

EN ROUTE TO FRIDAY

Aug. 28,
2020

The road to staying connected

KDOT launches driver's ed grant program

KDOT has launched the Driver Education Reimbursement Grant Program, which allows approved driver's education providers to receive up to \$200 per student when teaching individuals between the ages of 14 and 29. It is part of the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program.

The grant program assists those who might otherwise be unable to participate in a driver's education program to gain driving experience and skills. Eligible students must be a Kansas resident, demonstrate financial need and have not had their driving privileges suspended, revoked or restricted. Commercial driver's license,



defensive driving and motorcycle training courses are not eligible for this program.

Click [here](#) for more information on the program and [here](#) for an enrollment form.

KDOT UAS operators meet for training in Salina

KDOT Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) operators met for KDOT Safety Stand-Down training on Aug. 26.

The training, which took place at K-State Polytechnic in Salina, included procedures and guidelines to operate UAS, or drones, on private property. It also covered guidance for flying drones within five miles of an airport, flying in winter and being aware of low-flying aircraft such as crop dusters.

Operators plan to meet every 120 days for training, maintenance, and updates on UAS. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 1.



Innovative Technology Program empowers communities



Moving KDOT into the future is one of the many aspects of the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation program, or IKE.

The Innovative Technology Program under IKE provides financial assistance to partners for projects that improve safety, increase total technology investment and help both rural and urban areas of the state improve the transportation system.

The application period is now open for the program, which makes available \$3 million in state fiscal year 2021. The closing date for applications is Sept. 18.

An informational webinar will take place on Thursday, Sept. 3, for participants who want to learn more about this program.

For more information, click [here](#).

IKE project pipeline in action: Survey underway

Survey work is underway on proposed rehabilitation and shoulder widening on 15 miles of K-42 in Sedgwick and Sumner counties.

It's one of the first IKE design pipeline projects in District Five and there was "a lot of high interest among the locals in this highway" at Local Consult last year, says Winfield Area Engineer AJ Wilson.

About 6 miles of the proposed project is in Sumner County, which is in Wilson's area. The other 9 miles is in Sedgwick County, where Don Snyder is the Metro Engineer. The 15 total miles extend from just east of K-2 in Sumner County northeast to Clonmel in Sedgwick County.

That section of highway currently has varying shoulder widths, Wilson says. A KDOT summary of the proposed project says:

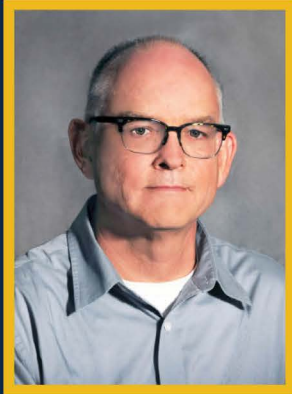
"This 15-mile stretch serves a high volume of traffic and needs shoulders added."

This IKE project is one of the six shoulder projects with survey work underway. It is one of 40 Modernization and Expansion projects in the development pipeline.



District Five Public Affairs Manager Tim Potter, KDOT Division of Communications, win Transcomm Award for Best Blog

KDOT is the 2020 Transcomm Best Blog Award Winner



Congratulations to District Five Public Affairs Manager Tim Potter for his efforts on the **'Keeping it Simple'** blog series for the Kansas Transportation blog!

'Keeping it Simple' refers to simplifying complex story topics into simple explanations via a narrative writing style.

This time of year, KDOT crews are busy trying to stay ahead of the weather. Here's a snapshot of a recent battle against frozen fog.



We got the beet! 7 facts about beet juice on highways

- 1 KDOT crews have been using beet juice on highways for years. It's a natural byproduct of the sugar industry.
- 2 KDOT has used beet juice for about 10 years now.
- 3 The beet juice comes from an beet processor.
- 4 Beet juice is added to snow and ice melt to help it melt faster.
- 5 Beet juice is added to snow and ice melt to help it melt faster.
- 6 Beet juice is added to snow and ice melt to help it melt faster.
- 7 Beet juice is added to snow and ice melt to help it melt faster.

By Tim Potter
District Five

Even with endless weather data, it's hard to know what wintry weather will do. Will big wet snowflakes, diving down from low-hanging clouds, turn to slush and ice on the highway? If so, when?

Chris Craig faced those questions as he led the District Five maintenance shop in Hutchinson at 2:47 p.m. Feb. 25. A moderately strong winter storm was descending on south central Kansas with varied forecasts depending on the location.

"It's whenever Mother Nature decides," said Craig, one of the Highway Maintenance Supervisors. Craig drove out in a KDOT pickup to see up close what Mother Nature was doing to pavement on K-96 toward Wichita and on K-14 south of K-96. Since earlier in the day, SNICE (snow and ice) crews had been spraying ice-melting brine on bridges, ramps, curves and intersections where slick spots could pose the biggest



Highway Maintenance Supervisor Chris Craig monitors the weather and checks road conditions. Photos by Potter, District Five

AASHTO's Committee of Transportation Communications (Transcomm) Skills Award contest gives agencies the opportunity to share ideas and ways to expand communication efforts as well as recognize public relations teams for their work.

The awards were announced online earlier this week. KDOT took home a prize for Best Blog for a series written by District Five Public Affairs Manager Tim Potter, with photos and graphics from other members of the KDOT communications team.

"I appreciate receiving this recognition, and I'm proud to be a member of the KDOT communications team," Potter said.

"I want to thank the people I've interviewed for granting me access and for patiently explaining their work to me. I also want to thank everyone, particularly Director of Communications Jeanny Sharp and District Five Engineer Brent Terstriep, for supporting my writing efforts."

A crash, a traffic control job and a 'thank you'

Getting called out for traffic control after a crash is no welcome task.

But the Larned Subarea Crew received some appreciation after it responded to a car-semi crash that limited traffic at the K-156/U.S. 183 intersection west of Larned for several hours the evening of Aug. 24. One especially fortunate outcome: The car driver appeared to have only a minor injury, according to the Kansas Highway Patrol report.

The Larned wrecker service that handled the crash sent this Facebook message:

"We would like to personally thank the KDOT crew that assisted with the cleanup of the car vs semi accident this evening ... Without their assistance we'd been cleaning up all night so thank you again."