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


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

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

$3 million annual program designed to help communities with projects that meet these criteria:

- Improves safety
- Improves access or mobility
- Updates transportation technology

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.
The American Public Works Association (APWA) Kansas Chapter named the I-235 & U.S. 54 interchange Project of the year in the greater than $75 million category. It was the first of four phases of reconstruction of the interchange at I-235 & U.S. 54. This phase eliminated many of the issues with the original cloverleaf. Improvements included flyover ramps, the removal of two loop ramps that created weaving conflicts, plus additional lanes that help traffic flow. Seven new bridges were constructed, six existing bridges were widened, while three others were repaired. A SPUI (single-point urban interchange) was added at nearby West Street under U.S. 54. The project began in late 2015 and was constructed as part of the $105 million Red Project and was completed in June 2019.

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

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.”