

Translines EXPRESS

July 1, 2015

District Three



Work wrapped up on a portion of U.S. 283 north of Norton. The mill and overlay project covered 11 miles from near the U.S. 36/U.S. 283 junction north to the Kansas/Nebraska border. The Phillipsburg construction office oversaw the \$1.5 million project with Venture Corporation as the contractor.

In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Keith Haxton who died on June 20 in Topeka. He retired from the State of Kansas with 40 years of service.

Reminder

State employees are off on Friday, July 3, for Independence Day

Bring Kids to KDOT Day



KDOT employee Skyler Fitzgerald talks to children on the Bring Kids to KDOT Day tour about different pieces of equipment used on the highway. See more photos from the event in this edition.

Trivia!

Trails – part three

1. What led to the creation of the Smoky Hill Trail?
2. What trail was used for about 20 years to haul buffalo hides in the late 1800s from Dodge City to the Texas Panhandle?
3. What greatly reduced the days of the Santa Fe Trail as a main transportation route in 1872?
4. What 75-mile-long trail was established in 1867 to transfer supplies in western Kansas?

Fireworks

Have a safe and happy 4th of July: Last year nearly \$700 million worth of fireworks were sold to U.S. consumers. Even though fireworks season is halfway finished in Kansas (sales to July 5), remember to be safe and follow these tips:

- Know your fireworks - read labels and descriptions before igniting.
- Adults should supervise all fireworks activities.
- Light one firework at a time and quickly move away.
- Have a ready water hose nearby.
- Never relight a "dud" firework - wait 20 minutes then soak it in water.
- Do not shoot in metal or glass containers.
- Secure aerial firework containers with bricks surrounding the base.
- Wet down used fireworks in a metal trash can.



District Four



District Four Engineer Wayne Gudmonson, third from left, is joined by Baxter Springs and Cherokee County community leaders at the June 26 ground-breaking ceremony for an addition to ATEC Steel in Baxter Springs. KDOT awarded the county up to \$785,000 in economic development funds for a street-widening project that will support the ATEC expansion.

District Two

Tuesday morning, the District Two office building, right, was without air conditioning after the unit stopped working. With temperatures in the building already in the mid 80s and outdoor temperatures predicted to hit 99 in the afternoon, repairs began after lunch and it was working by about 4 p.m.



KDOT Transportation Blog

Kansas Transportation

Thursday, June 25

Grain trucks take over roads, towns this time of year



Delphos Co-op employee Sandy Fruits takes a wheat sample from a customer.

Tucked into north central Kansas is a small town, home to about 350 people, called Delphos. Grace Bedell, the 11-year-old girl famous for writing a letter to Abe Lincoln encouraging him to grow a beard, once lived here. Delphos streets may be quiet most of the year, but on a hot June day the amount of trucks passing through town nearly double the number of people who call it home.

"At the high point of wheat harvest, we can serve as many as 600 grain trucks a day," said Steve Hoesli, general manager of the Delphos Co-op.

That's impressive for a staff of only 11. In a typical year, Delphos will take in 3 to 3 ½ million bushels of grain, which is about average for an independent co-op in Kansas. Nearly 80 percent of that grain will be transported out by truck on Kansas highways - the most common destinations being Concordia, Salina and Kansas City.

"Transportation accounts for about half of our expenses. It's a major factor of our business," said Hoesli.

Agriculture is the largest economic driver in the state and transportation plays a key role in its success.

While the Delphos Co-op is served by the Kyle Railroad, trucking is more feasible for getting grain in and out of the facility given that much of it travels short distances initially. However, once the grain arrives at the larger facilities, it's likely to be transported by rail to its final destination.

About 380 million bushels of winter wheat are produced in Kansas each year. Most of that will be transported on a Kansas highway at some point from the time it leaves the farm to the time it ends



up in a loaf of bread on someone's table. With harvest underway in much of the state, motorists will be seeing more grain trucks and farm machinery on the roads soon and will want to use extra caution. Click [here](#) for some safety tips from the Kansas Highway Patrol.

With only a few area farmers having started cutting last week, Hoesli and staff have had the chance to ease into the harvest routine a bit. Early reports indicate the wheat will be good this year and that means it should make for a busy harvest. Soon hundreds of trucks will be rumbling up and down the once quiet streets of Delphos, and the co-op staff will have the nearly impossible job of getting them through the elevator in a timely manner. But, they're ready - it's what they do.

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



2015 Air Race Classic

Air Race wrap-up: “I think it’s rare to go into an experience knowing that two weeks of your life will be a once in a lifetime experience,” said KDOT Acting Aviation Director Tiffany Brown, referring to the 2015 Air Race Classic that she and her teammate Taylor Humphrey participated in last week. Their team placed 42nd out of 55 registered racing teams. “We ended up with a technical penalty for unreported maintenance to the airplane that resulted in a five-knot penalty on every leg,” Brown said. “While the technical penalty killed our score we were both extremely pleased with how we flew the race and both think we did the best we could have done.” To read more about the race, click [here](#) to go to the June 25 Transportation blog.



At right, one of the many scenic views Brown and Humphrey flew over during the race.



SLT



Concrete work, bridge construction of Louisiana Street over K-10 and grading of mainline K-10 are all underway on the South Lawrence Trafficway, as seen in these photos.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. The discovery of gold near Denver and the rush to the Rockies in 1859. It was the quickest route there.
2. The Jones and Plummer Trail.
3. When the Santa Fe Railroad was completed to the Colorado border.
4. The Fort Hays to Fort Dodge Trail.

KTA

At right, William Shatner, best known as Captain Kirk from Star Trek, and his wife Elizabeth, made their way down the Kansas Turnpike on June 25. Shatner was originally to drive a Rivet Motors’ new motorcycle prototype, but due to engine trouble rode a different motorcycle. The 2,400-mile trek from Illinois to California was to raise money for The American Legion’s Legacy Scholarship.



At left, Shatner took a break during his journey and stopped at the Lessman Farm & Truckhenge in north Topeka. He stayed there for about a half hour to talk to the owners and greet fans who were there to see him.

District Five



Above and at left, Wichita and District Five maintenance crews repaired a bridge on eastbound K-254 in mid-June after a pick-up truck launched through the guardrail and landed upside-down on 45th Street.

Bring Kids to KDOT Day

At right, KDOT employees Phyllis Marotta and Sheila Robles illustrate how far back a driver's vision is obstructed, showing the kids why it's important not to play behind cars during a Bring Kids to Work Day tour on June 25. Below, Rick Gardner shows how concrete cylinders are tested for strength at the Research Lab. Below right, Jacob Deiter and Brandon Vacek explain superelevation on curves during a design tour.



Kansas Department of Revenue

New mobile app: Kansas Department of Revenue vehicle customers can now access features such as office locations, driver's license status and practice written tests from the convenience of a mobile app. The KS Vehicles Connect app is available on iPhone, Android and Windows phone systems for free. "More and more people are using their mobile devices to look up information and contact us," said Kansas Vehicles Director Lisa Kaspar. "This app put the information they need to get a driver's license, renew their vehicle tag, check their license status or find a

licensing or tag office at their fingertips." The app will also be fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. From the app, customers will be able to access a variety of features including:

- ♦Get in line remotely for the six largest driver licensing offices.
- ♦Check the status of their driver's license.
- ♦Access their vehicle registration information and renew their tags online.
- ♦Find the driver licensing or tag office closest to them.

District Three



Secretary Mike King, center, talks with Ken McCarty of the McCarty Family Farms dairy, left, and Colby Mayor Gary Adrian, right, after a meeting in Colby with Thomas County and Colby city officials on June 24. They discussed how KDOT can work better with the cities and counties in District Three. Secretary King also met with several groups of employees during his visit to the District from June 23-26.

District One

Secretary Mike King recently spent an afternoon touring Shilling Construction Company's asphalt plant in Manhattan with a visit to the paving operation on U.S. 24 on the east side of Manhattan to learn more about the technology that goes into today's superpave.



Traffic Safety

Travel, celebrate Independence Day safely: With a long weekend ahead, many Kansans are planning to hit the road. KDOT and the Kansas Highway Patrol encourage travelers to plan ahead to make their trips and celebrations as safe as possible. Nationally AAA is projecting that 41.9 million Americans will travel during the long holiday weekend, which will be the most since 2007, and 84.7 percent of them will be driving. Contributing to the anticipated big numbers is the fact that gasoline is about 25 percent lower than last year, said Jim Hanni, of AAA of Kansas. Law enforcement agencies from across the state will be actively watching for impaired drivers. "As travelers take to the highways throughout the holiday weekend there are steps they can take to make it to their destination safely," Highway Patrol Lt. Adam Winters

said. "Any time you ride in a vehicle, buckle up and make sure children are in the appropriate child safety seats. For those planning to drink over the weekend, designate your sober driver before you celebrate. We want people to enjoy the festivities, but we want them to be safe doing so." Before traveling, motorists can check for delays or construction with KanDrive, www.kandrive.org. KanDrive includes camera images and interactive maps as well as links to rest areas and travel and tourism sites. If you have a smartphone, access the site by going to www.kandrive.org and bookmarking it. On a text-based mobile website, it can be found at 511mm.ksdot.org. Much of the same information can be accessed by calling 5-1-1 in Kansas or 1-866-511-KDOT (5368) in the U.S.