

Public input needed: Kansas Active Transportation Plan serves the public

Opinion Survey



KDOT is developing the state's first Active Transportation Plan (ATP) in 25 years to provide more choices on how to get around.

Active transportation refers to human-powered modes of transportation such as walking or cycling. The Kansas ATP will serve as a guide on how to include active transportation infrastructure when planning roads, bridges and various improvement projects. Funding for active transportation projects is included in IKE Program.

"We know that over the last several months many people have discovered walking, cycling, rolling and other forms of active transportation are fun and healthy ways to get around," said Secretary Julie Lorenz. "For others, active transportation has

long provided an essential need, an affordable way to get to work, school, transit, the store and other destinations.

At KDOT, we are committed to providing transportation options that help people travel safely and conveniently – and to do that well, we need to hear from Kansans."

KDOT is conducting an ongoing opinion survey through January 31, 2021, at www.surveymonkey.com/r/KansasATP.

Persons with active transportation stories can share at www.surveymonkey.com/r/KansasATPStories.

Additional information and video are available at www.ksdot.org/KansasATP.asp.

Weathering the storm: KDOT crews band together to battle back-to-back winter weather conditions on roads



A winter blast hit the southern tier of District Six counties on Dec. 2, dumping four inches of snow in just two hours on the town of Minneola, which is located in Clark County.

By the end of the event, Meade and Clark counties received 10-14 inches of snow, with other counties

receiving smaller amounts. With crews shorthanded, the crews shifted east and south, with additional help from crews in Hays, Hill City and WaKeeney coming in to help.

The same area would be hit again 10 days later, when a second SNICE event dumped 14 inches of snow in Meade County and the surrounding counties receiving less. Crews worked through Saturday night and Sunday, and into Monday fighting blowback only to have a third event move in Monday evening and Tuesday.

"It's not unheard of to have this many events by mid-December, but it is unusual", said Galen Ludlow, Dodge City Area Superintendent.

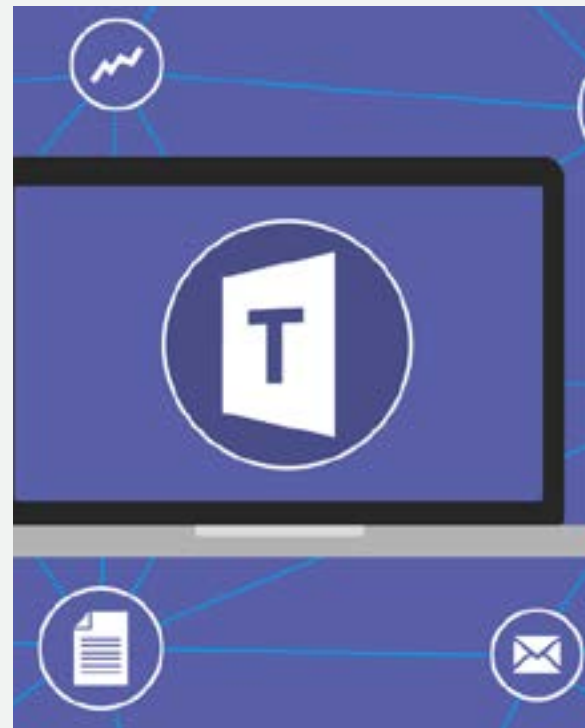
"Our crews were already short-handed, especially in the hardest hit areas, but other crews shifted to assist. Crews from Hays, Hill City and WaKeeney came down and assisted, which we really appreciated," said Joe Finley, District Six Maintenance Engineer.

Moving Kansas into the future: KDOT updates mission and vision statements

After nearly 20 years, KDOT's mission and vision statements are getting an update. The new statements make clear that we all must work together to best serve Kansans. As we look to the future, these statements will help communities know that working together is the best way to achieve a great transportation system for the state.

If you missed out on the presentation announcing these exciting new changes, you can view it [here](#).

Tech tip: Teams will replace Skype for Business



Skype for Business will not be accessible to state employees as of Dec. 28.

Employees who are currently using Skype for Business will need to start using Microsoft Teams.

Any meetings currently created in Skype that are scheduled to take place after Dec. 28 will not work and will need to be recreated in Microsoft Teams.

If you are new to Microsoft Teams, there are resources available. Go to the EBIT Teams Migration SharePoint site. You will need to be signed into the VPN.

There you will find:

- Intro to Microsoft Teams Training
- Frequently Asked Questions
- How-To Documentation
- How-To Videos

If you have any questions, contact the EBIT Service Desk at (785) 296-4999 or EBITSM@ks.gov.



Avoiding trips, slips and falls: Take steps to a safer workplace



KDOT's new incident scorecard has tracked injury incidents that have happened over the past year and will continue to track information for the agency in the future.

Director of Safety Troy Whitworth believes this tracking tool can help KDOT focus training efforts, which will help employees increase situational awareness. Over the past year, the incident category that tops the chart is slips, trips and falls.

"We have had 46 slips, trips and falls out of 144 total statewide injury incidents - meaning 32% of our injuries are in this one category," Whitworth said.

Slips, trips and falls can have severe consequences such as lacerations, broken bones and possible concussions.

These incidents can be prevented if employees slow down, pay attention to their surroundings and wear proper footwear.

When working SNICE operations, employees should always tell others if they step outside their vehicle. That way, if an employee slips and falls or somehow become incapacitated, someone might know to check on them.

[Here is a video](#) on how to prevent slips, trips and falls.

Covid-19 guidelines from KDHE regarding employees

A note from Director of Administration Maribel Manos - COVID-19 has brought a lot of uncertainty and confusion regarding how to handle questions and situations.

Below is some helpful guidance that KDHE has recently updated regarding COVID-19 cases in general and the rules regarding cases involving children.

1. If an employee is symptomatic but has no known exposure and receives a negative result, the employee may return to work once symptoms resolve. If an employee is under quarantine for an exposure (either exposure to a case or travel-related exposure) and receives a negative result during their quarantine period, the employee must still complete their quarantine period before returning to work.

- A case is defined as a person who tested positive for COVID-19.
- A household contact is defined as a person that lives in the same household as a positive case.
- A non-household contact is defined as a person

that has close contact with a case.

- A contact of a contact of a case is not required to be in quarantine
 - PUI is defined as Person "Under Investigation", who is suspected of having COVID-19 disease
2. If an employee's child is deemed as a close contact of a positive case (not in the home) and is tested but their test comes back negative the employee can come back to work if they are not showing any symptoms or have not had a fever in the last 72 hours. There is no reason for the employee to quarantine if the child's test comes back negative. However, the child must complete their quarantine period.
3. If a child is a case, then that case is in isolation for 10 days or 72 hours fever free without the use of fever reducing medication. Meaning that child which is a case is in isolation for a minimum of 10 days. The employee's 14-day quarantine period doesn't start until the child is released from isolation.