

## Winter Storms

**KDOT to the rescue:** Another major snowstorm, another medical emergency requiring transporting a patient from a rural southwest Kansas town to a larger hospital through near-blizzard conditions. On Feb. 21, a snowstorm covered the state when the state's Emergency Operations Center received a call that a patient with head injuries in Jetmore needed to get to Wichita for immediate treatment. With blowing snow and visibility near zero, transporting the patient by air was not an option. Having been through this a year earlier, it didn't take KDOT long to organize a snowplow relay, this time escorting an ambulance with the required critical care capabilities from Garden City to Jetmore to pick up the patient and then through Dodge City and on to Wichita. District Six Maintenance Engineer Ron Hall, Dodge City Area Superintendent Mark Davis and Pratt Area Superintendent

**See more photos and comments from the public throughout this edition**

Gene Watts coordinated the run, using plows from both Districts Six and Five. Starting at 2:40 p.m., KDOT Equipment Operators Lance Reimer, Ron Edwards, Cory Collige, Roger Austin, Jason Goracke and Shawn Flemming and Subarea Supervisors



**White-out conditions were common throughout the state on Feb. 21, including this stretch of I-70 in Topeka.**

Klete Hackney and Jon Sharp all worked together on the legs of the trip to lead the ambulance through the treacherous conditions caused by the blizzard. The ambulance arrived in Wichita at 8:30 p.m.

**KDOT Staff Maintenance Manager Troy Whitworth manned the Emergency Operation Center for Winter Storm Rocky on behalf of KDOT.**



While most people endured winter storms Q and Rocky from the safety of their homes, many KDOT employees worked around the clock to keep the highways safe for their fellow Kansans. Over the period of the two storms employees logged 80,000 hours, which included the hours spent preparing/plowing and in direct support of the snow/ice operations. In those hours they pre-treated and plowed 879,000 miles, which is enough to circle the earth 35 times. The 575 trucks used to clear the roads used 16,400 tons of salt, 37,000 tons of salt/sand mix and 1.2 million gallons of brine for pre-treatment.



**U.S. 75 south of Topeka**



**U.S. 36 in Phillips County**



**U.S. 75 in Woodson County**



**U.S. 75 south of Topeka**

## Headquarters

**New leadership for division:** Jim Kowach has been named the Director of the Division of Engineer and Design. Kowach has been with KDOT since 1986 when he worked at the Marion Area office in District Two. Following a promotion to Salina, he came to Topeka in 1992 where he worked in Construction and Maintenance as well as Engineering Support. He was selected as the Chief of Design in August 1999.



**Jim Kowach**

“I consider it an honor and a privilege to represent the Division of Engineering and Design on the projects and issues that are important to this agency,” Kowach said. “I will do my best to make a positive contribution to our overall goals.”

He replaces Dan Scherschligt who retired after a 34-year career at KDOT. Kowach’s wife, Lora, works for KDOT at the Materials and Research Center.

## District Five

**Cook to retire:** District Five Engineer Bob Cook is retiring from KDOT on March 15 after nearly 41 years of service. He started at KDOT in 1972 in the Emporia construction office as Project Engineer. During this time, he worked on the last rural section of Interstate originally constructed in Kansas on I-35, one of the many highlights of his career. Other highs include T-WORKS and the excellent highway system Kansas has, but he said, there are also lows, like the devastation of the Greensburg tornado in 2007 and the flood in Great Bend in 1981.



**Bob Cook**

He began at KDOT right after graduating from Kansas State University. Except for a three-month stint in the Army Reserves, Cook has spent his entire career with the agency. In addition to Emporia, he also worked at the Lawrence construction office up until June 1980 when he was named the Area Engineer in Great Bend. In 1997, he became the District Construction Engineer until he was selected as the District Engineer in October 2001.

Cook said he doesn’t have any specific plans, but intends to play lots of golf and visit his two daughters and granddaughter.

## Trivia!

1. Kansas is one of six states that this passes through.
2. This first one of these games played west of the Mississippi (in Wichita) took place in 1905. What was it?
3. Seth Hays began the S.M. Hays and Company in 1858 in Council Grove. Today it operates as what?

*Answers are below*



**I-70 in Topeka**



**U.S. 50 east of Dodge City**



**U.S. 160 east of Ashland**



**U.S. 75 south of Topeka**

## Thank you!

I would just like to say thank you!!! Kansas roads are truly superb and perfectly maintained. As a Garden City resident I could not be more proud of how safely and quickly roads were cleared and made safe again during this most recent storm. Efforts to remove the snow were simply amazing. As a resident and tax payer I could not be more proud of the work KDOT does!!! Well done and thank you!!!

Dave Lunzmann

PS...I plan to share these thoughts with my state representatives too...hoping they continue to support your excellent work. Love 511KDOT too.

We just wanted to say thanks to the road crews for the great job on the snow clean up! We live in Lane and U.S. 169 highway was in great shape going in to work this morning from 379th Street north to Spring Hill. Because of their wonderful efforts throughout the day, the highway was completely dry on my way home tonight...FANTASTIC!

Thanks so much!  
Cal & Merry McBride

Just wanted to tell you that this webpage is probably the most useful I've seen in a long time. The pictures of the freeway showing real time conditions is really great. Whoever thought of this idea should be given a promotion!

Thanks,  
Chuck Clarke

I just want to thank you all for my wonderful ride to work this morning. I got on I-35 to head to downtown KC and it was a dream ride...you and all your partners did an outstanding job!

Thanks,  
Shawn Sullivan-Warner

I want to say thank you to all of the men and women who prepared and cleared off the highways in Kansas during this recent storm. My Grandma passed and her funeral was on Saturday which was almost five hours from my home. I'm so thankful the roads were clear and dry so I could say goodbye to her. Keep up the great work! It is much appreciated.

Danea Cramer

***These are just a few of the comments sent to KDOT about the recent storms - to view more comments, go to***

***[http://www.ksdot.org/pdf\\_files/Comments.pdf](http://www.ksdot.org/pdf_files/Comments.pdf)***



**K-10 near Eudora**



**I-70 west of Topeka**



**U.S. 160 west of Ashland**



**U.S. 169 between Chanute and Iola**

## Legislature

**Legislative mid-point:** The 2013 legislative session passed the half-way point on Friday and the two major pieces of legislation involving KDOT are still alive and moving through the process. The bill that would bring the Kansas Turnpike Authority under the KDOT umbrella has been significantly amended and has passed out of the House Transportation Committee on a 10-6 vote. The bill in its current form removes the Secretary of Transportation as the CEO and chairman of the board and is awaiting action on the floor of the House. Also, KDOT has had



a hearing in the House Transportation and Public Safety Budget Committee regarding the transfer of funds from the State Highway Fund to for use elsewhere. The committee's recommendation was to transfer less money from KDOT than originally had been discussed. Work on the bill in the Senate begins this week.

## Severe Weather

**Be prepared:** Be a Force of Nature: National Severe Weather Preparedness Week is March 3-9. The National Weather Service and the FEMA encourage everyone to take time this week to plan and practice how and where to take shelter before severe weather strikes. For more information, visit the Weather-Ready Nation website by clicking [here](#).



**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](mailto:translines@ksdot.org)**

### Trivia Answers

1. The Oregon trail
2. Night football game
3. The Hays House

## District Four



*K-94 in Clark County*



*U.S. 160 east of Ashland*



*I-70 west of Topeka*



*Outside the KDOT Dodge City office*



*KDOT geologists drill for possible voids under K-66 following the formation of a sinkhole on the right-of-way west of Galena. The Galena Police Department notified KDOT after discovering the 30-foot deep sinkhole on March 3. Crews drilled 40 feet under the highway and did not find additional voids. The Abandoned Mine Lands Section of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment planned to fill the sinkhole with rock on March 4. According to Pittsburg Area Engineer George Dockery, the sinkhole is most likely an old mine shaft connected with previous lead and zinc mining in southeastern Kansas.*

## Crazy Bowl



*At left, KDOT employee Greg Handley bowls backwards, while below, employees Denise Petet, Bret Mathias, Brad King and Kathy King bowl in pairs as part of the Employees' Council Crazy Bowl event in Topeka on March 3 with 16 teams participating.*





**Prepping for shift change in Phillipsburg**



**I-35 in Johnson County**



**U.S. 50 east of Dodge City**



**I-470 in Topeka**

## Partnering



**Pictured from left to right are KCA representative Brian Hansen, B & B Bridge Company employee Tim Jones, District Four employee Chris Pross and KDOT Partnering Coordinator Scott Swanson for the project category of less than \$500,000.**

**Partnering efforts praised** - The Kansas Contractors Association/ KDOT 2012 Partnering awards for District One and District Four took place Feb. 12 in Emporia as part of a day-long workshop. District Four employee Chris Pross accepted the award for a bridge repair and polymer overlay west of Pittsburg for the project category of less than \$500,000.

Pross also accepted an award for a three-bridge replacement project east of Girard in the \$500,000 to \$3 million category for KDOT. District One employees Duane Petty, Luke Rogers, Mark Karolevitz and Jerry Haug accepted the award for a project that included more than 21 lane miles of roadway, 13 bridges, a two-mile long flooding overflow channel and two miles of new railroad alignment in Riley County in the project category of more than \$3 million. District One employee Michelle Anschutz accepted the award for a bridge approach replacement project that included three separate work zones in Brown County for the project category of less than \$500,000.

## Reason Foundation

**Continued improvement:** Kansas was one of 11 states singled out in the Reason Foundation's recently released a report examining 20 years of state highway data on the condition of all state controlled roads. The report examined whether states' roads had improved in seven key areas including deficient bridges and pavement conditions.

According to the study Kansas made progress in each of these seven categories: miles of urban Interstate highways in poor pavement conditions, miles of rural Interstates in poor condition, congestion of urban Intestates, deficient bridges, highway fatalities, rural primary roads in poor condition and the number of rural primary roads flagged as too narrow.