middle School students play a game at the MAGIC Camp booth with KDOT EEO Officer Traci Ward. **Middle right:** Dan Zirkle, from KDOT's Bureau of Construction and Maintenance, talks with students from Eisenhower Middle School. **Above:** Students from French Middle School learn about erosion control. **Right:** Eisenhower Middle School students sit in the front loader brought to the event by the KDOT Gage Subarea Office.

## Aviation

### A soaring success:

Nearly 40 airplanes took to the skies last week to celebrate The 2016 Fly Kansas Air Tour. In an effort to raise awareness of the importance of the aviation industry in Kansas, nine Kansas airports welcomed the traveling pilots and their planes. About 1,500 students and the public got the chance to see a variety of planes up close and meet the pilots who flew their airplanes across Kansas skies.



The tour began just after sunrise on Sept. 29 in Wellington. Participants were given the opportunity to watch arriving aircraft. A T-6 Texan, a medical helicopter, a fly-over from a military aircraft and a parachutist were all highlights to opening ceremony. During the tour, the public and students learned about the influence that aviation has on Kansas economy. At the Rooks County stop, air medics explained the importance of the Kansas Airport Improvement Program was created to improve and maintain smaller airports while increasing air travel and providing Kansans access to an air ambulance within 30 miles. Gov. Sam Brownback and Interim Secretary Richard Carlson addressed a crowd of Girl Scouts and the public on Oct. 1 during a stop celebrating Girls in Aviation at the Combat Air Museum in Topeka.

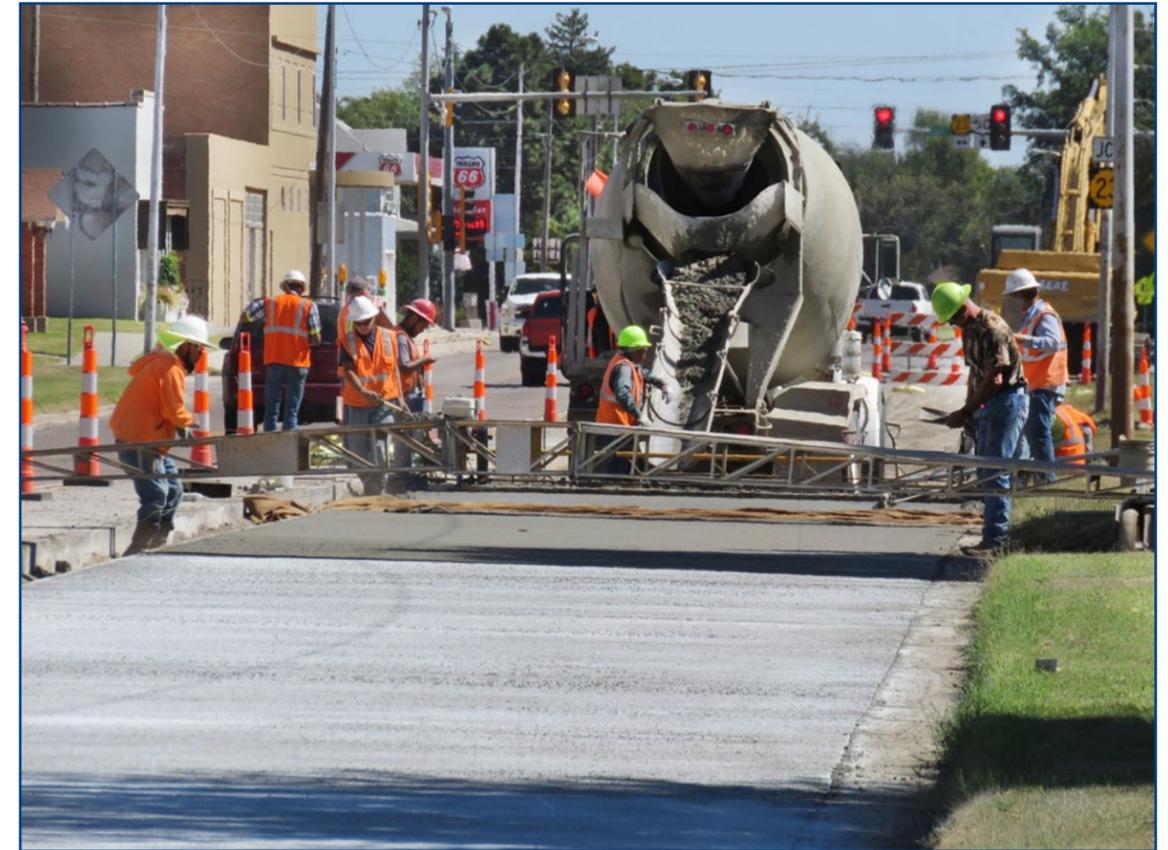
The Fly Kansas Air Tour first took flight in 1928 and again in 1929, but it was another 79 years before the tour returned in 2008. Another short hiatus later, Kansas skies once again welcomed the tour in 2014. This year's tour included stops in Wellington, Great Bend, Rooks County, Dodge City, Scott City, Colby, Salina, Topeka and ended in Newton.



*Top: Students from the Wellington area meet with nearly 40 pilots on the first stop of the Fly Kansas Air Tour. Above: More than 200 Girl Scouts and the public visit the Combat Air Museum in Topeka. One of the planes on display was a KC-135 refueling plane that was open for the public. Left: Pilots of a T-6 Texan II answer questions from students and their families in Topeka.*

## District Six

*A Geometric Improvement project to rebuild two blocks of U.S. 50 in Cimarron with concrete pavement is underway. The project costs \$643,000 with the city of Cimarron contributing about \$93,000 to the funding. J-A-G Construction Company of Dodge City is the primary contractor and the project should be completed in December.*



## District Four



*The deck of the new Big Creek drainage bridge is almost ready for fresh concrete. In July, KDOT began a project to replace the Big Creek drainage and Draw Creek bridges on K-39 east of Chanute. B & B Bridge of St. Paul is the contractor on the \$1.5 million project. Steve Rocker's road squad and John Jones's bridge squad designed the project.*

## Night and Day Scenery



*At left: KDOT employee Tod Salfrank took this nighttime photo of the sky from the north side of I-70 near the weigh station at McFarland. The lights at the bottom left are of I-70 traffic. The 20-second time exposure, with ISO of 3200 and 3.5 aperture, also caught the movement of an airplane that can be seen as the streak of light on the left side of the photo. At right: KDOT employee Neil Croxton got a daytime photo of a barred owl along K-15 in Washington County.*

## Reason Foundation

**Kansas highways ranked third:** Kansas roads are ranked third best in the nation in overall highway performance and efficiency in a report released recently by the Reason Foundation.

The ranking showed Kansas jumped from fifth place in 2014 to third best overall in the 2016 report. Kansas is tied for first place in both rural interstate pavement condition and rural arterial pavement condition, and third place for urban Interstate pavement condition.

“Rising rankings reflect the hard work of the Kansas Department of Transportation, its employees and private sector partners and their continued dedication to ensuring high-performance roadways that serve the

needs of Kansans,” Gov. Sam Brownback said.

The Kansas highway system, the 27th largest system in the country, has consistently placed in the top tier of Reason reports.

“For years we’ve strived to be among the top performing highway systems,” said Interim Transportation Secretary Richard Carlson. “This report shows something that we know: Kansans have a highway system that they can be proud of. We continue to build and maintain a system that serves the needs of Kansas.”

The full report can be found [here](#) at the Reason Foundation website.