The road to staying connected

KDOT awards $13.5 million in Transportation Alternatives projects

Gov. Laura Kelly joined Secretary Julie Lorenz and Kansas Wildlife Parks and Tourism Secretary Brad Loveless on Thursday morning in Ottawa to announce $13.5 million for 18 projects selected for inclusion in the Transportation Alternatives (TA) program for Federal Fiscal Years 2022-23.

“Strong proposals addressed safety, access and connectivity” said Jenny Kramer, KDOT State Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator. “Applicants demonstrated an understanding of federal requirements, project readiness and had good past performance.

KDOT received 35 applications from eligible project sponsors requesting over $50 million in federal funds.

KDOT evaluated each application and made selections based on criteria developed using input from various departments and external partners such as safety and network improvements, cost estimates, project readiness, public support and other factors.

Each project sponsor committed to providing at least 20% of the cost of the project as a local cash match.

Watch the recorded announcement video [here](#).
Cold weather changes strategy for removing snow and ice

By Tim Potter,
District Five Public Affairs Manager

District Five – hard hit by ongoing snow and extreme cold – has had to adapt because of extremely low temperatures.

“During this storm, we’ve changed our whole method of dealing with storms,” said District Maintenance Engineer Dave Bohnenblust.

District Five normally uses brine, beet juice and salt to melt snow and ice and to get the surfaces to dry.

But in this extreme cold, with temperatures in the single digits and below 0, those materials only cause any melting precipitation to re-freeze on the road, making things worse, Bohnenblust said.

Adding to that, any blowing snow collecting on the materials would melt and freeze. Also, brine freezes at around minus 5 degrees, and brine freezing in a spreader would damage the equipment, he said.

Without those materials, crews resorted to plowing what they could. Some of the dry, light snow just blows across the highways; in other places, it drifted onto highways and kept snow plows busy.

In some instances, District Five crews spread sand to aid traction, he said.

Kansas Active Transportation Plan hosts online public meetings

KDOT is continuing to develop the Kansas Active Transportation Plan (KATP). Kansans can stay involved by attending online public meetings to share their thoughts about the draft vision and goals for active transportation and more.

The meetings began this week and will continue until Feb. 25. See the schedule of online public meetings here. The same information will be presented at each meeting.

Follow the KATP’s Facebook page here.
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.

Oh, can’t you see? Windshield wiper safety tips

Information provided by Safety Division Director Troy Whitworth

Picture this: You’re driving down the road and a messy spray of melting snow or ice flings off the car’s tires in front of you and guess where it lands – right in the middle of your windshield.

You immediately push the windshield spray washer lever and engage the wiper/washer combo to clean it off - at least you hope.

Most highway workers have experienced all types of wiper/washer problems. Snow and slush coming off the plow can build up under the wiper blades, possibly damaging the blades and the wiper motor.

Things to do to help you see clearly include:
• Check blades often for wear and tear.
• Replace blades every six months.
• Check wiper fluid often and use the correct solution per season.
• When it snows, pull wipers up.
• Wipers on, headlights on.

It’s important to keep your windshield clear at all times; for your family and mine.

KDOT KUDOS!

Lonnie Johnson
The Marysville crew doing a great job.
Like · Reply · Message · 3d

Super Car Guys
Thank you for keeping us safe!

Sarah Hanson 69 highway between 247th and 159th was AMAZING this morning! You guys/gals do such an incredible job every time, people like me are so grateful! I live in MO but work in KS and MO roads never compare.
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