

# Translines EXPRESS

Sept. 17, 2014

## Local Consult

**Talking transportation:** KDOT and the KTA want to remind the public of the opportunity to talk about transportation at local consultation meetings across Kansas starting next week.

“KDOT and KTA are very much looking forward to hearing from local residents about needs and priorities in their communities,” said Secretary Mike King. “We will again talk about projects that are important to consider for preliminary engineering to ensure that we have vital infrastructure investments ‘shovel ready’ should funds become available.”

The locations and dates of this year’s local consult discussions are as follows:

**Kansas City:** Sept. 24 from 9 a.m. to noon, Hilton Garden Inn, 520 Minnesota Ave.

**Garden City:** Sept. 29 from 9 a.m. to noon,

Clarion Inn, 1911 E. Kansas Ave.

**Hutchinson:** Sept. 30 from 9 a.m. to noon, The Ramada, 1400 N. Lorraine.

**Wichita:** Oct. 1 from 9 a.m. to noon, WSU Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex, 5015 E. 29th Street North.

**Chanute:** Oct. 6 from 1 to 4 p.m., KDOT Complex, 411 W. Fourteenth.

**Topeka:** Oct. 7 from 9 a.m. to noon, Eisenhower State Office Building, 700 SW Harrison.

**Hays:** Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to noon, Kansas Highway Patrol Conference Room, 1821 W. Frontier Rd.

**Salina:** Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. to noon, Kansas Highway Patrol Training Center, 2025 E. Iron Ave.

## District Six



**Secretary Mike King speaks at the Garden City Railroad Depot this morning at the announcement of a \$12.4 million federal TIGER grant to Garden City and a coalition of partners. The grant will be applied to improving up to 50 miles of track through southwest Kansas and southeast Colorado. The improvements will provide benefits for freight rail customers and enable AMTRAK to continue running its Southwest Chief train from Chicago to Los Angeles on the current route that includes stops in Newton, Hutchinson, Dodge City and Garden City. KDOT is contributing \$3 million to the project.**

## District Three



**From left to right, Rep. Don Hineman, Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, Secretary Mike King, President of Venture Corporation Kip Spray, Sheridan County Commissioner Troy Dewey and KDOT District Engineer Jeff Stewart cut the ribbon in Hoxie on Sept. 8 for the K-23 improvement project. Jon Marburger's road squad and Paul Kulseth's bridge squad designed the project.**

**Ribbon cut on K-23:** Secretary Mike King and elected officials participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the \$14.5 million K-23 project on Sept. 8 in Hoxie. The 19-mile project included the removal of old pavement, rebuilding the road base and paving. The work widened the road by four feet.

Secretary King also announced that Hoxie will receive a \$700,000 Geometric Improvement award to rebuild a 500-foot section of K-23 just north of U.S. 24. The project will tie into the current K-23 project. The Geometric Improvement project is expected to begin next summer.

## KTA



**Reconstruction of the Wittenberg Road Bridge and re-decking of the 29th Street Bridge crossing over the Turnpike/I-470 in southeast Topeka continues. Recently, rolling roadblocks were used for traffic control as the contractor set new girders for the Wittenberg Road Bridge. Weather permitting, both bridges will be completed this November.**

## Milestones



**KDOT employees celebrating 40 or 50 years of service came to the State Capitol on Sept. 12 to celebrate their achievement. From left to right in the front row, and pictured with Deputy Secretary/State Transportation Engineer Jerry Younger (left), are John E. Rome from Hays, Darrell Gwaltney from Topeka and Kent Rosdahl, from Topeka. Chris Herrick, front row/right, and back row Mike Floberg and Eric Nichol attended the event. Not pictured are Stephen Burnett, Oscar Hamilton, Francis Coufal, Timothy Horgan and David Johnson (retired). All are celebrating 40 years of service this fiscal year.**

## District One

**KDOT, MoDOT partner on project:** KDOT is partnering with the Missouri DOT on a U.S. 69 bridge replacement project over the Missouri River between Wyandotte County and Platte County, Mo., in the KC Metro Area. As the lead agency, MoDOT has selected a proposal by American Bridge Company and Garver will provide design services. Construction will begin this fall and the new bridge will be open to traffic in December 2016. One lane each direction on U.S. 69 will remain open during construction. The shared cost of the project is \$79 million. The southbound U.S. Route 69 Bridge, known as the Fairfax Bridge, was built in 1933. The northbound U.S. Route 69 Bridge, known as the Platte Purchase Bridge, was built in 1957. When the project is complete, the new bridge will provide two northbound lanes and two southbound lanes on U.S. 69, as well as a 10-foot wide bike/pedestrian



This display shows the completed U.S. 69 bridge over the Missouri River.



path over the Missouri River, two levee systems and several railroad tracks. N.W. Argosy Parkway will also be realigned at the north end. Kris Norton's squad and Chris Meyer's squad are in charge of project oversight for KDOT.

## District Four

About 100 people attended the Sept. 11 kick-off meeting at Baxter Springs for the U.S. 400 Advanced Preliminary Engineering Study in Cherokee County. The two-year study will use local input and corridor information to generate a possible future expansion of U.S. 400 from the U.S. 166 junction north to the Cherokee-Crawford county line. Steve Rocker's squad is designing the project.



### Trivia!

#### Table tennis (ping pong)

1. When was the International Table Tennis Federation founded?
2. When did it become an Olympic sport?
3. What was the original paddle and ball made from in table tennis?
4. What are the dimensions of a table in this sport?
5. According to the rules, how is it decided who serves first?
6. What dramatically changed the game in the 1950s, introducing greater spin and speed?

### Geometric Improvement

#### KDOT to announce GI projects:

Secretary Mike King will announce the statewide selection of the 2017 Geometric Improvement projects this Friday at 1 p.m. in the Wellington City Administration Building, 317 S. Washington. Roads selected for Geometric Improvement funding are part of the state highway system located within city limits and these projects are designed to improve intersections and address road deficiencies.

## District Three



Secretary Mike King, fourth from right, is joined by local and state officials on Sept. 7 to cut the ribbon during a dedication ceremony for two K-161 highway signs at Bird City. These signs indicate that this section of highway between Bird City and Benkelman is part of the Ancient Indian Traders Trail.

## District Five



Above and at right, KDOT employees in District Five assisted the Department of Emergency Management by constructing a snow fence as a pen for search and rescue dogs who were part of Kansas Emergency Preparedness Day at the Kansas State Fair on Sept. 8.



## District Four



Work is under way on a surface recycle and asphalt overlay project on U.S. 160 in Montgomery and Labette counties. Shilling Construction of Manhattan is the prime contractor on the \$2.1 million resurfacing.

## Traffic Safety

**Blog highlights need for safety:** Jessi Scott woke to the sound of knocking to find two policemen at her door.

"My boyfriend, the man I loved and planned to marry, had been in a wreck early that morning. He was in ICU. Chris and David, both friends of ours, had not made it. They had been killed instantly by someone's choice to drink and drive," Scott said in today's safety blog.

Scott is one of 20 people sharing their stories in KDOT's blog to show why safety on our roadways is so important. The blog began Monday and is updated daily as part of KDOT's Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day safety campaign.

The blog can be viewed at <http://ksdotblog.blogspot.com/>. The series will run until Oct. 10.

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day focuses on all types of traffic safety, whether you are in a vehicle, on a bike, on a motorcycle or walking across the street.

## District Four



*Gathering to dedicate the new Route 66 kiosk on Aug. 26 were members of the Kansas Route 66 Historic Byway, local route enthusiasts and KDOT District Four staff including District Engineer Wayne Gudmonson, Pittsburg Area Engineer George Dockery, Pittsburg Construction Engineer Bob Gudgen and District Public Affairs Manager Priscilla Petersen. The newly-constructed kiosk is located just west of the Riverton roundabout at the junction of U.S. 400 and K-66. KDOT started the \$20,000 project in March with grant funding from the Federal Highway Administration. Pittsburg State University and KDOT provided the design and labor. The kiosk, a feature of the Kansas Historic Route 66 Byway, features panels highlighting historic aspects and highlights of Route 66 in Kansas.*



## District Five

*Above, during the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson this year, Traffic Safety Specialists Laura Moore and Tim McCool pass out items at the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office booth, while at the KDOT booth, District Five employees Kirkland Byers and Kurt Brown chat with fair attendees. In the photo at right, District Five employees Mike Smith and Scott Miller play the transportation trivia game with people stopping by the booth.*



## Headquarters

### Possible sites for freight facility:

KDOT officials are beginning to identify possible locations for construction of rail transloading facilities. It is anticipated that facility locations will be announced within a year.

A consultant will be hired to assist KDOT in selecting the most logical locations for a facility, how big it should be, how many should be built and how such a facility should be operated.

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 provides more flexible and cost-effective solutions for

customers who may not have local access to freight rail service or those who need expanded warehousing.

Secretary Mike King discussed the idea of constructing transloading facilities in Kansas during a meeting in Salina last week.

"The need for transloading facilities was identified by the state's Freight Advisory Committee in April," said Secretary 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."

KDOT hopes to have a consultant selected in the near future to begin work.

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. 1926
2. 1988
3. Paddles were made of cigar box lids and balls were made of champagne corks.
4. 9 feet long, 5 feet wide, 2.5 feet high
5. A coin toss
6. Paddle that used a rubber sheet combined with an underlying sponge layer.

## Letter to the Editor

On Friday, August 22, my daughter and I were making a trip down south to Columbus. We have never made this trip, and we soon discovered our phones had no service on the roads leading there. We were going off of our memory as to which highway to take to make it to Columbus. As we were driving down highway 68 towards Louisburg, we noticed traffic was stopped. As we neared, we could see one KDOT employee standing on the road, directing traffic to take a detour. As it turns out, there was an accident a mile ahead that had blocked the lanes. He was redirecting all cars to take a different route. What my daughter and I truly appreciated about this KDOT employee, was that as we approached, we realized he wasn't just directing people to turn around and take a different route. Standing outside in over

100 degree weather, he would smile at each driver as the approached, said a friendly hello, gave a brief synopsis of why we had to be redirected, and then asked exactly where we were headed. Based on our destination, he gave us clear and concise directions on how to get there via a detour. He then wished us well as we drove off.

This could have been a frustrating job, in the heat, repeating the same thing to each driver. However, he was so incredibly friendly and helpful that we had to take the time to make sure he knew he was appreciated for his efforts that day. My only regret as we drove away was that I didn't ask for his name. I would love to be able to thank him personally for his attitude that day.

*Misty Rodriguez,*

## District Six



A bridge replacement project on K-25, about eight miles north of Lakin, has traffic moved to a one-lane shoofly around the bridge. This is one of three bridge replacement projects across District Six this summer, all utilizing one-lane shoofly detours. The other two are on K-23 in Finney County and K-94 in Ford County. All three bridge replacement projects should be completed this fall. Design squads on the projects include - K-25, Kelly Cool and Chris Meyer; K-23, Cool and Mark Hurt; and K-94, Kris Norton and Meyer.

## Scenic



KDOT employee Allison Smith took this sunflower photo at Grinter Farms near U.S. 24 between Tonganoxie and Lawrence.

# Deadline to enter is this Friday, Sept. 19!!

# Poster Art Contest

## Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day October 10, 2014

Traffic crashes are a leading cause of death in the U.S. for people age 3 to 34. "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day<sup>®</sup>" focuses on reducing traffic fatalities by encouraging motorists to take extra precautions.

Information on website - [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org)

Kansas kids ages 5 through 13 are invited to enter artwork representing their thoughts on "Put the Brakes on Fatalities." Regional winners in the three age categories will be chosen. Then, three statewide winners will be selected from the 18 regional winners!

### Age Categories

- 5 to 7 years old
- 8 to 10 years old
- 11 to 13 years old

Each regional winner will receive a **BICYCLE** and **HELMET** Courtesy of Safe Kids Kansas

Statewide winners will win \$50 CARDS from **Dillon's of Kansas** AND family packages to **Great Wolf Lodge Water Park Resort in Kansas City**

## RULES:

- Art MUST be on 8.5" x 11" paper. Any materials can be used including paint, crayon, pencil, pastel, and collage. No computer-aided drawings.
- All entries must be postmarked by **September 19, 2014**, to be eligible.
- Winners' names/artwork will be sent to media and posted on the KDOT website.
- **Mail entries to:**

AAA Kansas/Public Affairs  
3545 SW 6th Street  
Topeka, Kansas, 66606

Each entry **MUST** have this information on the back;

One entry per child

First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Last Name \_\_\_\_\_