

Translines EXPRESS

July 10, 2013

District One



Most of the U.S. 75/U.S. 24 cloverleaf interchange in Topeka was removed by Tuesday afternoon.

End of an era: The first cloverleaf interchange built in Kansas at the U.S. 75/U.S. 24 intersection in Topeka came down during the past week as part of a construction project under way. When the new interchange opened in 1941, according to a story in "Milestones," some motorists didn't like change:

"A week before the cloverleaf opened to traffic on Sept. 18, 1941, the highway commission printed instructions in the Topeka papers and a diagram telling drivers how to make their way through the cloverleaf. Two state troopers were to be posted at each leaf to hand out more dia-

grams and give directions. All these careful preparations went for nothing. On opening day, hundreds of drivers who turned out to give the new fangled thing a try failed miserably to negotiate it. Motorists drove up and down each leaf in both directions, collided with each other or just stopped in befuddlement. Hard headed Kansas drivers bellowed at hapless troopers that they were headed for Topeka - they could see Topeka lying to their left - they were gol'darned if they'd turn right to go left. It took several days of patient supervision by troopers before motorists could use the cloverleaf without utter mayhem."

Health/Wellness

Get moving: The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has launched a new program to keep track of Kansans fitness goals. It is called Move Across Kansas. The program can be used by all Kansans and follows up on the Governor's Weight Loss Challenge so that participants can maintain their fitness routines.

Participants are encouraged to exercise a minimum of 30 minutes per day, at least five days a week and log their exercise time on the Move Across Kansas website, www.moveacrosskansas.ks.gov.

There are map routes across the state you can choose to take. When the exercise is logged into the website it moves you across the state and you can receive credit for 60 minutes of exercise each day. At the end of the month, if you exercise 30 minutes each day, five days a week will equal to completing a month route. This is not a competition but there will be a prize drawing in November for state employees who have completed one to four routes between July and October.

More information can be found at www.moveacrosskansas.ks.gov.

District Five

Benny Tarverdi has been named the new District Five Engineer. Tarverdi started with KDOT in 1979 at the Wichita Hillside office. He served as the Wichita Metro Engineer prior to his new position.



Benny Tarverdi

In other District Five news, Scott Koopman is now the new Area Engineer in El Dorado and Don Snyder will serve as the the new Area Engineer in Winfield.

KDOT Positions

Message from Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger

Now that the legislative session is over, we will begin to fill some of our vacant positions. I've asked the Division Directors to review the existing vacancies and provide a prioritized list of those positions deemed critical to be filled. There is a definite need for us to fill vacant positions but we also have to accept the reality that our FY 2014 salary budget will NOT allow us to fill as many as we may want. I know the Division Directors will do their best to place the highest priority on those positions of highest critical need.

As we advertise and fill positions, you will see a few differences. While the majority of our vacancies will continue to be filled as classified, there will be a small number of supervisor/manager/technical positions advertised and filled as "unclassified". Now, let's not automatically jump to the conclusion that there is some hidden agenda in this approach. Instead, a greater use of unclassified appears to be the only option available for KDOT to address some of our most pressing pay issues – pay compression, recruitment, retention and the worst being the fact that many positions in KDOT have not received

ANY market adjustments and/or pay raises for the past five-plus years. That's just not right. The question then becomes: should KDOT wait around for some legislative action to provide pay enhancements for all of our classified employees (only the Legislature can do this, KDOT cannot) or should we make use of some other internal means more under our control to provide a small amount of help in the near term? I think most folks would say let's do something now. So, not only will we be advertising some positions as unclassified but we will also begin offering pay enhancements to some of our classified employees who voluntarily agree to move into unclassified status. The initial focus of those offerings will be to those supervisory/managerial/technical classifications that have not had any pay increases for the past 5+ years. If you are an employee within this group, you can expect to be contacted within the next two to three months by your respective Senior and/or Executive manager to discuss further. At that discussion, more information will be provided about the specific amount of the offered pay enhancement and other details associated with moving, voluntarily, to unclassified status.

Trivia!

Actors from Kansas -

1. This actor was born in Lawrence in 1909. He started his career in 1931 performing in theatres, nightclubs and on the radio, then hung out with Wally and the Beaver.

2. This actress was born in Topeka in 1958. She has appeared in three Mike Nicols films – "Postcards from the Edge," "Regarding Henry" and "What Planet are you From?"

3. This actress was born in Wichita in 1951. She has her own Star Trek action figure made from her likeness from the movie "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan."

4. This actor was born in Kansas City in 1971. As a child, he wanted to be a clown and on the show, "Modern Family," has portrayed one several times.

5. This actor was born in Dodge City in 1936. He's appeared in two films featuring James Dean and he was married to Michelle Phillips for less than two weeks.

WICHway



This WICHway screen shot of the K-96 at Rock Road camera in northeast Wichita shows why the highway was completely shut down for a few hours on June 20. This picture was viewed by more than 17,000 people on Facebook.

***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***

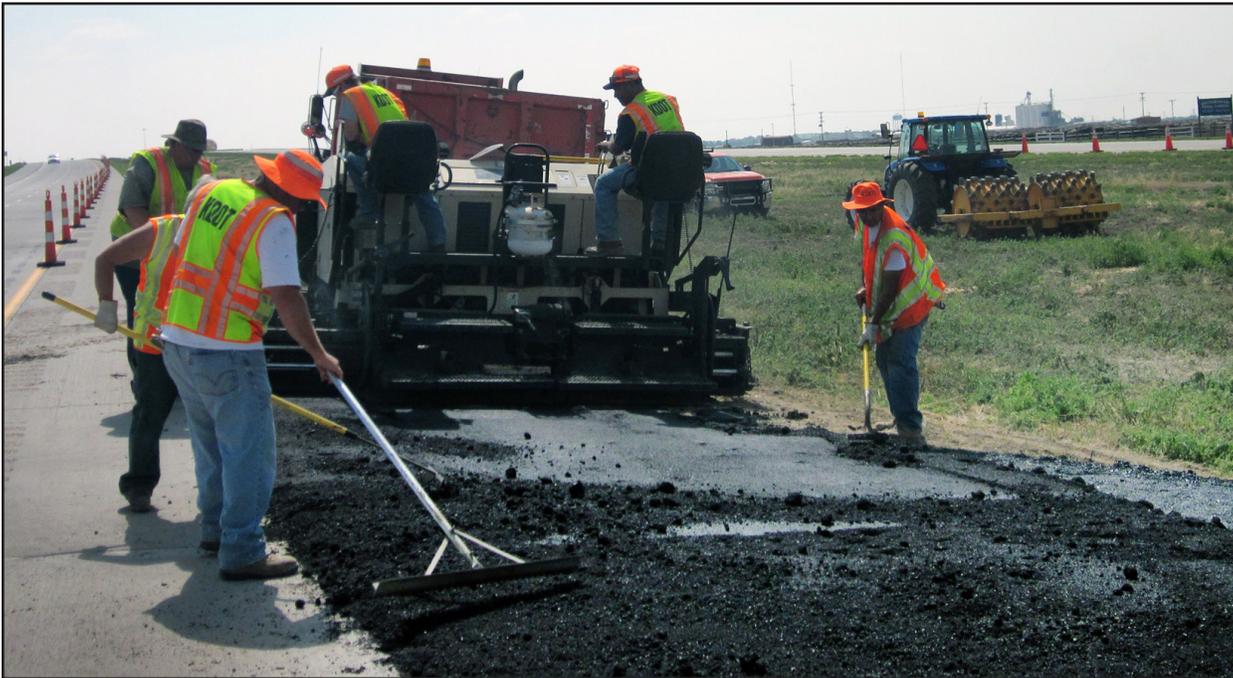
District Three

Group effort: When 10-year-old Trey Varnum and his family moved from Washington, D.C., to Colorado last week, one item didn't make the entire trip – Trey's stuffed toy "Woofie," which he'd had since he was born. An Army employee, Trey's dad was reassigned to Colorado Springs. As the family traveled, they stopped at an I-70 rest area and Woofie was accidentally left behind. Once this was realized, Trey's mom Rebekah called KDOT and talked with Human Resource Manager Denise Schwab in Norton. "Rebekah was so upset and yet wasn't sure where they had lost their son's beloved toy," Schwab said. KDOT Supervisor Brad Reah in Colby called Trisha Langley with Rain and Shine, the company that cleans several rest area facilities, who then contacted

her employees. It didn't take long for word to get back to Schwab that the stuffed animal had been found by Rain and Shine employee Tim Fritz at the rest area near WaKeeney.

"Tim even went 'dumpster diving' at the WaKeeney Subarea to retrieve the lost toy. By that time, the poor toy was tattered and dirty; but at least it was found!" Schwab said. She got the toy from KDOT Supervisor Don Ummell in WaKeeney and called Trey's mom. "Rebekah was so thankful for what the Rain and Shine crews had done, saying they were 'her heroes'. I then made it a point to thank her for her husband's heroic service to our country," Schwab said. Woofie is on his way back to Trey – with a little help from his KDOT friends.

Safety



The Garden City Subarea Crew lays milling for a cross over on U.S. 50/U.S. 400 last Wednesday with the high temperature that day at 89 degrees. Yesterday the temperature in the Garden City area soared to 105 degrees.

KDOT employee Bruce Myres from the Ottawa Subarea takes a quick break and gets some water while working out in the heat.



Heating up: As the temperatures continue to rise, it's important to remember that excessive heat can be dangerous for highway workers and others who work outside. Heat-related injuries are a potential hazard for maintenance and construction workers as pavement temperatures can rise more than 30 degrees above the air temperature.

When working in the sun, maintain proper hydration, wear cool clothing, take breaks, get out of the sun if possible and monitor coworkers for signs of heat-related stress. The heat can cause rash, cramps, exhaustion and stroke - to learn more about these conditions and signs to look for, check out https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatstress/heat_illnesses.html.

Aviation



Flying high: The first ever Kansas Aviation Expo will take place Sept. 26-27 in Wichita.

The theme, “Where the State Capital Meets the Air Capital,” is a chance to promote the state’s aviation industry. KDOT’s Aviation team partnered with the Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education to sponsor the event.

Brian Youngers, KCAE President, explains why such an event is happening in Kansas:

“Kansas is home to one of only five aerospace clusters in the world, yet we don’t have a singular event for industry leaders to gather,” Youngers said. “It’s time for Kansas to have one as well.”

There will be guest speakers from the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Aviation Workforce Development Group, National Weather Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Association of Airports and the Federal Aviation Administration.

“Support for this event has been tremendous and we couldn’t be happier to see it all come to fruition,” KDOT Acting Aviation Director Jesse Romo said. “The hard work isn’t over yet.”

The Expo is relying on sponsorship and volunteers to get the event off the ground.

“We need the aviation community from across the state to make this event spectacular,” Romo said.

For more information about the Expo go to their facebook page at www.facebook.com/KansasAviationExpo or www.ksaeroeducation.com.

Traffic Safety

Put the brakes on fatalities: Helmets and bicycles and family stays at Great Wolf Lodge and QuikTrip Corporation fuel cards, oh my!

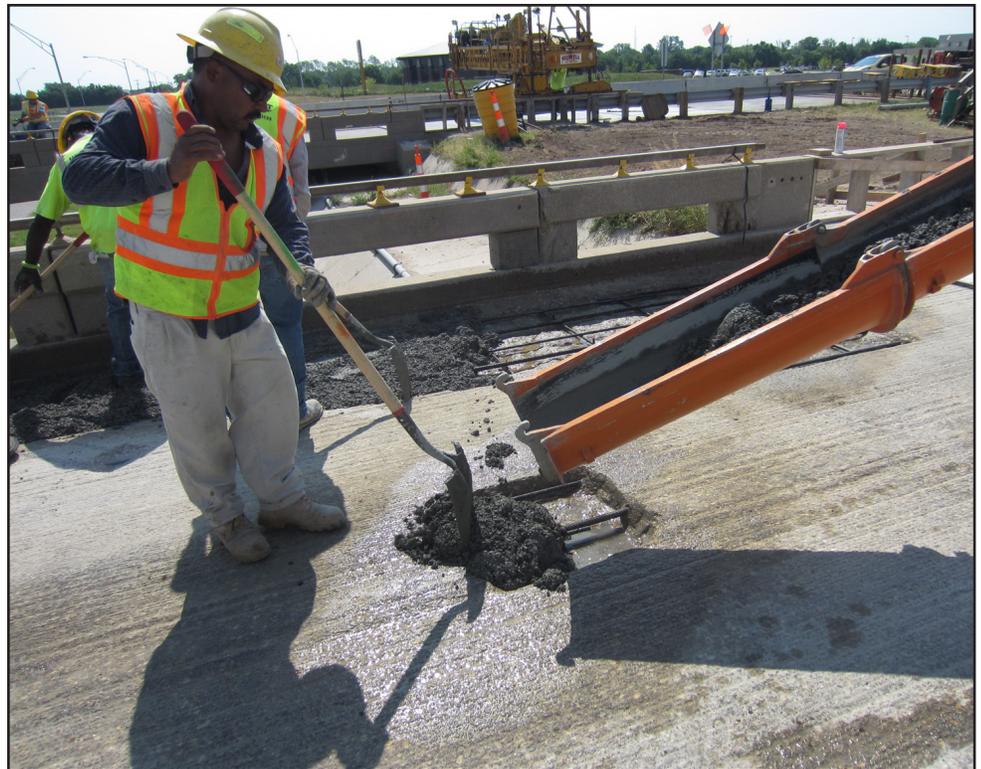
All Kansas kids ages 5-13 are invited to enter artwork on different ways to improve safety on our roadways in the annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day poster contest. This campaign focuses on all types of traffic safety – whether you are in a vehicle, on a bike/motorcycle or even walking.

Kids can win the fabulous regional and statewide prizes listed above. Entries must be postmarked no later than Friday, Sept. 20.

For more information on how to enter the poster contest as well as on this national safety campaign, go to KDOT’s website, www.ksdot.org and click on the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day logo.



District Five



Bridge repairs on I-135 at 53rd Street (north of Wichita) have traffic down to one lane in each direction resulting in slowed traffic and daily congestion. But progress is being made with concrete patches on the southbound bridge completed this week plus a silica fume overlay on the northbound bridge. The project also includes new approach slabs and should be completed in mid-August.

ANSWERS

1. Hugh Beaumont

2. Annette Bening

3. Kirstie Alley

4. Eric Stonestreet

5. Dennis Hopper

Concealed carry: A result of the recent legislative session was the passing of, and signing into law, HB 2052, which permitted concealed carry in state and municipal buildings. That law became effective July 1, 2013. The policy issued June 28 by the Kansas Department of Administration provides further clarification regarding the application of the new law to state owned buildings. (The policy can be viewed on the KDOA website.) Bottom line – for licensed individuals, concealed carry will now be allowed in the numerous buildings KDOT occupies. For those licensed individuals that are KDOT employees, the last paragraph of the policy provides detailed stipulations regarding concealed carry in the workplace. Those stipulations will be strictly enforced. In

addition, KDOT policy and SOM's will be developed in the near future to reflect the new law and provide further agency guidance. Certainly, each of us has an opinion and/or some level of concern associated with the new law. Secretary King and I will do our best to address those concerns within the parameters of the law and state policy. Moving forward, we deal with those things beyond our control and find a way to be successful doing what we do – that's always been one of the strongest attributes of this agency. Thank you all for creating that history and continuing it into the future.

*Deputy Secretary and State Transportation Engineer
Jerry Younger*

District Two

Secretary Mike King toured District Two this week. In the photo at right, from left to right, District Engineer Randy West, Secretary King and District Maintenance Engineer James Roudybush visit the Garden of Eden in Lucas.



In the photo above, James Roudybush (left) and Paul Mutchler (right) from the Minneapolis Subarea talk with Secretary King while on the U.S. 81/K-18 interchange project site. At left, Secretary King, fourth from left, is pictured with Beloit Subarea employees (from left to right) Mike Jones, Tom Wendell, Paul Whipple, Doug Newquist, Robert Miller, Bret Wilfong and Area Two Engineer Leland Tice.

KDOT/KTA

Come together: Teams from KDOT and KTA will meet later this month to continue the process of learning each other's unique approaches and best practices for managing their respective transportation systems. Eight innovation teams focusing on specific areas will share insights and develop action plans "that will allow us to work together in the future," said Secretary Mike King. The teams will meet at the Future of Kansas Transportation Success Management Workshop on July 23 at KDOT headquarters. "Your expertise and participation will play a critical role in our success in bringing our organizations together with a single focus, creating greater efficiencies and opportunities for everyone in the state of Kansas," Secretary King told the group in an e-mail.

In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Roy Haws Jr. who died June 14 in Carbondale. He was an Appraiser in the Bureau of Right of Way prior to his retirement.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Montie Baty who died June 30 in Pratt. He worked at KDOT for 42 years, retiring as the District Six Engineer in 1996.

Condolences to the family and friends of Dale Mahan who died June 29 in Topeka. He worked for the Kansas Highway Commission.

U.S. DOT

New transportation leader: The Senate confirmed Anthony Foxx as U.S. Transportation Secretary on June 27. He succeeds Ray LaHood, who had served as Secretary of Transportation since 2009. In his confirmation testimony, Foxx pledged to continue his predecessor's campaign against distracted driving, look for creative ways to fund the nation's highway and transit programs, and encourage the use of innovative technologies.



Anthony Foxx

District Five



Concrete patching on U.S. 54/400 through Goddard has been completed and an asphalt overlay was placed on the eastbound lanes. The project will wrap up soon with new pavement markings.



On June 14, Wichita declared its first Ozone Alert day for 2013. Some folks found other ways to get around including this bicyclist on the 1st Street bike lane in east Wichita. There were 13 Ozone Alert days in Wichita last year.