Economic development funding: The city of Coffeyville will receive up to $1 million from KDOT to fund improvements that will support the expansion of a long-time Coffeyville business. The funding, which will improve streets near Acme Foundry, a 110-year-old fixture of the Coffeyville business community, was announced on March 13 by Gov. Sam Brownback. Acme, a locally-owned company that produces castings for various industries, plans to expand their plant by constructing a 30,000-square-foot shipping/receiving facility and add 50 jobs. Transportation improvements are critical because the existing street that serves the foundry and other industrial traffic must be removed to provide room for Acme’s expansion. Without the road improvements to be funded through KDOT’s Economic Development program, Acme wouldn’t be able to expand. The Economic Development program provides $10 million in funding annually to assist communities to be more competitive in regional, national and even global markets. “One of the best ways to encourage economic growth is through strategic investment in transportation infrastructure,” said Secretary Mike King. “That’s exactly what we’ve done in Coffeyville.”
Secretary Mike King recently approved a 24-mile extension of the Prairie Trail Scenic Byway in central Kansas. The original 56-mile route was designated as a scenic byway in 2007. It begins at Canton in McPherson County then follows county roads north to Roxbury and west to the south I-135/K-4 interchange. It follows K-4 westward to K-141 and then goes north to the K-140/K-141 intersection in Ellsworth County, where it formerly ended. The new extension will take travelers west on K-140 to Ellsworth, then north on K-156 to I-70.

The Prairie Trail Scenic Byway showcases a number of scenic and historic locations. Travelers can see bison at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge and visit Roxbury, Lindsborg, Marquette, Kanopolis State Park and Reservoir, Mushroom Rock State Park and Ellsworth, a prominent city along a branch of the historic Great Western Trail. It is one of 11 scenic or historic byways in the state, including two national scenic byways. The Kansas Byway program is jointly managed by KDOT and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT). For more information about Kansas Byways, visit KSByways.com.

Trivia!
1. What is the main cause of crashes in work zones?
2. Going 65 mph instead of 55 mph for a six-mile stretch will save you how much time?
3. What is the Kansas Move Over Law? And how much is the citation?
4. How many people were killed in Kansas work zone crashes in 2014? How many were injured?
Reconstruction of the Kansas Avenue Bridge in Leavenworth County crossing over the KTA/I-70 near mile marker 221 is set to begin soon. The bridge has deteriorated to the point it needs to be replaced and was closed to all traffic last week. AM Cohron & Sons is the contractor for the project that should be completed in November. Most bridges crossing the KTA are 50 years or older.

KTA

Replacing a bridge one-half at a time: Work continues on a bridge replacement project about four miles east of the Kansas/Colorado state line on U.S. 50. The bridge is being replaced one side at a time, with traffic limited to one lane, controlled by a traffic signal. There is a 10-foot width restriction across the bridge. L & M Contractors, Inc., of Great Bend is the primary contractor at a cost of about $1.6 million. Work should be completed by the end of June. Kris Norton’s road squad and Mark Hurt’s bridge squad are designing the projects.

District Six

Bridge wing wall replacement: A bridge repair project began Monday to replace a broken wing wall on the south side of the U.S. 36 bridge located two miles west of the U.S. 75 and U.S. 36 interchange near Fairview. Crews will replace the existing 24-foot long by 13-foot high broken wing wall with a new reinforced concrete wall of similar size adjacent to the bridge structure. U.S. 36 traffic is reduced to one lane during the project and controlled by signals. Reece Construction Co., of Scandia is the contractor on the $136,000 project that should be completed in early June. Travis Malone’s bridge squad is designing the project.

District One

A two-mile section of historic Kansas Route 66 has been nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. The section runs north from the community of Baxter Springs and includes the Rainbow Curve Bridge, a Marsh arch structure built over Brush Creek in 1933. The bridge is already on the historic register and sits on an offset alignment to the nominated roadway.

District Four

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Inattention
2. About one minute
3. The Kansas Move Over Law, passed in 2006, requires motorists traveling on four-lane highways to move into the left lane when passing a road crew or emergency vehicle with flashing lights, if it is safe to do so. Citations carry a $195 fine plus court costs.
4. Seven people were killed, 397 people were injured.
Construction is taking place on the pier columns for the bridge that will carry traffic from eastbound K-10 to westbound 23rd Street near existing K-10 in Douglas County. There are a total of 26 bridges on the South Lawrence Trafficway project that is underway.

District Five

Secretary Mike King, second from right, visits Lyons Salt Company in Lyons on March 19 visiting the District Five area. Lyons Salt Company sells KDOT salt for winter snow and ice removal. He also stopped by Lowen Sign Company in Hutchinson.

District One

Pothole season is in full swing in the Kansas City Metro area. At left, Equipment Operator Ruben Hernandez from the Lamar Subarea Office spray patches a pothole on I-35 just north of the Lamar shop. Above, another pothole nearby gets repaired.

Go Orange!

Top left, District Five office in Hutchinson; above, Governor’s Mansion; bottom left, Hays Area office; below, Olathe Area Engineer Howard Lubliner and his family.
Go Orange!

Orange is the color of the week: Several buildings and bridges across Kansas will be lit up in orange lights to help raise awareness on work zone safety for the week of March 23-27. During this week, orange will be seen at –

• All KDOT’s District offices and several Area offices
• Governor’s Mansion in Topeka
• Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge in Atchison
• Visitor’s Center in the Capitol
• Eisenhower State Office Building in Topeka
• Front of the Topeka City Hall building
• KTA Headquarters building in Wichita
• Travel Information Center on I-70 near Goodland
• 87th Street bridges over I-35 and Renner truss in Lenexa and the fountain in front of the Lenexa City Hall.

All this orange is part of KDOT and numerous safety partners’ efforts to participate in National Work Zone Awareness Week, a safety campaign that highlights the hazards and dangers highway workers and motorists face every day.

People are encouraged to participate in this safety campaign by wearing orange on Thursday, March 26, the official Go Orange Day! in Kansas. KDOT will also share blogs each day written by highway workers and law enforcement about their experiences in work zones. Links to these and other information can be found on the KDOT website at www.ksdot.org.