

Translines EXPRESS

May 1, 2013

KTA/KDOT

Bill signing: Gov. Sam Brownback signed House Bill 2234 into law on April 19 making the KDOT Secretary the Director of Operations of the Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA). The law takes effect July 1.

“While there will still be two transportation agencies in Kansas, this new law sets up a new structure that will improve efficiency and reduce the duplication of resources and efforts that now exist in the operation of the state’s highway systems,” Gov. Brownback said. Teams from KDOT and KTA will look for savings through the consolidation and reduction of assets such as land and buildings, and in the sharing of resources in areas such as technology and engineering services.

“Kansans have come to expect good highways whether they are traveling on the state system or the turnpike, and there is nothing about this operational arrangement



As of July 1, House Bill 2234 makes it so the KDOT Secretary is also the Director of Operations for the Kansas Turnpike Authority.

that will change that,” Secretary King said.

Secretary King also said toll revenues, which have always been used to improve and maintain the turnpike, will continue to be used exclusively for those purposes.

District Four



During the past month, trucks have made hundreds of trips over southeast Kansas highways hauling pipes to pipe yards for the \$2.8 billion Enbridge-Flanagan Pipeline project. The 36-inch crude oil pipeline will start in Flanagan, Ill., and extend 600 miles southwest to Cushing, Okla. The pipeline project will run through Linn, Bourbon, Allen, Neosho, Wilson, Montgomery and Chautauqua counties, with construction expected to start here in late 2013. The pipes are shipped to Chanute by train and then transported to the pipe yards north of Neodesha (shown above off of U.S. 75) and Humboldt.

Trivia!

May is National Beef Month

1. Where does Kansas rank nationally in the number of cattle on ranches and in feed yards as of Jan. 1, 2013?

2. Of the 2010 Kansas agricultural cash receipts, what percentage do cattle represent?

3. In 2007, how many Kansas farms had cattle and calves?

- A. 10,000
- B. 20,000
- C. 30,000
- D. 55,000

4. A three-ounce serving of lean beef provides what percent of the daily value of protein?

- A. 21 percent
- B. 31 percent
- C. 41 percent
- D. 51 percent

Answers are below

District Four



The April 25 concrete deck pour at the K-47 bridge over the Neosho River proved a long night's journey into day for B&B Bridge Company workers and KDOT inspectors. Preparations began at 2 a.m. - and the entire job was finished around 5 p.m. KDOT inspectors from the Pittsburg office included: Chris Pross, John Short, Jim Peterson, Doug Pulliam, Steve Bacon and Fred Gephardt.

Personnel

Vacation leave: June 7 is the last day to use vacation leave that is over the maximum amount allowed in FY 2013. Up to 40 hours of vacation leave over the maximum allowed can be converted to sick leave at the end of the fiscal year.

New annual leave hours earned for the pay period ending on June 8 will not be counted towards the overage amount.

Accumulation limits are:

Length of Service	Maximum Accumulation
Less than 5 years	144
5 years and less than 10	176
10 years and less than 15	208
15 years and over	240

Please contact your Personnel Clerk/Timekeeper for more information about leave balances.

Letter to the Editor

I drive a Class 8 combination tractor-trailer. I have driven through most of the Lower 48. While all states do a good job building and maintaining their highway systems under very challenging conditions, in my experience, Kansas does the best of all of the many states through which I have driven.

I really appreciate and thank you for your excellent diligence and fine and extremely safe, well-marked, smooth highway system.

Sincerely, Scott Croly

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Kansas ranked third nationally with 5.85 million – that's a little over twice the states' human population of 2.8 million.

2. Cattle represented 47 percent.

3. C. 30,000

4. D. 51 percent

Motorcycle Safety/Events



Gov. Sam Brownback is joined by motorcycle safety enthusiasts on April 19 as he signs a proclamation designating May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness month.

Motorcycle Statistics

- ◆ The leading causes of single-vehicle motorcycle crashes are inattention, going too fast for conditions, and alcohol. In fact, while alcohol plays a part in about 30 percent of overall fatalities in Kansas, it is a factor in about 38 percent of motorcyclist fatalities.
- ◆ While motorcycles accounted for fewer than 2 percent of all crashes in the past four years, they accounted for:
 - more than 12 percent of all fatal crashes
 - more than 6 percent of all injury crashes
 - less than .5 percent of all PDO crashes
 - more than 11 percent of all fatalities
 - more than 5 percent of all injuries

Freedom ride: The 2nd Annual Flint Hills Freedom Ride will take place June 1. The 100-mile ride will begin in Topeka, travel along the Native Stone Scenic Byway and Flint Hills National Scenic Byway, and end in Council Grove.

Proceeds from the event will support five non-profit causes: Brothers in Blue Re-entry, Wounded Warrior Fund (now known as Soldier & Family Assistance Center), Army Community Service (ACS), Native Stone Scenic Byway, and the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway.

For information on the event, go to <https://fhfreedomride.ksoutdoors.com/>.



Gov. Brownback speaks with members of the Topeka Police Department Motorcycle Unit who performed a riding demonstration at the Freedom Ride kickoff.

Motorcycle safety: During the Freedom Ride kickoff, Gov. Brownback noted that motorcycle safety is important to all riders.

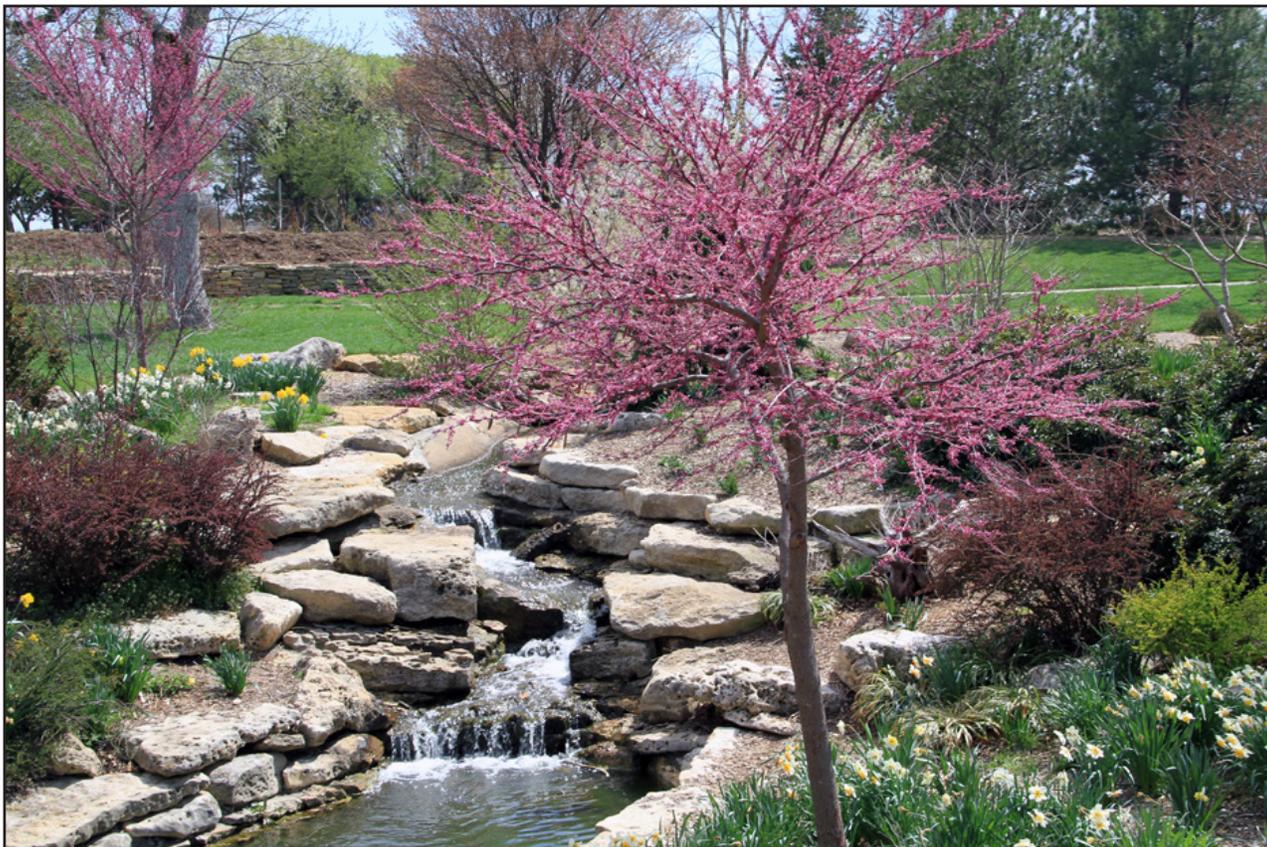
"I hope all of you enjoy your riding season, and please do your part to be safe on our roads," said Gov. Brownback.

Secretary Mike King reinforced the safety message by sharing a few startling statistics.

"A statistic that surprises me is that half of the motorcyclists killed last year weren't properly licensed," said Sec. King. "That's huge. By law every motorcycle operator must have an M endorsement on their driver's license." The Governor also signed a proclamation naming May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness month (see top photo).

District One

Riverview Avenue bridge replacement under way: A replacement project began on the Riverview Avenue Bridge spanning I-70 in Wyandotte County in March. This is the first part of the ten-phase K-7/I-70 interchange project. Phase One work includes replacement of the existing bridge along with the realignment of a section of Riverview Avenue and 122nd Street. The Riverview Avenue Bridge spans I-70, which is part of the KTA at this juncture. Crews have been working for the last six week weeks on the removal of the existing bridge, as seen in the photo at right. The existing bridge girders were removed overnight on April 24-25 via rolling roadblocks on I-70 from K-7 to 110th Street. Crews first cut through the bridge girders, then hoisted them off the highway while traffic was halted. Phillips Grading and Construction, Inc. of Columbia, Mo., is the primary contractor on the \$4.2 million project. The entire project is scheduled to be completed in mid-November 2013.



Spring has finally sprung as the trees and flowers are in full bloom in this photo taken by KDOT employee Ramona Taylor recently at Lake Shawnee's Botanical Garden in Topeka.

District Six

Shop facelift: The District Six shop in Garden City is undergoing an \$850,000 facelift that will provide drive-through bays and plenty of room for mechanics to work on larger equipment. The project, which started earlier in April, will expand the shop area 30 feet to the north, add wider and taller doors on the north side, upgrade the electrical system throughout the building, and add a computer training lab upstairs in a space that was no longer needed for storing parts and equipment. Construction crews will also replace an elevator to provide ADA-compliant access to the new computer lab.

Ron Hall, District Six maintenance engineer, says the project is long overdue and will greatly improve the facilities and help the district use the space in the building more efficiently. The building also houses the district stockroom, the district radio shop and offices for the district shop superintendent, the district safety specialist and the district's computer technicians.

Harbin Construction, L.L.C., of Salina, is the primary



Crews prep the area for the addition to the District Six shop in Garden City and other upgrades.

contractor on this project, which should be completed by October. In the meantime, the district's mechanics are sharing space with the Garden City subarea crew in the new subarea addition which was built last year.

Distracted Driving

Pay attention: A series of blogs highlighting April as National Distracted Driving Awareness Month just wrapped up yesterday. The blogs were featured in U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood's Fast Lane and were written by people from across the country, including KHP Trooper Casey Simoneau.

"On October 23, 2008, I had the unfortunate task of working a fatality that involved a young male driver. The circumstances surrounding the crash are all too common. The young man had been texting on his cell phone and attempted to pass a vehicle. He had failed to check carefully for oncoming traffic and struck another vehicle head-on ..." Simoneau said. Read the rest of his blog that was posted on April 9 on the U. S. DOT website at <http://fastlane.dot.gov/2013/04/index.html>, and check out the other safety blogs as well.

Facts: A National Highway Traffic Safety Administration survey shows that at any given daylight moment across America, about 660,000 drivers are using cell phones or manipulating electronic devices while driving. In addition, more than 3,300 people were killed in 2011 and 387,000 were injured in crashes involving a distracted driver. Learn more about ways to reduce distracted driving at <http://www.distraction.gov/>.

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

Happy Ending



Above, KDOT employee Ed Leboeuf took this photo of the ducks passing along the east side of the Eisenhower building in Topeka. At right, the ducks travel along S.W. 1st Street. Below, the journey ends as the ducks arrive at the Kansas River (last two photos by Heather Wilson).

