Gov. Sam Brownback delivers the 2015 State of the State address in the House chambers of the Kansas Statehouse on Jan. 15.

Presidential Visit

**Presidential visit:** Maintenance crews from both KDOT and KTA assisted the Secret Service and Kansas Highway Patrol in getting President Obama from Forbes Field in Topeka to his Jan. 22 speaking appearance in Lawrence. Each agency provided dump trucks and drivers helping close off sections of highways for the presidential motorcade.

KDOT’s District One crews also completed pavement repairs along the motorcade route in advance of the visit. Both agencies and the Patrol also coordinated to limit public view access of roadway cameras located along the motorcade route on both the to/from trips between Topeka and Lawrence. Communications team members also provided tweets and Facebook posts to keep the public updated on the traffic impacts of the motorcade.

KDOT and KTA crews assisted in getting President Barack Obama to Lawrence on Jan. 22 for his speech in the Anshutz Sports Pavilion near Allen Fieldhouse at the University of Kansas. About 7,000 people attended the event. Photo courtesy of the Topeka Capital-Journal
### Trivia!

1. There is a monument to the pig that inspired the piggy bank – what town is it in? Bonus – what fictional character was named after the pig?
2. Where can you find a collection of more than 10,000 bricks that make up the Yellow Brick Road along a downtown sidewalk?
3. Where is there a six-foot carving of a Pepsi bottle?
4. What’s the name of a 60-ton monument of an American buffalo created by Ray Smith near the town of Longford?
5. You can’t go to Lucas and not stop by this log cabin with unusual sculptures.

### KTA

The K-TAG crew have been busy giving out free K-TAGs and their schedule is picking up. This weekend, the crew will be at the Wichita Sports Show. In February, they will be busy with events including the Women’s Fair, Topeka RV and Sport Show and the Park City Chill. They can also be found at their usual places - various tag offices and malls in Wichita and Topeka. Check out Facebook and Twitter for the most current locations and times. Besides these locations, K-TAGs can be ordered online at www.myktag.com, calling 1-800-USE-KTAG, or visiting any Kansas AAA store or The Merc in Lawrence.

### Retirees

The following employees retired from KDOT in January.

**District One**
- Kathleen Bird, Engineering Technician, Olathe
- Gary Burroughs, Equipment Operator Senior, Emporia
- Marlin Hersberger, Engineering Technician, Kansas City
- Vernon Lister, Equipment Operator, Edwardsville

**District Two**
- Duane Michaud, Equipment Operator Senior, Concordia
- Leland Tice, Area Engineer, Mankato
- Daniel Tracy, Equipment Operator Specialist, Concordia
- Charles Crawford, Engineering Technician Midpoint, Hays

**District Three**
- Dennis Martin, Equipment Operator, Smith Center

**District Four**
- Edward Clark, Engineering Technician Senior, Garnett
- John Hutchison, Engineering Technician Senior, Chanute
- Edward Nutt, Equipment Operator Senior, Fort Scott
- Ralph Tarter, Equipment Operator Senior, Columbus

**District Five**
- Glenn Bennett, Engineering Technician, Winfield

**District Six**
- Maurice Franzen, Equipment Operator, Lakin
- LaVerne Spencer, Engineering Technician, Syracuse

### General

Work continues on the new Elk River Bridge on U.S. 160 in Montgomery County. The bridge is being constructed half at a time. The eastbound lane is now set for the placement of concrete bridge corrall rail while one-way traffic is carried on the completed westbound lane. Bridges Inc. of Newton is the contractor on the project, which has a construction cost of $4.3 million. If the mild winter weather continues, KDOT plans to have the new bridge ready for two-way traffic by the end of February. Work on the project started in December 2014. Stephen Bass’s road squad and Mark Hurt’s bridge squad are designing the projects.

Secretary Mike King read the book, “S is for Sunflower,” to a group of children at Clearwater Elementary West on Jan. 26 in Clearwater as part of the Mystery Reader Night program. After reading the book, Secretary King presented a copy of the book to third grader Allison Cleavenger who won the drawing that night.
Where can I find what highway projects are going to be built?

Under the Governor’s budget proposal announced Jan. 16, money will be transferred from the State Highway Fund without impacting any of the already-announced KDOT projects. So, how does one find out what’s already been announced and where those projects are?

It’s simple. Go to the T-WORKS website (T-WORKS is the state’s 10-year transportation program), click on the “Projects” tab at the top, and select your search parameter – by county, route, region or the entire state. That will display projects that have already been announced and will be built.

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

- **When:** Sunday, Feb. 15, at 2 p.m.
- **Cost:** $7.50 per person, free shoe rental
- **Deadline to sign up:** NOON, Feb. 11

To sign up: Bring team money ($30) to Kim Stich in Public Affairs

- **Who:** Teams consisting of 4 people (KDOT employees, friends and family members are welcome to participate - it is just for fun)
- **Where:** Gage Bowl (Hunton Street west of Gage Boulevard, Topeka)

What is “Crazy Bowl?” People participating in the Employees’ Council Crazy Bowl event bowl three games. The first two games are bowled normally. The third game is the “crazy” part. Each frame is different - one time you bowl backwards, the next time you bowl on one leg, etc. And the only rule is that you relax and have fun!

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**KDOT seeks public input:** District Six will conduct a public information open house from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 5 at the Spearville Middle School/High School as part of a corridor study on U.S. 50 from Dodge City to Kinsley. The section of U.S. 50 was identified during local consultation meetings in 2012 as an area of regional and local concern. In February 2013, Gov. Sam Brownback and Secretary Mike King announced a preliminary engineering project on the 34-mile corridor. The current study is looking at the need for expansion or modernization, including the possibility of adding passing lane sections. Additionally, the community of Spearville has asked KDOT to consider intersection improvements, turning lanes or other changes to the highway at Spearville. Stephen Bass’s road squad and John Jones’s bridge squad are designing the projects.