

# Translines EXPRESS

Dec. 11, 2013

## WICHway



**Secretary Mike King (right) and Public Affairs Manager Tom Hein unveil a new WICHway website at a press conference today in Wichita.**

**New interactive website:** WICHway, KDOT's Intelligent Transportation System on Wichita's highways, has a new interactive website that functions on all types of computers, plus it is useable on smart phones in much the same way as a phone app.

The website, [www.WICHway.org](http://www.WICHway.org), shares information from 38 cameras, 45 traffic sensors and 21 electronic message signs on Wichita's most traveled highways – U.S. 54, I-135 and K-96. Smart phone users can access the website using a search engine or their web browser. They can bookmark the page to their home screen, where it becomes a shortcut to the website, then functions like a phone app.

A video illustrating this process is available at <http://goo.gl/o1R1il>.

## District Four



Crews with B&B Bridge Construction of St. Paul place epoxy-coated rebar on the deck of the Four-Mile Creek Bridge on U.S. 166 east of Chetopa. The highway remains closed for construction of the new bridge, which is expected to be open to traffic in the spring of 2014. The detour around the work zone uses U.S. 69, U.S. 160 and U.S. 59 highways.

## Trivia!

### Toys

1. When were the following toys or games invented?

Clue                    Silly Putty

Crayons                Tinkertoy

Etch A Sketch          Trivial Pursuit

Jigsaw Puzzle         Yo-Yo

Monopoly              Roller skates

2. What toy started out as a pie tin in the 1870s?

3. During World War II, a large supply of synthetic, pliable rubber was made as a caulking and molding medium. The war ended and they had a large amount left. What did it become?

4. Inspired by watching children play with pencils, sticks and empty spools of thread, Charles Pajeau invented this toy.

*Answers below*

## Comments from the Public

### Facebook/Tweets/Emails on KDOT's response to the recent winter storm:

- I know a lot of people don't focus on positive things but I wanted to give kudos to the kc div of kd...I commute 50 miles one way and Missouri had not touched the roads...they were very bad. I crossed the river and the roads were treated and dry. They did an awesome job. Made the second half of my journey a more enjoyable one.

*Marji Smith*

- As a private citizen, I want to express my Thanks to all the men and women in the State of Kansas, whether City County or State that work on the roads during the winter storms. I know you don't hear it much, but you are appreciated. Your job is dangerous and takes you away from your family and your warm home, but you are so important. THANK YOU!

*Don Dean*

- Thank you to all of the crews out there working hard all day and night to keep us safe!

*Ashley Lott*

- @TopekaMetroKDOT - our heros! I know it's your / their job, but thank you all for all you do to help keep us safe in winter :-)

*Karla @songofcharis*

- @NEKansasKDOT - not going anywhere!! You all be safe! Thank you for all your team does!

*#TeamHarwick @Bud4Happy*

- You're welcome Kansas for this lovely weather, but seriously shout out to KDOT. My windshield might have a constant ice buildup, but the roads are good, and I'm sincerely grateful."

*Nikki Esquivel*

## District Three



**Secretary Mike King spoke at the western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance (wKREDA) group meeting at Fort Hays State University on Dec. 5 about state transportation issues. The group is a grassroots organization that focuses on the betterment of western Kansas.**

**New to ESOB:** With the Kansas Turnpike Authority and KDOT working closely together on transportation issues, Alan Streit, General Counsel for the Kansas Turnpike Authority, is now working on the second floor of the Eisenhower building. Streit graduated from the University of Kansas Law School in 2000 and was an attorney in private practice for more than 10 years. He became the General Counsel for the KTA in early 2013.

The Chief Operating Officer and the Chief Engineer of the KTA are located in Topeka in addition to Secretary/Director of the KTA, Mike King. And with the 2014 Legislative session starting soon, most of the KTA board members will be in Topeka. "I'd been doing KTA legal work on a contractual basis for about a year, but over the past several months it became clear that a full-time attorney was needed," Streit said. "I am thankful for the support of the Secretary/Director, the KTA board and the KTA executive staff. I am excited about the opportunity."



**Alan Streit**

## In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Clark Dean Davis who passed away on Nov. 24 in Yates Center. Davis started his KDOT career in 1995, working in Topeka as a mechanic. He transferred to the Area Two shop in Garnett in 2004. He retired on March 29, 2008.

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Clue - 1944
  - Crayons - 1903
  - Etch A Sketch - 1959
  - Jigsaw Puzzle - 1767
  - Monopoly - 1935
  - Silly Putty - 1943
  - Tinkertoy - 1914
  - Trivial Pursuit - 1979
  - Yo-Yo - 1928
  - Roller skates - 1760
2. Frisbee
  3. Peter Hodgson put it in plastic eggs and it was known as Silly Putty.
  4. Tinkertoy

## District Four



*The entrance to the Flint Hills Nature Trail near Osawatomie is shown above.*

### Trail improvement:

The 117-mile Flint Hills Nature Trail, which runs between Osawatomie and Herington on former Missouri Pacific rail corridor, is being developed with the assistance of a federal grant. This year, \$1.5 million in federal Transportation Enhancement funds was awarded to the trail development project. The applicant bears a minimum of 20 percent of the project cost, with the balance of the \$2.4 million improvement provided by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. The project will complete various sections of the trail and construct full trailheads and half trailheads along the route. The Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy has operated the Flint Hills Nature Trail since 2001.

## Lincoln Highway

### 100th birthday:

According to Better Roads, the Lincoln Highway, the transcontinental highway that could take motorists from coast to coast, has turned 100 years old.

The route was intended to be the straightest possible shot between New York City and San Francisco.

The idea of the Lincoln Highway came from Carl Fisher, who was also responsible for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and Miami Beach. The route, comprised of both existing and newly-built roads following the most direct route possible, ran from New York to San Francisco, covering about 3,400 miles, according to the Lincoln Highway Association website.

## Traffic Safety



*From left, Chair of Safe Kids Kansas Board of Directors Tim McCool, Dr. Dennis Cooley, KDOT Traffic Safety employees Chris Bortz and Phyllis Marotta and Safe Kids Kansas Director Cherie Sage accept awards for ongoing safety efforts.*

**Safety efforts recognized:** Safe Kids Kansas last week recognized the efforts of KDOT and the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office, which KDOT funds, for their efforts to protect Kansas children. The Outstanding Partnership for Child Safety award was presented to KDOT for their continued commitment in promoting child passenger safety and seat belt use statewide. The Outstanding Coalition Organization award was presented to the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office for their efforts in promoting child passenger safety and supporting training of the more than 500 child safety seat technicians around the state. “A positive global change requires aligning yourself with outstanding partners,” said Chris Bortz, KDOT Traffic Safety Manager. “The partnership between Safe Kids and KDOT has and will continue to make a positive impact in the lives of our youth.”

## District One

**Improving the flow:** A major drainage pipe repair project began in late October on northbound and southbound K-7 at Nettleton Avenue in Wyandotte County. Project work includes the repair of one 10-foot diameter pipe and five smaller adjacent lateral pipes under the roadway. Crews are first utilizing grout to fill voids in the rusted out sections at the bottoms of all the pipes, then inserting a high-density polyethylene pipe lining in each of the pipes, followed by the application of grout to fill the space between the existing metal pipe and the new liner. LG Barcus & Sons, Inc. of Kansas City is the contractor



*The 10-foot diameter pipe will require the welding of 20 individual 40-foot sections of the liner pipe to complete the 800-foot long drainage pipe repair project.*

on the \$1 million project. It is scheduled to be completed next month.

## District Six

**Bigger is better:** The building is up, most of the work is complete and the District Six mechanics are busy moving back into their recently-expanded shop in Garden City. Work on the \$900,000 expansion began in April and included extending the shop area 30 feet to the north, adding wider and taller doors on the north side, upgrading the electrical system throughout the building and renovating an upstairs storage area to provide a computer training classroom and additional office space. A new elevator will make the second floor computer lab and offices handicapped-accessible. The expansion provides five drive-through bays, as well as allowing the mechanics to keep more equipment in the shop when necessary. Danny Campbell, Shop Supervisor, says he and his mechanics are eager to get moved back into the shop and put the new space to good use.



*The expanded shop at Garden City now has five drive-through bays in addition to other improvements to the facility.*



*Video captured numerous vehicles involved a crash in Wisconsin.*

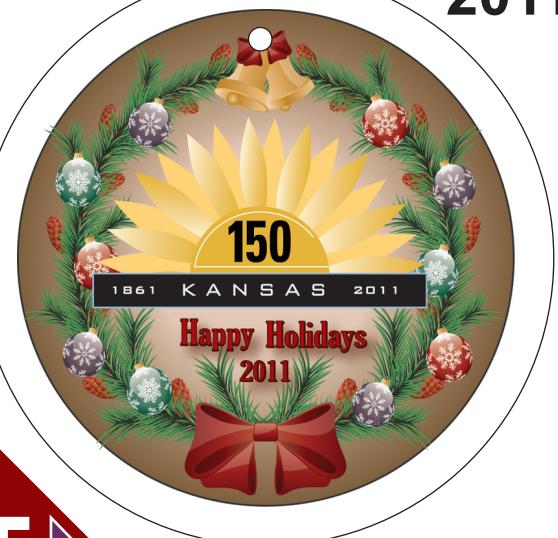
## Winter Weather

**Caught on film:** On Sunday around 11 a.m., a Wisconsin Department of Transportation camera captured footage of a multi-vehicle crash on highways 41 and 45 near Germantown. Several vehicles spun out of control, and there were many close calls. Fortunately, law enforcement reports no major injuries or deaths related to this incident, according to WisDOT. The five-minute video shows several vehicles traveling too fast for conditions as snow began to fall that morning. See the video at <http://goo.gl/zvyFRP>.

**2010**



**2011**



**2012**



**2013**



**MAKE  
GREAT  
GIFTS!**

## 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		\$5.00	
2012		\$5.00	
2013		\$5.00	
<b>Total Paid:</b>			

Please Print -

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Retirees only - home address)

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to  
Employees' Council

For more details, call  
Ruby at (785) 296-0603

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