

# EN ROUTE TO FRIDAY

Feb. 12,  
2021

## The road to staying connected

### KDOT receives \$84 million in federal coronavirus relief funding

“

This investment package will provide relief to the state and local transportation budget, increase construction work to generate job growth and provide opportunities for hard-hit communities.

*It's a great day for  
Kansas.* ”

*- Transportation Secretary  
Julie Lorenz*



On Feb. 4, Gov. Laura Kelly and Secretary Julie Lorenz visited Newton to announce more than \$84.6 million in highway funding will be received from the Federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act.

These funds will provide support to Kansas communities for much-needed infrastructure programs.

“Partnerships are a guiding principle of the IKE program, and that’s why I’m proud that we are sharing these dollars with local governments,” Secretary Lorenz said. “Because funding wrapped in red tape is not relief, we’re eliminating federal reporting

responsibilities and red tape for local communities thus enabling them to deliver services and projects faster and more easily.”

Gov. Kelly identified three goals with the funds:

- Invest the maximum amount of dollars into the economy in the least amount of time.
- Invest dollars in every Kansas county, leaving no part of the state behind.
- Target additional economic opportunities in the communities that have been hit the hardest during the pandemic.

Read the governor’s press release [here](#). And watch the video [here](#).

Some KDOT employees now eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccination

# KDOT COVID-19 vaccine update



KDOT employees who have a commercial driver's license (CDL) and respond to snow and ice events have been identified as eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

All existing policies and guidance related to COVID-19 must still be followed.

More information on the vaccine and Kansas' plans for distribution can be found at:  
<https://www.kansasvaccine.gov>

*Please note that State of Kansas employees are not required to be vaccinated.*

KDOT's Bureau of Human Resources is reaching out to eligible employees in Phase 2 (see graphic above) to provide them the necessary paperwork and information on obtaining the COVID-19 vaccine.

All other state employees will be eligible in Phase 3.

More information on the vaccine and Kansas' plans for distribution can be found at  
<https://www.kansasvaccine.gov/>

Remember, even after being vaccinated, particularly after just the first dose, it is still possible to contract the COVID-19 virus. Therefore, all existing policies and guidance related to COVID-19 must still be followed. This includes practicing social distancing, limiting larger group gatherings and wearing face masks. For more information, please send an email to [KDOT#COVID-19@ks.gov](mailto:KDOT#COVID-19@ks.gov).

Valentine-

You paved your way  
into my heart.



# Superbowl commercial filmed in northwest Kansas



Many eagle-eyed Kansasers were quick to recognize a familiar landmark in one of last weekend's Super Bowl commercials as the Geographic Center of the United States near Lebanon in Smith County provided much of the backdrop for Jeep's "The Middle" spot.

The site is located on spur route K-191 and is partially maintained by the Smith Center sub-area crew.

Portions of the ad were also filmed near Oronoque in Norton County and at locations in Colorado and Nebraska.

Craig Pickel, an Equipment Operator on the Smith Center crew, said he and some friends were pheasant hunting in the area the day film crews were shooting in Smith County.

"We met a Jeep driving down K-191 and then saw a bunch of vehicles parked at the marker," Pickel said. "We weren't sure what was going on and when the commercial came out, we figured that was it. It's pretty neat that a road that we work on and maintain was featured."

An estimated 96.4 million viewers tuned into the Super Bowl. The ad, which has generated much buzz from viewers, ranked 12th in USA Today's annual Super Bowl Ad Meter ratings.

## How to prepare for working in cold weather

### Cold Weather Reminders:

#### How to dress for freezing temperatures:

- Wear a winter hat
- Wear a scarf or knit mask
- Wear sleeves that are snug at the wrist
- Wear mittens (they are warmer than gloves)
- Wear water-resistant coat and boots
- Several layers of loose-fitting clothing can help protect you.

#### Winter weather risks:

**Hypothermia** or abnormally low body temperature. When exposed to cold temperatures, your body begins to lose heat faster than it can be produced.

##### Symptoms:

- Shivering, exhaustion
- Confusion, fumbling hands
- Memory loss, slurred speech
- Drowsiness

**Frostbite** is an injury to the body that is caused by freezing.

Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and color in affected areas.

It most often affects the nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers, or toes.

##### Symptoms:

- White or grayish-yellow skin
- Unusually firm or waxy skin
- Numbness



# Search bar technology updated on intranet, KDOT website

HOME

TRAVELER INFORMATION

DOING BUSINESS

INSIDE KDOT

PROJECTS/PUBLICATIONS

PUBLIC INFORMATION

## SEARCH

traffic engineer



Your search for 'traffic engineer' returned 8215 results

### KANSAS SCHOOL ZONE PROGRAM

The "school zone" starts at the front door of the school and includes the entire campus and as many of the surrounding neighborhood blocks that have a significant level of school-generated **traffic**....School crossing signs, speed signs, school zone pavement markings and other **traffic** calming devices remind drivers to treat the area with special care and attention....If you are interested in applying for the School Zone Program, please contact Brain Gower, Kansas State **Traffic Engineer**, by phone at (785) 296-1181 or by email at [http://www.ksdot.org/bureaus/burTrafficEng/sztoolbox/School\\_Zone\\_Program.asp](http://www.ksdot.org/bureaus/burTrafficEng/sztoolbox/School_Zone_Program.asp)

## New Internet Search Engine

- New search engine, it's faster!
- New and improved look
- Ability to narrow search by category
- Suggestion technology

Searching for documents on the KDOT internet and intranet websites just got easier as a new search engine is now available.

"The update originally started with needing a better search engine for the intranet," said Information Technology Service's Project Manager Stephanie Green. "We needed the ability to search for PDFs."

She said the new search engine offers more functionality and analytics than what was previously in use.

"The Web Support Unit will be able to optimize searches with tools to control relevancy, boost pages and gain valuable insight into what is and isn't performing on the Internet," Green said.

26<sup>TH</sup> Annual

## You're Invited to Attend the VIRTUAL KDOT Transportation Safety Conference APRIL 20 & 21, 2021

REGISTER: <https://lpe.ku.edu/transportation-safety>



## KDOT KUDOS



**Bryce Kintigh** @stormchasrbryce · 2h

Kudos to @KDOTHQ and @CityofWichita for treating the roads in this prolonged freezing drizzle event. The roads were surprisingly decent considering. #kswx