



Holiday Letter

...from Secretary Mike King

As we move through this busy time of year traveling to holiday parties, attending family gatherings and shopping, I'm reminded just how important our transportation infrastructure is to all those activities. If Kansas didn't have such great frontline highway crews working hard every day and in sometimes dangerous conditions, some of those special holiday moments just couldn't happen. Over the past year, I've met hundreds of you and I've always been struck by your dedication and how lucky we are to have you working on our behalf. The same goes for the many hard-working people who may not be on the front lines, but are equally dedicated to planning, building

and maintaining our outstanding multi-modal transportation system.

Thank you for all of the work you do to make our system safe and customer friendly. You make me proud to tell people I'm part of our state's world-class transportation system.

So I wish you and your families happy holidays and a very merry Christmas. As you travel to holiday gatherings, I remind you to put the devices down, buckle up and give driving your full attention. You owe it to yourself and all of those who depend on you to arrive safely.

Thank you,
Mike



Comments from the public

After this weekend's snowstorm blanketed the state, many Kansans and other travelers took the time to appreciate the hard working crews at KDOT. Here are some of the tweets that were sent to the KDOT headquarters account.

Aaron@akucharik
Shoutout to @KDOTHQ for getting the highways/interstates cleared so I could make my flight at KCI!
#ThanksAMillion

Nate Johnson@nsj
Props to @MoDOT & @KDOTHQ. Family traveling...
Less than 24 hours after nearly half a foot of snow & the interstates were immaculate.

Ray Hemman@rayhemman
Running K-96 between HUT & ICT, I was grateful for the hard working @KDOTHQ crews. Wishing legislators would spend some cab time with them.

Jack Martin@JackMartinKU
Big thank you to the @KDOTHQ & @KansasTurnpike employees who cleared the snow. I-70 from Salina to Lawrence was wide open.

Brian Boydston@Boydston88
Thanks @KDOTHQ and @OKDOT. Me and the family made it safely from Oklahoma City to Denver for the Holidays because of your road crews.

Caleb Hays@calebhays
.@KDOTHQ Please tell your overnight crews THANK YOU for their hard work on I-70 last night. Their work is very appreciated. Merry Christmas!

Mandy Miller@MandyMiller5
Headed west. Just crossed the Missouri border into Kansas. The difference between KS & MO roads is amazing. @KDOTHQ is amazing! #ksleg

District Three

Traditions from Christmas' past: The Christmas tree standing in District Three's foyer has unique KDOT flair. District Receptionist Beverly Sidman returned to the nostalgic custom of making this year's decorations when she created paper chain links of garland made from outdated Kansas maps.

According to the website, <http://www.christmasarchives.org/index.php>, most people in America in the 1950s as well as many people in Britain were using artificial decorations. New machinery and modern methods made such things cheap and easy to mass produce. Pretty paper and foil honeycomb garlands were seen in the very best homes and the humble dwelling alike. This lasted until the new revival for natural decorations and a swing back to the Victorian Christmas look in the late 1970s America, and late 1980s Britain. Modern Christmas 'looks' tend to come into fashion every so often, and last a few short years before swinging back to the nostalgia of the traditional decorations of old.

Paper chains made out of outdated state maps adorn the Christmas tree at the District Three office.



Trivia!

New Year's Eve

1. When did the Times Square Ball first drop?
2. What two years did the Times Square Ball not drop and why?
3. What company designed the most recent Times Square Ball?
4. How much does this Times Square Ball weigh?
5. When did Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve begin?
6. What foods are considered to bring prosperity if eaten on New Year's?

Answers below

Snow/Ice

Battling winter weather - Winter just began last Saturday, but many states have already battled snow and ice storms the past several weeks. New technologies and materials such as icebreakers, Magic Salt (made from potato juice), tow plow swings and dual-wingplows are being used across the country. For more information, see the AASHTO article at <http://goo.gl/I8x8fA>.

To learn more about KDOT's winter efforts as well as other maintenance activities, check out the "Managing Snow and Ice" publication on the agency's website at www.ksdot.org.



Annual Report

Annual report posted: How did KDOT spend its \$1.4 billion budget in 2013? And how well is it meeting established goals in critical performance areas? The answers to these questions and more can be found in KDOT's annual report. View the report at <http://www.ksdot.org/publications.asp>.

The report also explains KDOT's safety efforts; its programs that strengthen the state's transit, aviation and rail networks; and where KDOT's revenue comes from under the T-WORKS transportation program. In addition, the report's appendix includes a list of projects completed in fiscal 2013, projects scheduled through 2020 and the criteria by which those projects were selected.

District Two



K-61 bridge hit: The southbound K-61 bridge over the K-153 Spur in McPherson County was hit by a track hoe on Dec. 9.

The bridge girder was bent as the back hoe's arm struck the bridge while traveling on the K-153 Spur. As a result, the clearance under the bridge has been reduced by six inches to 14 feet, three inches, due to the twist in the girder. The bridge remains structurally sound and will not receive any load restrictions. Repairs will take about two months, according to Public Affairs Manager David Greiser.

Damage to the girder on the K-61 bridge over the K-153 Spur has reduced the clearance under the bridge by six inches.

District Five

At the Dec. 12 open house, Aaron Boehmler and Kelly Cool (center) from the Bureau of Road Design discuss the proposed interchange located adjacent to Strother Field Industrial Park as part of the U.S. 77 pavement preservation project between Winfield and Arkansas City. Other KDOT staff involved with the meeting were Winfield Area Engineer Don Snyder, District Engineer Benny Tarverdi, Road Design Leader Scott King, Right of Way Relocation Representative Denise House and Public Affairs Manager Martin Miller.



Holiday Fun

Ugly sweater contests were a popular event recently in the Eisenhower Building. In the photo at left, Amy Coon (standing, far right) won in the Bureau of Structures and Geotechnical Services' competition. In the photo below, Kevin Hennes (center) won in the Division of Planning and Development's event.



TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Dec. 31, 1907.
2. In 1942 and 1943, to observe wartime blackouts.
3. Waterford Crystal in 2009
4. 11,875 pounds
5. 1972
6. Black-eyed peas, ham or cabbage

*Have an idea for a news brief or picture that could be featured in an upcoming edition of **Translines Express**?*

Please e-mail your suggestions to
translines@ksdot.org

2010



Sold out

2011



2012



MAKE GREAT GIFTS!

2013



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	Sold out
2012		\$5.00	
2013		\$5.00	
Total Paid:			

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