**The Kansas Aviation Expo** featured the Fly Kansas Air Tour and made several stops around the state, including the Salina Regional Airport on Sept. 23. Attendees looked at 20 vintage aircraft (above) or viewed displays hosted by K-State Salina (unmanned aircraft program), Kansas Highway Patrol search plane with FLIR, the National Guard and the Civil Air Patrol. Children toured the planes and tried their hand with flight simulators (left).

**See more photos of the Fly Kansas Air Tour later in this edition.**

**District Two**

According to an article in *Better Roads* magazine, construction crews in North Carolina were working on a paving project at the I-40/Highway 18 interchange on Sept. 19 when a pickup truck drove through the construction zone and hit three workers. One worker died on the way to the hospital and the other two workers were rushed to the hospital.

“Make the public aware they need to slow down through here because this kind of stuff, unfortunately, we wished we could have prevented it. This is the worst case scenario tonight,” said Trooper Daniel Lane. Police are investigating whether fatigue played a role in the accident.

**General**

According to an article in *Better Roads* magazine, construction crews in North Carolina were working on a paving project at the I-40/Highway 18 interchange on Sept. 19 when a pickup truck drove through the construction zone and hit three workers. One worker died on the way to the hospital and the other two workers were rushed to the hospital.

“Make the public aware they need to slow down through here because this kind of stuff, unfortunately, we wished we could have prevented it. This is the worst case scenario tonight,” said Trooper Daniel Lane. Police are investigating whether fatigue played a role in the accident.

**Counts break records:** Travelers used the Kansas Turnpike more this summer than ever before. Unaudited traffic numbers show 12.9 million vehicles traveled the 236-mile toll roadway between May and August. This is a 2 percent increase over last summer. The largest growth comes from passenger traffic. More than 11.4 million vehicles drove on the Turnpike May through August. This represents a steady increase in passenger traffic since 2011. When looking at passenger traffic by month, more vehicles used the Turnpike in May, with a vehicle count of 2.9 million. This broke the prior monthly record from July 2013 by more than 54,000 vehicles.

“We are pleased to see a very strong increase in our passenger vehicles over the summer,” said Turnpike Chief Operations Officer Alan Bakaitis. “That, along with the fact the average miles per trip has increased, leads us to believe that this travel is primarily leisure or vacation travelers.”

**KTA**
General

Election year: Department of Administration Secretary Jim Clark reminds state employees of do's and don'ts concerning political activity in a memo posted on KDOA’s website.

“You are free to take part in any political activity offsite, on your own time. With few exceptions, being a state employee does not prohibit your right to participate in our political process. You are encouraged to support the candidates of your choice, and to vote on election day. At work, however, it is important to keep several Kansas laws in mind,” the memo stated.

For details on the statutes, please read the rest of the memo on KDOA’s website here, or you can contact the Bureau of Personnel Services.

In Memory

Condolesences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Nancy Mattson, who died Sept. 11 in Topeka. She was an Applications Development Supervisor in the Bureau of Transportation Planning prior to her retirement.

Trivia!

Christopher Columbus
1. What day did Columbus arrive in the Americas?
2. How many voyages did Columbus make across the Atlantic?
   A. 1
   B. 4
   C. 7
   D. 14
3. When did Columbus Day become a federal holiday in the U.S.?
4. What city has hosted the nation’s oldest continuously existing celebration with an annual Columbus Day Parade?
   A. 1
   B. 4
   C. 7
   D. 14
5. What four states do not recognize Columbus Day?

Answers below

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

Contest winners: Seven-year-old Payton Bowling of Ft. Scott, 10-year-old Lindsay Mueller of Palmer and 12-year-old Elle Barker of El Dorado are the statewide winners in the 2014 Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day poster contest for all Kansas kids ages 5-13. Each artist was first selected as a regional winner and will receive a bicycle and a helmet donated by Safe Kids Kansas. Their statewide winning prizes include a family package from the Great Wolf Lodge waterpark in Kansas City, Kan., and a $50 gift card from Dillon’s of Kansas.

A total of 1,344 kids across Kansas ages 5 to 13 participated in the contest. For more information and a list of all the winners, go to www.kdot.org.

Artwork - top left, Payton Bowling; top right, Lindsay Mueller; and right, Elle Barker.

Local Consult

Motivational speaker Andy Addis addressed attendees at the District Five Maintenance meeting on Sept. 23 on the issue of “Thriving in Change.” Several KDOT employees also gave updates on various topics.
District Five

Cities to receive funding:
Forty-six projects to improve intersections and road deficiencies in Kansas cities have been selected for funding through two KDOT programs. Seventeen cities will receive a combined total of $9 million in state funding under the Geometric Improvement (GI) program. And, 29 cities will receive a combined total of $5.4 million under the City Connecting Links (KLINK) program, which funds improvements to state highways that extend through cities.

Under the GI program, a city contributes up to 25 percent of the project cost based on its population. Cities under 2,500 in population aren’t required to provide a match. GI projects typically improve drainage, capacity and intersections, add turning lanes and more.

KLINK projects involve maintenance work such as resurfacing and are funded up to $200,000.

“These programs are very popular with Kansas cities, and every year we receive many more requests for projects than we can fund,” said Secretary Mike King. “As a result, funding for the GI program next year will be increased by $2 million, for a total annual commitment of $8 million. And, to catch up with inflation, the maximum state contribution per project under the KLINK program next year will go up 50 percent to $300,000.”

The maximum state contribution for a GI project will be increased to $1 million. Click here to see the GI selections and click here for the KLINK selections.

District Three

Smoky Hill, L.L.C., continues to work on the final phase of the Geometric Improvement project on U.S. 183 in Stockton. The $1 million project to replace seven blocks of concrete pavement is scheduled to be complete next month.
Aviation

Top photo: Former KDOT Aviation Director Ed Young leads a group of children on an educational tour in Wellington. Middle photos: The Fly Kansas Air Tour kicked off aviation week in Wellington where more than 100 local school kids got to visit with pilots, learn about aviation careers and watch as some pilots put on a show. Bottom left photo: Attendees at the event in Topeka look at a plane. Bottom right photo: KDOT Aviation Director Jesse Romo presents the Governor’s Proclamation to event partner Brian Youngers, President of the Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education. The proclamation declared Sept. 22-26 as Aviation Appreciation Week in Kansas with the Kansas Aviation Expo being a highlight of the week.

District One

Ahead of schedule: The new U.S. 24 bridge over the Deep Creek drainage area (located one mile east of Broadway Street in Belvue) opened to traffic on Sept. 24, a month ahead of schedule. The bridge replacement project began on June 23 and was expected to be completed in late October. Ebert Construction Company, Inc., of Wamego is the prime contractor on the $627,000 project. Kris Norton’s road squad and Brad Rognlie’s bridge squad designed the project.

District Five

Above is the new U.S. 24 bridge in Pottawatomie County that opened a month ahead of schedule (the train tracks run parallel to the highway). At right is the old bridge.

District Five

New experimental pavement markings were applied by KDOT employees on eastbound K-96 near the ramp to eastbound U.S. 54/400 in east Wichita. The “301 Curve” is a problem for fast moving semis and rollovers are too common.
Work continues on the Wittenberg bridge along the KTA in Topeka as a deck pour took place on Sept. 25.

**Employee Council Holiday Ornament Order Form**

**To order:**

**Headquarters:** Contact your Employees’ Council rep.

**Districts/Retirees:** Mail completed form and check to -
Ruby Hilton, KDOT, 700 SW Harrison
13th Floor/Bridge Design
Topeka, KS, 66603

**Ornament** | **Quantity** | **Cost Each** | **Total**
--- | --- | --- | ---
2010 | | $5.00 | 
2011 | | ___ SOLD OUT ___ |
2012 | | $5.00 | 
2013 | | $5.00 | 
2014 | | $5.00 | 

**Total Paid:**

Please Print -
Name: ______________________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________ R
Retirees only - home address)
Work phone: ________________________________

For more details, call Ruby at (785) 291-3980

Checks payable to Employees’ Council

Supply is limited on ornaments from previous years - first come, first serve