

# Translines EXPRESS

April 8, 2015

## District Five



*Straight-line winds blew through Wichita in the early morning hours of April 3, damaging KDOT signs on the north side of town. The portable dynamic message sign (DMS), in the photo above, was part of a Smart Work Zone operation on I-135. A number of other signs were damaged or destroyed by the 80-plus mph winds.*

## Go Orange!

*The fountain in front of the Lenexa City Hall was turned orange as part of efforts to raise awareness for National Work Zone Awareness Week. See more photos and a story in this edition of events and activities that took place March 23-27.*



## Legislature

The following is an update on some of the transportation-related bills that have been passed or are still under consideration by the Kansas Legislature, which reached first adjournment last Friday:

**KDOT-KTA:** Gov. Brownback signed into law legislation that removes the three-year sunset and makes permanent the formalized partnership of KDOT and the KTA.

**Seat belt:** An increase in the fine for an adult seat belt violation to \$30 from \$10 has passed the Senate and is now in the House.

**Commemorative highway signs:** Both chambers have passed a bill that requires commemorative highway signs be installed only after full installation costs and an additional 50 percent for future maintenance have been received. The bill has been sent to the Governor.

**Bridge inspection:** The Senate has passed and sent to the House a bill that repeals a statute that requires plans for any county bridge of \$200,000 or more be approved by the state transportation engineer.

**Safety corridor:** A bill that would have resulted in increased administrative costs for new safety corridors was defeated.

**DUI:** Separate versions of a bill that would require five years to elapse before a person convicted of a DUI can ask for expungement have passed out of each chamber and are being worked in conference committee.

**Home on the Range:** Designation of K-8 from U.S. 36 north to the Nebraska state line as the Home on the Range Highway has been signed into law by the Governor.



## Headquarters

**Life savers:** Three Automated External Defibrillators (AED) are available in the Eisenhower State Office Building. An AED is a portable electronic device that helps detect serious heart issues occurring with a person and allows them to be treated through defibrillation (applying electrical therapy so the heart can reestablish a normal rhythm).

Tammi Clark, Industrial Hygienist, said the devices are easy to use whether a person has been trained or not.

"They will not allow you to shock an individual unless it is needed and they will walk you through the steps of CPR if needed," Clark said.

The AED devices are located on the 2nd, 6th and 14th floors in marked drawers.

Additional training classes will be offered soon. For more information, contact Clark at 785-296-8164.

## KDOT Transportation Blog

### Kansas Transportation

Tuesday, April 7

#### Tuesday Trivia



Where does Kansas rank among the states in the number of public road miles?

- A) 3rd
- B) 13th
- C) 33rd
- D) 43rd

Kansas comes in at a surprising No. 3 in terms of all public road miles. According to national transportation statistics, Kansas (140,653 miles) ranks behind No. 1 Texas (310,850) and No. 2 California (171,874). Most of Kansas' public road miles are on local systems. The state highway system, statutorily capped at 10,000 miles, and the Kansas Turnpike carry about 56 percent of all traffic in the state.

So how did Kansas, with a land area that ranks 15th among the states and a population that ranks 34th, get so many road miles?

There are probably a number of factors, but one reason is suggested in Milestones, a KDOT history book; the Kansas Legislature in 1869 recognized farmers wanted roads to their farms that didn't cross cropland, so they started designating the section lines as public highways. A Kansas section is a square mile, so it's easy to see how the mileage number got so big. And, since Kansas has no mountain ranges and relatively few large bodies of water, there aren't many natural barriers in the way of building a road.

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

## Washington State DOT



*Washington State Department of Transportation Avalanche Specialist Alan Willard yells "FIRE!" as he shoots a howitzer in late March. Crews were working to reduce avalanche hazard near SR 20 at Liberty Bell as they got ready to reopen the highway. The successful mission knocked down eight feet of snow covering both lanes of the highway. The howitzer has been used the last two winters to lessen the chance for an avalanche. Before that, WSDOT had a fleet of M-60 tanks for many years. However, finding parts for the tanks became difficult and the price of ammunition greatly increased. Photo courtesy of WSDOT.*

## District Three



*A nine-mile mill and overlay project is underway on U.S. 24 east of Colby. The Atwood construction office is overseeing the project. Venture Corporation is the contractor on the \$3.3 million project.*

## Trivia!

Where is the largest...

### Part Two

1. Wren?
2. Ball of twine?
3. Collection of the World's

Smallest Versions of the World's Largest Things?

4. Palasite meteorite?
5. Cow hairball?
6. Tires?

7. Grain elevator?
8. Concrete teepee?
9. Outdoor municipal concrete swimming pool?

## District Three



A new box is being poured on K-27 in Wallace County. It is part of a reconstruction project to realign the highway starting just south of Sharon Springs and going south four miles. The work is expected to be completed in late fall. Stephen Bass's road squad and Chris Meyer's bridge squad designed the projects.

## General

**In an instant:** According to an article in *Better Roads*, the Utah Department of Transportation recently demolished a bridge on Interstate 15, south of Salt Lake City. They set up two cameras and recorded time-lapse videos, which condenses the job into just 32 seconds. *Government Executive* first shared these videos.

In the first video, the team of excavators doing the work diligently gnaw away at the bridge as trucks and wheel loaders run back and forth carting away debris. The second video gives a look at the job from the bridge itself.

To see the videos, go to <http://goo.gl/27QbGn>.

## Federal Grant

**Roadway data system:** KDOT has been awarded a \$1 million federal grant to help fund a project to integrate roadway data from multiple sources into a single data system.

The grant from the Federal Highway Administration was announced last week in Washington, D.C., by U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. Reliable roadway data is vital to Next Generation 911 dispatching, emergency response, public safety, route optimization for bus, snow removal, intelligent transportation systems, mapping, and automated vehicle routing and location systems.

The federal grant will accelerate the process of collecting and integrating roadway data from many sources into a single system developed by KDOT. "Innovation in our transportation infrastructure will change the way America moves," said Secretary Foxx. "These grants encourage communities to use new technology and new ways to envision solutions to our transportation problems."

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

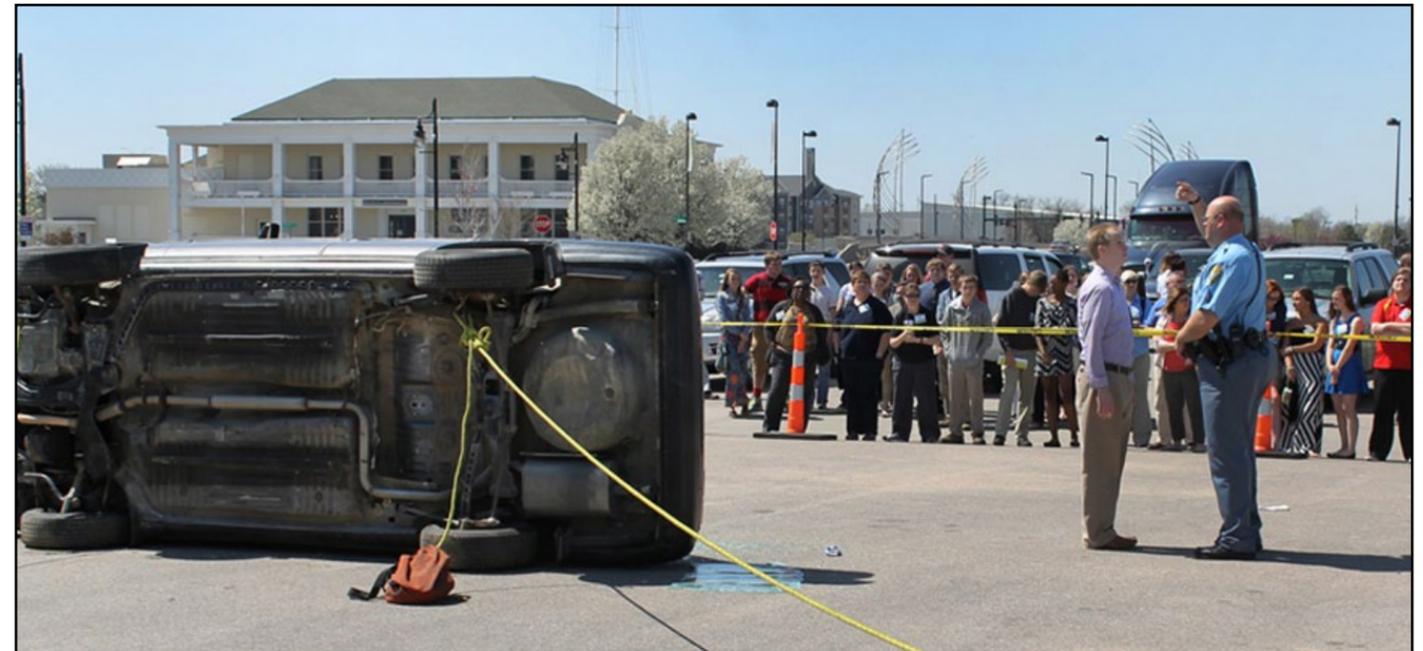
- |                |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Topeka      | 4. Greensburg  | 7. Hutchinson  |
| 2. Cawker City | 5. Garden City | 8. Lawrence    |
| 3. Lucas       | 6. Topeka      | 9. Garden City |

## AASHTO



Secretary Mike King gave certificates to six KDOT employees for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials 25-year Meritorious Public Service award. They are, front row, left, Director of Operations Catherine Patrick, Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger, Executive Office Administrator Peggy Hansen-Nagy, back row, left, Secretary King, District One Engineer Mike Stringer, Transportation Safety and Technology Bureau Chief Mike Floberg, and Structures and Geotechnical Services Bureau Chief Loren Risch.

## Traffic Safety



High school students attending the 21st annual Transportation Safety Conference last week in Wichita experienced the ramifications of a drunk driving crash. The mock crash was part of the session designed to educate students about the ramifications of drunk driving. The session took the offender through the court process and touched on the financial and other costs associated with a DUI. They also heard from an actual grieving family member who experienced a loss of life due to drunk driving.

## Go Orange!

**KDOT employee Greg Bayless speaks about the importance of work zone safety at the National Work Zone Awareness Week statewide news conference on March 26 at the Capitol. Also speaking at the event were KTA employee Brian Higinbotham, below, and Gov. Sam Brownback, bottom right. The event was also viewed at more than 45 KDOT offices across the state.**



**Improving safety in highway work zones:** KDOT and the KTA worked together to raise awareness of the hazards and dangers highway workers and motorists face every day as part of National Work Zone Awareness Week, March 23-27. Highlights included numerous buildings and bridges turning orange for the week, a new public service announcement, a week-long safety blog series, safety messages on DMS signs across the state, a coloring sheet for kids, a proclamation and more. Gov. Sam Brownback, Secretary Mike King, KHP Major John Eichkorn, KDOT Highway Supervisor Greg Bayless and KTA Equipment Operator Brian Higinbotham spoke at the March 26 statewide safety news conference in Topeka. "Our flagman had traffic shut down, in his lane, with one lone car stopped and in total control, we thought.

All at once a pickup truck approached to stop and join the second vehicle in line, except he did not get stopped," Bayless said. "The pickup truck struck the back of the parked car hard, launching it towards the flagman, only to end up inches shy of striking him." KDOT once again did a thunderclap to promote work zone awareness on social media with 114 social media accounts participating in the initial pledge. It was re-tweeted and re-shared from there, to reach nearly one million social media timelines. The pledge, which reminds people that work zone safety is a year-round effort, read, "I will slow down and be alert in work zones and "Go Orange" to remind others to do the same." #goorangeks To learn more about Kansas work zone safety efforts, go to <http://goo.gl/odvFmC>.

## Go Orange!

**At right, KDOT and KTA employees take down the cone display that honored highway workers who have been killed in work zones since 1950. Below, partner groups that donate to the Give 'Em A Brake safety campaign joined the speakers at the event for a photo. Pictured from left to right are Gov. Sam Brownback, KHP Major John Eichkorn, Amanda Schuster of KAPA-KRMCA, Dan Scherschligt of KAPA, KTA Equipment Operator John Higinbotham, Jamie Lane of KCA, KDOT Highway Supervisor Greg Bayless, Scott Uhl of ACEC and Secretary Mike King.**



**Above, kindergarteners at Montezuma Elementary School draw on a work zone safety coloring sheet. At left, transportation partners attended the event as well as eighth graders from Silver Lake Junior/Senior High School.**

## Traffic Safety

**Award recipients announced:** Two individuals and three groups received the state's 2015 People Saving People Award for their efforts to improve traffic safety on April 1 as part of the 21st annual Kansas Transportation Safety Conference in Wichita. The award recipients are:

- ♦ **Master Trooper Jeff Schawe, with the Kansas Highway Patrol** – Schawe initiated the Seatbelts Are For Everyone (SAFE) program in three Stafford County high schools and saw an 18.3 percent increase in the average usage rate of seatbelts in one year.
- ♦ **Charles Branson, District Attorney in Douglas County** – Branson championed the effort to toughen a Kansas law to expand the definition of aggravated battery to include bodily injuries suffered from a drunk driver.
- ♦ **Kenneth Henderson Middle School science**

**teachers and Garden City Police Officer Troy Davis** – The group developed curriculum on the physics of a vehicle/pedestrian collision to teach students in detail the impact a crash can have. Officer Davis then demonstrated a simulated crash.

- ♦ **Shawnee County Fire District #4** – The district has taken a new approach to improving their operations while working along the highway to help improve safety for both the motorists and the workers.
- ♦ **El Dorado Student Safety Council** – The high school students developed an interactive crosswalk safety program for elementary students and presented it to all to the classes at the four elementary schools in the district that included about 1,200 children.

The People Saving People Award highlights efforts of a person or organization that has a positive effect on transportation safety behavior.

## District Five

*District Five Engineer Benny Tarverdi discussed upcoming KDOT projects at the April 2 meeting of the South Central Kansas Association of Commissioners and Engineers, a group of officials focusing on road and public works projects from the 18 counties that make up District Five. Local Projects Bureau Chief Ron Seitz also spoke, providing a detailed list of KDOT programs available to assist counties with public works projects.*



*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)