

Translines EXPRESS

April 2, 2014

Go Orange!

Think safety: National Work Zone Awareness Week is just around the corner. From April 7-11, we hope to see lots of orange and work together to raise work zone safety awareness. Keep sending those orange photos, and check out a few of them below. Also during the week, a portion of the Visitor's Center in the Capitol, the Governor's Mansion, the Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge, the Eisenhower State Office Building, the Kansas Contractors Association's office and all KDOT District offices in Topeka, Salina, Norton, Chanute, Hutchinson and Garden City will be lit up in orange. Remember KDOT's favorite color as we head into the construction season. And while we have several events and activities taking place next week, this safety message is important all year long. To view all the Go Orange photos, KDOT's Flickr page, www.flickr.com/photos/kansastransportation/, will be open to employees until April 16.



KDOT employees in Ottawa



Dustrol employees in Topeka

Photos continued on next page

Traffic Safety

Move Over: According to a Wichita Eagle article, Rep. Joe Edwards, R-Haysville, wants to toughen the state's "move over" law after a recent collision on the Kansas Turnpike that critically injured a Kansas Highway Patrol trooper. The force of the collision pushed the patrol car into the back of a semi Trooper Da'Von Brame had pulled over to inspect. Edwards said the current \$190 fine for failing to move over for law enforcement officers, tow truck drivers and highway construction workers is not enough of a penalty. He will consider legislation that resembles Missouri's law. That law, he said, quadruples the penalty if the driver's vehicle hits a law enforcement officer, emergency responder, tow truck operator or Missouri Department of Transportation worker. If that person is killed, the driver is fined \$10,000, loses their license for a year and spends a year in jail.

KTA

Two systems working together: The Kansas Turnpike Authority has entered into an agreement with the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority for the two systems' electronic toll collection program to be interoperable by the end of 2014.

This agreement will allow K-TAG to be used on the Oklahoma Turnpike system and PikePass to be used on the Kansas Turnpike. For many customers who routinely drive on both systems, this will mean they will soon be able to use either a K-TAG or a PikePass, rather than both.

"That's not only good for travelers, it's good for business," said Gov. Sam Brownback. "I wanted to see good business ideas when I proposed a formalized partnership between the Kansas Department of Transportation and KTA last year and I applaud Transportation Secretary Mike King for making this a priority."

"Our customers have been asking for this convenience," King said. "I am so proud we've been able to work out all the details to make this enhanced customer service a reality in 2014."

The Kansas Turnpike is a 236-mile toll supported road from the Oklahoma border south of Wichita to the Missouri border in Kansas City. For more information on the K-TAG program, visit www.myktag.com. The Oklahoma Turnpike system comprises 10 toll roads that span more than 600 miles.



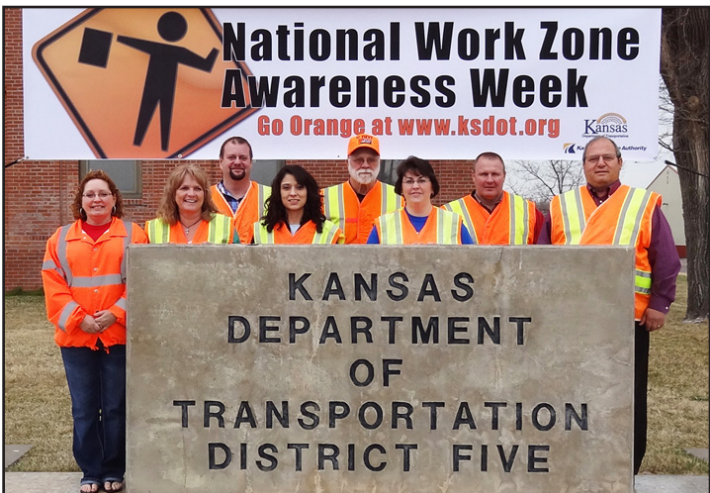
Gov. Sam Brownback and transportation safety partners at proclamation signing



KDOT employees in Wichita



Employees at KIUL and KGGS in Garden City



KDOT employees in Hutchinson

Trivia!

How well do you know our neighbors?

Nebraska

1. What U.S. President was born in Nebraska?
2. Nebraska has two state nicknames – can you name them?
3. What is the State Bird and the State Tree?
4. The Nebraska State Soft Drink was developed in 1927 in Hastings – what is it?
5. Did Nebraska become a state before or after Kansas? When did it become a state?
6. Nebraska is the only state with this type of legislature – name it.

Answers below

District Six

Point of Rocks preserved: The design of a four-lane expansion of U.S. 50 between Cimarron and Dodge City will include a paved, 16-foot median where the highway passes by the landmark known as the Point of Rocks. The 16-foot median, which is narrower than originally proposed, will preserve most of the existing Point of Rocks landmark, an option that received great public support.

KDOT has spent several months reviewing various alternatives and discussing the options with local officials in Ford County and Dodge City, as well as representatives of the Santa Fe Trail Association and the Great Western Cattle Trail.

"I'm pleased that KDOT and our local partners were able to come up with a solution that meets the transportation needs of the region and is responsive to the wishes of many people in Southwest Kansas," said Secretary Mike King. "I appreciate the input of all interested stakeholders and their willingness to engage in a dialogue on this issue."

The four-lane expressway will feature a 60-foot grass median from Cimarron east for about 13 miles and then narrow to a 16-foot paved median for the final three miles of the proposed improvement. The narrower median, with a retaining wall to protect the Point of Rocks, stays within KDOT's \$69 million budget for the project. KDOT expects to begin construction on this four-lane improvement in 2018 and complete the expansion project by 2020.

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

Freight Advisory Committee

Understand freight needs:

Secretary Mike King announced the formation of a Freight Advisory Committee. During the Kansas Transportation Summit last fall in Emporia, participants said that to better serve the economy, KDOT needed a better understanding of the demands of expanding freight within the state. The department committed at that time to form an in-depth exploratory committee to ensure that multimodal freight needs are addressed in the planning, investment and operation of the Kansas transportation system. "This committee will provide input to me," Secretary



Secretary Mike King speaks at the Freight Advisory Committee this morning in Topeka.

Mike King said. "As well as advising and assisting with identifying freight transportation issues, the committee will help us prioritize highway and rail freight corridors of significance and identify multimodal freight infrastructure needs."

District Four

An eastbound super load traveling on K-146 ended up slipping into the ditch on March 21. The load, a windmill tower, remained alongside the highway over the weekend. Two cranes and other equipment were dispatched to remove it the next Monday. The removal process started in the morning and continued into the early evening hours.



Maintenance

Very costly winter: The winter of 2014 that appears to be over was the most costly since 2008 for KDOT.

KDOT spent an estimated \$22 million on materials, labor and equipment usage to keep state highways clear and open for travel. That amount compares to \$23.7 million in 2008.

This year's winter costs break down to \$8.50 per registered vehicle.

"I want to thank our crews for their dedication and hard work to keep Kansas roads open in some very difficult conditions. Winter maintenance takes a substantial amount of effort and money, but the cost to the state would be much greater if the crews didn't maintain the system as well as they did," said Secretary Mike King.

This season KDOT crews worked 550,000 hours, used 591 dump trucks and treated/plowed some 2.7 million lane miles. KDOT maintenance experts said the broad scope of this year's storms, along with frigid temperatures, combined to make this an expensive winter season.

The least amount KDOT has spent on winter maintenance in the past seven years was \$6.8 million in 2012.

The 2014 figures are estimates. The numbers typically aren't finalized until the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

Winter 2014 by the numbers

591	-	Dump trucks
2.7 million	-	Miles treated/plowed
550,000	-	Labor hours
125,000	-	Tons of salt
90,000	-	Tons of sand
5.2 million	-	Gallons of brine
33,500	-	Gallons of magnesium chloride

Annual winter expenses

Year	Amount
2008	\$23.7 million
2009	\$11.3 million
2010	\$20 million
2011	\$17.9 million
2012	\$6.9 million
2013	\$18.6 million
2014	\$22 million*

*Estimated costs

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. President Gerald Ford
2. Cornhusker State, the Tree Planters' State
3. Western Meadowlark and Cottonwood, same as Kansas
4. Kool-Aid
5. After Kansas. Nebraska became the 37th state on March 1, 1867.
6. Unicameral legislature, a legislature that consists of one chamber or house. Nebraska is also the only state legislature in the U.S. that is nonpartisan.

KTA

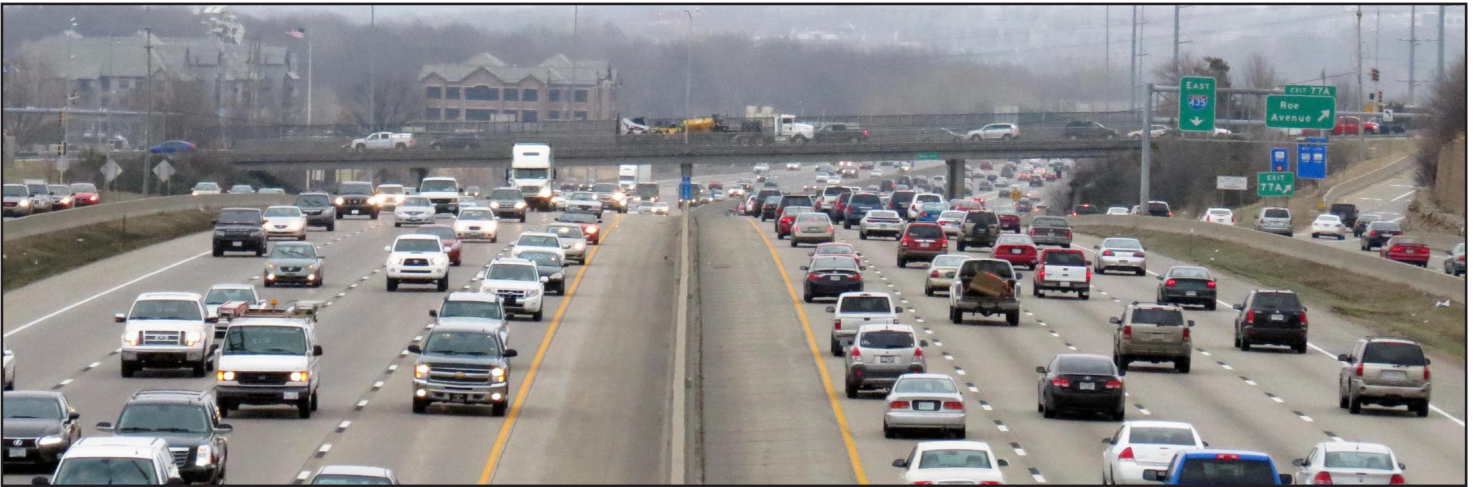


KTA employees from Emporia recently dined at Bruff's Bar & Grill to celebrate the fourth year the group has won the "Secret Shopper" award.

2013 Secret Shopper Award: Throughout the year, an outside company performs a "Secret Shopper" stop at KTA toll plazas to judge the quality of assistance customers receive at the six toll districts. The results are compiled and, at the end of the year, an engraved trophy is awarded to the district with the best reports.

For the fourth year in a row, the Emporia Toll District won the Secret Shopper Award. For their efforts, the toll collection team was treated to a dinner at an Emporia restaurant where they were presented the award and celebrated their achievement.

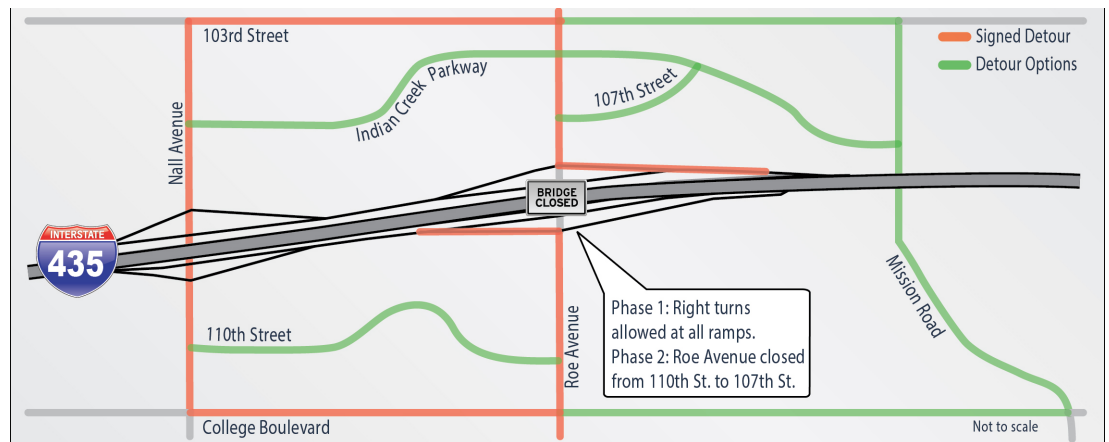
District One



I-435 and Roe Avenue interchange where construction will begin on the diverging diamond interchange.

KC Metro sees second diverging diamond:

In fall 2013, Kansas' first diverging diamond interchange was opened in Johnson County at I-35 and Homestead Lane. This April, construction will begin on a second diverging diamond interchange in the Kansas City Metro area at I-435 and Roe Avenue. This one-construction season, \$9.5 million project, will close the Roe Avenue bridges to through traffic for about five months. By closing the bridges to all traffic, construction time for the bridge replacements will be cut in half and construction costs will be 10 percent less



due to less traffic maintenance, possible cost overruns, schedule delays and utility conflicts. The project, including reconstruction of two 1970 circa bridges, will be completed by November.

District Four



Workers with King Construction Company, Inc., of Hesston make repairs to the Eisenhower Road Bridge over I-35 (Exit 182) at Ottawa. The bridge is closed for the repair work, although the interchange ramps remain open. The project is expected to be finished in early August.

District Six



Construction season is under way in District Six with the start of a mill and overlay project on U.S. 50 in Kearny County. The project runs from the east city limits of Lakin to the Kearny/Finney county line. APAC-Kansas, Shears Division of Hutchinson is the primary contractor, with the Syracuse construction office overseeing the \$4.8 million project.

Transportation Blog



The Big Blue River Bridge near Blue Rapids is one of the many bridges that can be seen being imploded on the video.

A well orchestrated demolition: In London, the bridges might just fall down. But it takes a little dynamite to remove an old Kansas bridge as seen in Monday's transportation blog.

With about 26,000 bridges, Kansas ranks fourth nationally in the number of bridges. Most of these bridges were built in the 1950s and 1960s. And since the average lifespan is about 50 years that means many bridges were due to be replaced within the last decade. Thus, many old bridges have had to be demolished to make way for a more modern bridge. (Thanks to better materials and design practices, the new bridges are likely to last 100 years or more). Our staff put together a video of the bridges and overpasses KDOT has had to demolish in recent years. If you like explosions or orchestral music, go to <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>.

District One



Kent Rosdahl, at the KDOT District One materials lab, asked the District One bridge crew to build a couple boxes to carry equipment used in testing the percentage of air in concrete on bridges, concrete boxes and pavement. They liked the boxes so much, they requested 10 more.