

# Translines EXPRESS

Feb. 25, 2015

## District Four

**A Franklin County project began in mid-February to replace this structurally deficient railroad overpass at Eisenhower Terrace in northwest Ottawa. Known as the West Wilson Street Bridge, the existing pony truss structure was built in 1929. United Contractors, Inc., of Johnston, Iowa, is contractor on the \$1.75 million project.**



## Headquarters

**Skelley joins E-Staff:** Joel Skelley has joined KDOT's Executive Staff in the new position of Director of Policy. In his new job, Skelley will oversee the agency's Public Affairs and Legislative offices. Skelley is a 10-year veteran of KDOT and most recently has served as State Multimodal Planner in the Division of Planning and Development. Skelley will be closely involved in helping shape KDOT's legislative initiatives, monitoring legislative action and providing testimony. He also will be responsible for developing KDOT's next Long Range Transportation Plan and will be involved in shaping the state's next transportation program.



**Joel Skelley**

"I'm honored to be entrusted with this important position and I'm looking forward to working with KDOT staff and our partners across the state in this new capacity. It's a terrifically exciting opportunity to build upon KDOT's strong reputation."

Skelley, a native of Lost Nation, Iowa, received a forestry degree from Iowa State University in 1996. He received a master's degree in Planning in 2005 from the University of Kansas. He and his wife, Dana, have a boy and a girl and live in Tonganoxie.

**Moriarty named Bureau Chief:** Mike Moriarty says he has big shoes to fill in taking over as Chief of Transportation Planning.

"I'm up for the challenge but I'm not looking to do it alone," he said. "I'm going to rely on everyone in the agency - they're all so good at what they do." Moriarty will replace Dennis Slimmer who is retiring from KDOT after 45 years of service.



**Mike Moriarty**

While finishing his master's degree at the University of Kansas, Moriarty interned at KDOT for two years starting in 2000, then took a position outside the agency. He came back as a Transportation Planner in the Metropolitan Planning group, then was promoted to lead the Corridor Management Unit. After briefly leaving, he returned to KDOT and has been the State Transportation Planner for the past two years. Moriarty is excited for this new opportunity. "I've always tried to collaborate and partner with everyone internally and externally," he said. "That's something that Dennis has done a great job at and I want to continue it." Originally from Omaha, Neb., Moriarty and his wife, Stacy, live in Topeka with their daughter, Taylor, who was born last August.

## KTA



As part of the KTA's efforts to improve customer service, the random mystery shopper program evaluates toll collectors on customer service and accuracy. In 2014, the Emporia toll district led with 92 percent, followed closely by El Dorado and Topeka. In the photo above, Emporia Plaza #127 employees enjoyed a dinner at Bruff's Bar and Grill in Emporia to celebrate their victory.

## Trivia!

1. Name this 1991 movie made in Kansas about a single New England woman responding to an advertisement from a Midwestern widower.
2. Part of this 1990 classic starring Kevin Costner was filmed near Fort Hays.
3. Part of this 1983 romantic comedy starring Shirley MacLaine and Debra Winger was filmed in Junction City.
4. Part of this 1996 science fiction comedy directed by Tim Burton was filmed in Burns.

## Office of Contract Compliance

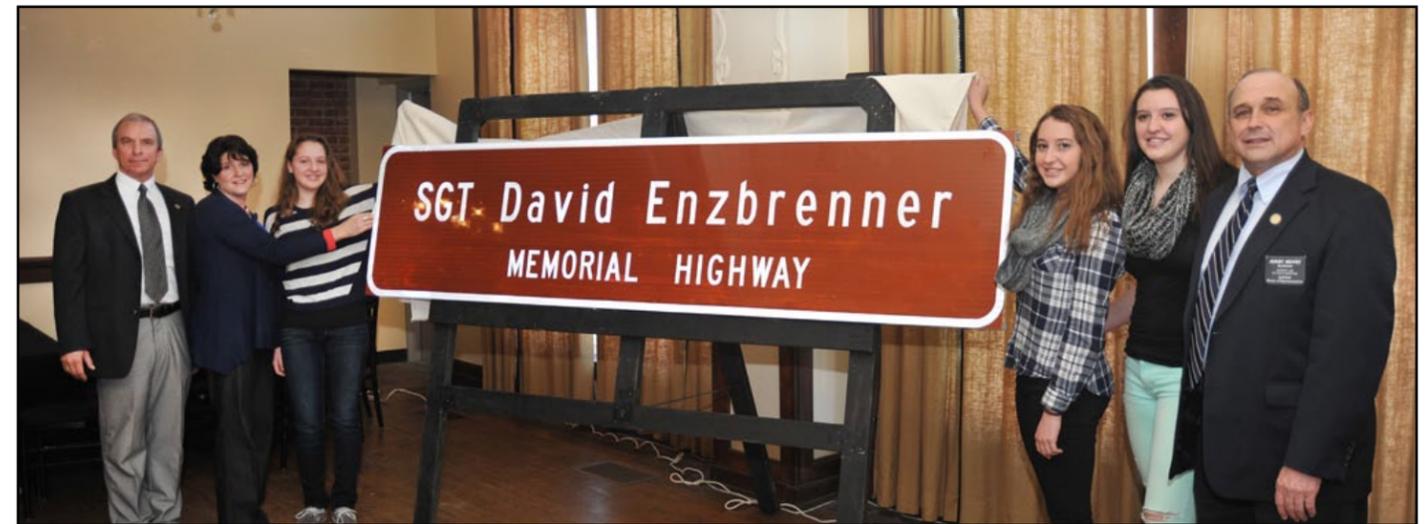


At left, students from the Kansas City area participated in the third annual Garrett A. Morgan Shadow Day on Feb. 18. Students met local transportation leaders and learned about career development opportunities. The tour included stops at the Mid-America Regional Council, the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority and the Wheeler Downtown Airport – FAA Tower.



At right, students also tried a simulated bus ride that demonstrates the Kansas/Missouri transit partnership. Morgan, who the event is named for, was an African-American inventor known for creating a hand-cranked mechanical traffic signal device, an improved sewing machine, a respiratory device and a hair-straightening product in the early 1900s. The Office of Contract Compliance was in charge of the event.

## District One



In the photo above (from left to right), Atchison Chief of Police Michael Wilson; Kerri Enzbrenner, widow of Sgt. David Enzbrenner; Celia Enzbrenner, Abbi Enzbrenner and Avery Enzbrenner, daughters of Sgt. David Enzbrenner; and Kansas Rep. Jerry Henry unveil the sign honoring Sgt. David Enzbrenner yesterday in Atchison. Below KDOT employees from the Atchison Subarea Office install one of the signs.



**Sign unveiling:** New highway signs were unveiled honoring Sgt. David Enzbrenner at a ceremony Tuesday in Atchison. Enzbrenner was a 24-year veteran with the Atchison Police Department who lost his life in the line of duty on Dec. 9, 2011.

Guest speakers at the ceremony included Kansas Rep. Jerry Henry; Atchison Mayor David Butler; Atchison Chief of Police Michael Wilson and Kerry Enzbrenner, widow of Sgt. Enzbrenner.

The Atchison community raised the money needed to produce the two signs that will be installed on K-7. The signs for K-7 were installed Tuesday, one just north of 302nd Road in Atchison County, and the other just south of the K-7/U.S. 36 junction in Doniphan County. Watch a short video of the ceremony here - [http://youtu.be/xnlm1\\_sGEx0](http://youtu.be/xnlm1_sGEx0)

## Letter to the Editor

Wow! Nice job Kansas dot web team! We have friends driving home from Texas today and the quantity and quality of road information goes from 2015 in Kansas to 1995 immediately just south of the Kansas border and on into Texas. I mistakenly assumed neighboring or nearby states would somewhat offer the same types of capabilities. I love the Kansas color coded maps, the camera tours and all of the information available is awesome... Keep up the good work!

RB Woods  
Wichita

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Sarah, Plain and Tall
2. Dances with Wolves
3. Terms of Endearment
4. Mars Attacks!



At left, Matt Golightley, Radio Technician in District Six, finishes installation of a camera unit on U.S. 50 west of Ingalls, a frequent trouble spot during snowstorms. The unit is one of five commercial security cameras the district has added this winter in order to provide maintenance decision-makers a view of road conditions in spots that can be troublesome or are remote enough that sending a truck could prove to be a waste of time and resources. The cameras range in cost from less than \$200 to less than \$500 and installation costs have ranged from \$500 to about \$2,500, depending the need to place a pole for the camera or run a new power line to the unit. Ron Hall, District Six

Maintenance Engineer, hopes to add more cameras to provide supervisors across the district the information they need about road conditions.



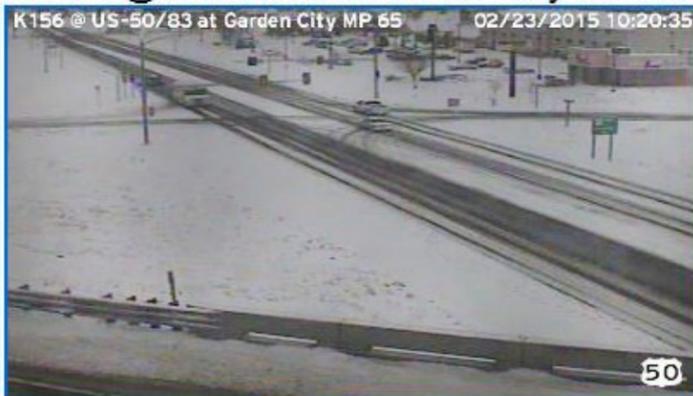
At left, a newly-installed camera west of Ingalls provides District Six a view of U.S. 50 west of Ingalls, a frequent trouble spot during snowstorms.

Below, this snapshot from some of the cameras in District Six shows the contrast in road conditions on Feb. 23, as crews worked to clean up after the weekend snowstorm. Currently, most of these camera views are only available internally.

US-54 East of Bucklin



K156 @ US-50/83 at Garden City MP 65



K-27 North of Elkhart



US-50 West of Ingalls



**KDOT study to develop criteria for location of a shipping facility**



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 and cost-effective solutions for customers who may not have local access to freight rail service or those who need expanded warehousing.

“The need for transloading facilities was identified by the state’s Freight Advisory Committee in August,” said Kansas Transportation Secretary Mike King. “Transportation typically makes up 15 percent of product cost so anything we can do to lower that is important to Kansas farmers, manufacturers and the state economy.”

The HDR study is expected to be completed later this year.

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

An advisory committee has begun the process of developing criteria to be used in evaluating potential Kansas sites for a transload shipping center.

The Transload Facility Site Analysis Advisory Committee had its initial meeting last week with national consultant HDR, Inc., which has been hired to conduct a study and develop site selection criteria.



Transload Facility Site Analysis Advisory Committee members discuss different topics at the group’s first meeting in Topeka on Feb. 19.

## General



Secretary Mike King speaks to women from his hometown of Hesston on Monday during the Hesston Women – Day on the Hill visit to Topeka. The group heard presentations from a number of state leaders and toured the Capitol and Cedar Crest, the Governor’s mansion.

## District Four



KDOT will start a project in March to demolish and replace the Union Pacific Railroad overpass on U.S. 54 just east of Yates Center. The existing overpass was built in 1936 and modified in 1970. Traffic will be detoured on U.S. 75, K-39 and U.S. 169. A.M. Cohron & Son of Atlantic, Iowa, is the contractor of the \$4.2 million project that should be completed this fall. Aaron Frit’s road squad and Chris Meyer’s bridge squad designed the project.

## Traffic Safety

According to Fox News KTVU in San Francisco, the city of Hayward, Calif., is adding humor in hopes of getting pedestrians and drivers to obey the rules of the road. Several different signs went up in January similar to the one pictured above. One says, “35 -- It’s a speed limit, not a suggestion,” and another says, “Downhill: Use eyes, brakes, brains.” In a recent survey



taken in Hayward, speeding was listed as residents’ top concern. While the City Council has been trying to come up with ways to get drivers to slow down, such as speed bumps and roundabouts, those public works are more expensive and time consuming than erecting the signs, which cost \$205 a piece, according to Inside the Bay Area.

## General

**Bertha is on the move:** From the Seattle Times - Tunnel-boring machine Bertha’s slow and successful breakthrough into its repair vault on Feb. 19 raises hopes that the great dig toward South Lake Union could resume by late summer. After being stranded underground for more than a year, the damaged machine wormed through a 20-foot concrete wall in less than two days, without overheating and without stalling as feared. As a precaution, the tunnel team ran the Highway 99 machine much slower than its design calls for. That strategy worked, helping the team dodge

further delays to a job already nearly two years behind schedule. In summer 2013, Bertha, the world’s largest tunneling machine, began digging the SR 99 tunnel beneath downtown Seattle. The machine stalled Dec. 6, 2013, as temperatures spiked around the cutter drive. Wet sand and grit penetrated the rubber seals and may have damaged the main bearing, which is to be replaced. Find out more about this project at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Viaduct/>

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)