District Four

Maintenance projects continue in southeastern Kansas during the wet but mild December weather. Equipment Operator Senior Doyle Tegethoff, with the Independence Area Crew, removes chunks of old pavement from a panel on U.S. 400 prior to pouring new concrete on the section.

It’s been a very successful year for Kansas transportation, and to the great staffs at KDOT and KTA, I have a simple message: thank you. Our formalized partnership continues to grow and produce efficiencies, such as the new co-location facility at Emporia. KDOT/KTA staff listened to hundreds of Kansans as they talked about their transportation priorities at Local Consultation meetings throughout the state. Crews of both transportation agencies kept the road systems maintained, safe and open for travel in very challenging winter conditions. The accomplishments of both transportation agencies were impressive. For example, on the KDOT side, the biggest T-WORKS project, the Johnson County Gateway, got underway. On the KTA side, the long-time objective of interoperability became reality. This year it was my pleasure to talk with hundreds of you, and your pride as stewards of a world-class transportation system inspires me. This year wasn’t without its challenges, and the new year will pose its own. But, Kansans can be confident that the dedicated KDOT/KTA staffs who have always met the unique challenges each year brings will again deliver the outstanding transportation system they have come to expect. Happy holidays to you and your families!

Transportation Secretary and KTA Director Mike King

Happy Holidays
Celebrating the Holidays

Above, District Three’s Beverly Sidman, left, and Lacey Hansen decorate the office Christmas tree. Top left, District Two’s Dan Gentry and Jaci Novak announce James Roudybush’s name as the winner of the closest guess contest at the holiday luncheon. Left, District Three’s Amanda Hoover, right, laughs as she watches Denise Schwab open her second gift set of a coffee cup and cocoa during a “robber” gift exchange. District Five employees in the photo below were just a few of the many who donated 89 pounds of food to be delivered to the Reno County Food Bank before Christmas. They are, front row, Melissa Nevins, Brenda Cikanek, Shelley Charles, Beth Heisel; back row, Don Beydler, Lisa Zrubek, Benny Tarverdi, Brent Terstriep, Bryan Hamel and Barry Santee.

Better prepared for interviews: According to an article in the Topeka Capital-Journal, more than two dozen Topeka business people, including KDOT recruiters Todd Dugan and Debbie Wallace, recently helped Seaman High School students be better prepared to interview for jobs last week. Dugan, Wallace and the others conducted mock interviews and reviewed resumes of students in the Technical Writing and Communications in the Workplace class to give them real world experience, feedback and tips for preparing for job interviews.

“We asked them a round of questions and gave them feedback on how they did and what businesses are looking for,” Wallace said. This was helpful for the students, she said, because most in this class are looking to enter the work force soon after graduation.

“It was a great opportunity to connect with high school students - anything I can do to help get them interested in what KDOT has to offer in the field of transportation I like,” Wallace said. “We’re hoping to have a chance to talk to more schools in the future.”

TRIVIA

1. When was the first candy cane made?
2. What was the original shape and color?
3. How long is the biggest candy cane ever made?
4. When is the national candy cane day in the U.S.?
5. What has practically the same ratio of density as the average fruitcake?
6. According to the Christian Science Monitor, how long can fruitcake age and still be eaten?
7. When did fruitcakes become available by mail order in the U.S.?
8. When is National Fruitcake Day?
District One

Bridge now open: The K-99 bridge over Snipe Creek was opened to traffic in Marshall County on Dec. 11. Construction began in June, which included a 36-foot reinforced concrete haunched slab structure, complete with two 12-foot driving lanes and six-foot shoulders. In early August, the detour route was switched from K-87 to U.S. 77 as a result of serious pavement deterioration on K-87 from the increased heavy truck and vehicle traffic. Drivers then followed a 36-mile detour throughout the remainder of the project. Ebert Construction Company, Inc., of Wamego was the prime contractor on the $1.1 million project.

District Five

After the K-96 bridge over 53rd Street in Maize was struck on Nov. 18 by a too-tall load, Flame On Structural Steel Flame Straightening was called in to do repairs to four of the bridge’s girders and a number of stiffeners and diaphragms that provide support. Six days were required for the process and the repairs were finished last Saturday.

Deferred Compensation

The transition to a new service provider for the state’s deferred compensation plan is under way. Employees enrolled in the plan won’t need to do anything as part of the transition, it will be automatic. However, there are a couple things to be aware of:

- The transition from ING/Voya will begin on Dec. 23 and will be completed on Jan. 21, 2015. During this blackout period you will not be able to make changes to your account or see your account online.
- New account login information and a temporary PIN number will be mailed in mid-January.
- Two things to check - not all beneficiary information will transfer (make sure to go online and confirm/update) and to receive statements electronically, that update must be made as well.
- Your January ING/Voya quarterly account statement for 2014’s fourth quarter will show a $0 ending balance as part of the recordkeeping transition process. In April, you will receive a statement for 2015’s first quarter.

KTA

Construction was completed on the 29th Street Bridge over the Kansas Turnpike in Topeka in late November.

Paving award: The Syracuse Construction office shared in a first place paving award for work done on K-27 in Greeley County this year. The Kansas Asphalt Paving Association recently presented the award to KDOT and APAC Kansas, Inc., Shears Division, of Hays for the mill and overlay project, which extends from the Hamilton/Greeley County line to the K-27/K-96 junction at Tribune. The preservation project took first place in the one inch or greater overlay category. The contract cost on the project was $1.9 million. The award cites KDOT for the “outstanding engineering contribution to achieve quality asphalt pavements in Kansas.” The project began in July and was completed in the fall.

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
Workers with Burlington Construction, Burlington, place concrete at an entrance along Plummer Avenue in Chanute. The city is improving one of its pedestrian/bicycle routes with a grant from the Safe Routes to Schools program. The KDOT project inspector is Engineering Technician Senior Doug Pulliam of the Pittsburg office, shown with the wheelbarrow.

Kansas Travel Information
(for road conditions and weather)

By phone - call 5-1-1 within Kansas or (866) 511-5368 from out of state
511 mobile text only site - http://511mm.ksdot.org

On the web - visit the KanDrive website, http://www.kandrive.org, which also has maps, camera views of many routes and more

Transportation Blog

Great ideas: Shane Heiman’s second grade class from Lawrence’s New York Elementary sent KDOT their choices for new license plates on Dec. 4. Every school day Mr. Heiman has his class of 18 students do a daily journal entry and then they tweet their responses to people or businesses that might be interested in their ideas. KDOT doesn’t handle the license plates - it’s the Kansas Department of Revenue, but these journal entries were too good not to share. One design is at right, but you can check out all the designs sent in on KDOT’s Transportation blog here.