

EN ROUTE TO FRIDAY

Aug. 13,
2020

The road to staying connected

Communication is a key tool to help solve local challenges

A frustrating local situation in northeast Kansas turned into a good opportunity for KDOT to think about ways to engage community members when it comes to solving problems.

A grandmother became increasingly concerned about the safety of her grandchildren at a bus stop on K-7 just north of White Cloud in Doniphan County. The bus stop, at a cluster of mailboxes at the side of the road in a rural area, requires school bus drivers to make careful maneuvers to safely return to the highway once the children get on or off the bus.

The grandmother requested a “bus stop ahead” sign from KDOT to be placed near the location. However, such a sign did not meet the sight distance requirements set forth by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and the request was denied.

The City of White Cloud, at the grandmother’s request, purchased and put up a sign. KDOT maintenance crews removed the unapproved sign according to agency policy.

After the grandmother appealed the removal of the sign to the office of Gov. Laura Kelly, Headquarters and District staff members engaged the school district and members of the family using the bus stop to consider alternatives for the bus stop.

The resolution: Widen the intersection by moving the

mailboxes and clearing the trees so the school bus will be able to maneuver more efficiently and safely in and out of the bus stop. The work is scheduled to begin in the coming months.

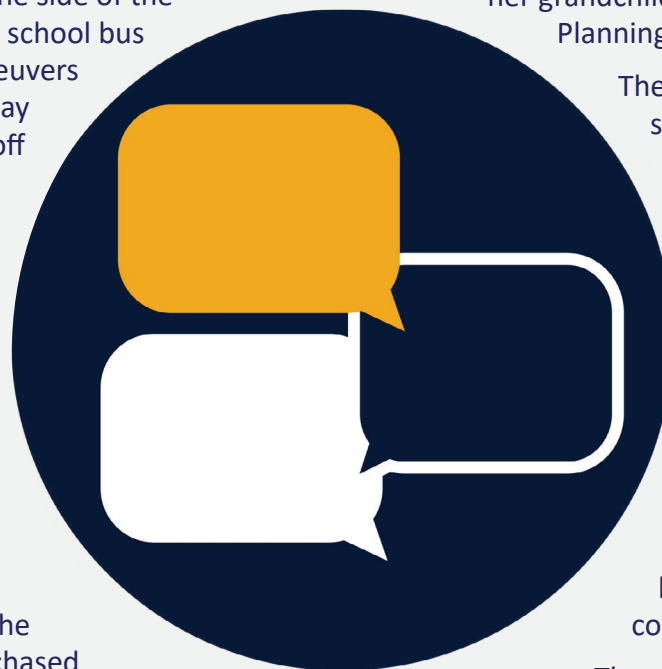
“This is an example of two divisions of KDOT coming together and creating a low-cost solution that addresses a grandmother’s concern for the safety of her grandchildren,” said Chris Herrick, Director of Planning and Development.

The situation highlighted the significance of communication and transparency in all we do, especially when it comes to public transportation, said District One Engineer Leroy Koehn.

“When we take down signs in our Rights of Way, we need to do a good job of finding out who put up the signs and learning more about the situation,” Koehn said. “Those conversations really need to be taking place every time to help us understand the public’s concerns.”

The experience also brought together staff from Headquarters and District One in a collaborative way to solve a local challenge – an increasing priority for the agency as it turns to the Eisenhower Legacy Program, or IKE, which aims to be an effective partner with communities facing transportation challenges.

“Sometimes it takes a team approach and a different perspective to come up with an out-of-the-box solution to a concern,” Herrick said.



Tech Tip: Emails go to 'Other' tab instead of 'Focus' tab

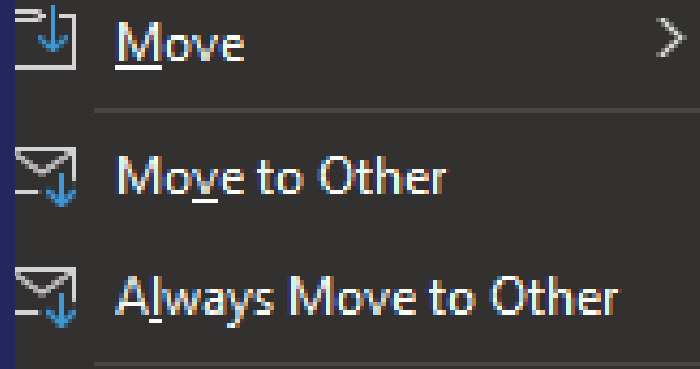


If you have Focused inbox turned on in Outlook and keep having emails going to the wrong tab, there is a way to permanently have emails from that sender sent to the tab of your choice.

Go to the tab where the emails are being sent to, right click on the email. There should be two options depending on which tab you are on. For this example, the Other tab will be used.

There should be "Move to Focused" and "Always Move to Focused." The first option will just move that email to your Focused tab, the second option will permanently move all emails from that sender to your Focused tab.

This can also be done to emails in your Focused tab that should go to Other tab.



Going to the edge: Crews perform asphalt work



A District Five crew recently did asphalt edge work on K-14 south of Sterling. Mic Huddleston, Great Bend Area Crew Supervisor, is pictured driving the bobcat and helping with cleanup of the millings.

Gerald Aguilera, Equipment Operator Specialist with the Lyons Subarea, is driving the backhoe in the background.

Photo by: Randy Miller

**KANSAS
COUNTS**
CENSUS 2020

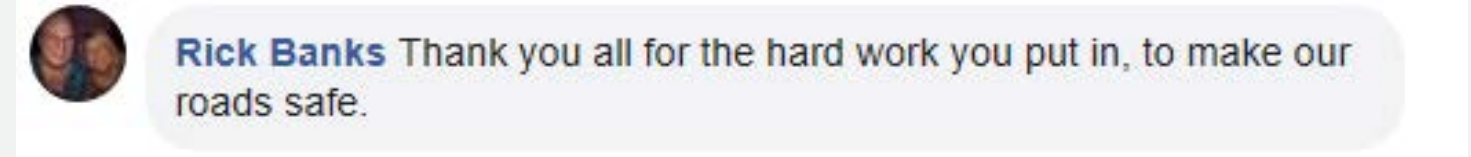
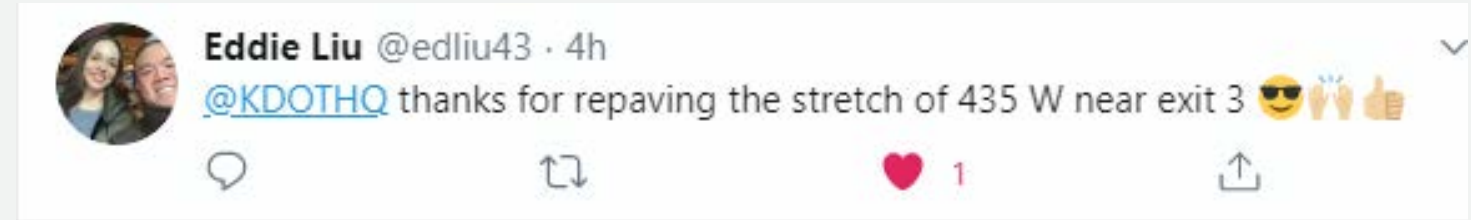
KDOT is committed to helping count all Kansans in the 2020 Census. Watch for updates about how you can help! And don't forget you can still fill out your census. Kansas is counting on you!

my2020census.gov



facebook

"Thank you all so much for the awesome work done on K-7, and mostly thank you for the smooth left turn lanes at Parallel and Leavenworth Road. You guys Rock."
-Norma Newman-



You're invited
Join us in celebrating the
50th anniversary
of the completion of I-70

Thursday, August 20
10:30 a.m. CST – 9:30 a.m. MDT
WATCH LIVE:
www.facebook.com/GovLauraKelly/

**There will be a replay but
if time allows, you can watch live here:**
<https://www.facebook.com/GovLauraKelly/>