

# EN ROUTE TO FRIDAY

Jan. 15,  
2021

## The road to staying connected

### Bakarich named KDOT Manager of Special Projects

Carmen Bakarich has been named the Manager of Special Projects for KDOT.

Her new role will focus on improving processes and project delivery. "I'll be looking for efficiencies and process and program improvements that help both our external partners save costs and manage projects with less people and resources," she said. "I've worked directly with KDOT staff in every Division and District as well as our contractor and consultant partners for 30 years.

This puts me in a position to communicate with them and identify with their concerns and challenges."

The new position is

effective immediately and she will report directly to Deputy Secretary and State Transportation Engineer Burt Morey.

"I look forward to the improvements Carmen can bring to the agency in regard to relations with our partners, how we do business and to deliver the IKE program," Morey said.



### Fraudulent unemployment claims and identity theft



This is a reminder that fraudulent unemployment claims continue to rise.

Recently, KDOT has reached out to the Department of Labor (DOL) to deny over 500 of these fraudulent unemployment claims.

If you receive an email from Kerry Hauser or Marcy Anderson in KDOT's Human Resources regarding an unemployment claim the agency has received, please respond to the email as soon as possible.

There are steps you need to take to make sure your identity has not been stolen.

Also, some KDOT employees have received scam/clickbait text messages saying, "We noticed an error in your Unemployment Claim. Click link to review your claim. Kansas Department of Labor." Do NOT click on the link, just delete.

If you have questions, please contact Houser at 785-296-1825 or Anderson at 785-291-3799.

If you believe someone has fraudulently filed for unemployment in your name, report it at this website: [www.dol.ks.gov/fraud](http://www.dol.ks.gov/fraud) and it will provide you a list of additional steps to take.

# Spread the word: KDOT is hiring!

# NOW HIRING!

Great Benefits • Great Work to Life Balance  
• Make a Difference • Apply Today!



Job openings: <https://bit.ly/3la1qq5>

KDOT is currently offering many different career opportunities including maintenance, engineering, administrative and managerial positions.

If you or someone you know is interested in working at KDOT, please go to the State of Kansas Careers

Portal at [www.jobs.ks.gov](http://www.jobs.ks.gov) or KDOT's Current Openings at <https://kdotapp.ksdot.org/Vacancy/Vacancy.aspx> to see available positions.

For more information, contact the KDOT Recruitment Team at [kdothqjobs@ks.gov](mailto:kdothqjobs@ks.gov)

## Human trafficking training a focus for Commercial Driver's License certification



Monday was Human Trafficking Awareness Day. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, nearly 25 million men, women and children are held against their will and trafficked. KDOT and other transportation agencies do their part to help fight against human trafficking.

Before a driver receives their Commercial Driver's License, they must complete the CDL certification program, and applicants must demonstrate their knowledge of human trafficking issues and how a member of the trucking or bus industry, can play a vital role in combatting this crime.

Each KDOT crew member who holds a CDL can be an everyday hero on the frontlines of this issue. Learn how you can help here: <https://www.transportation.gov/stophumantrafficking>



*"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"*  
-Martin Luther King Jr.

**KDOT offices will be closed on Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.**

## The case of the pink wallet lost, then found by a KDOT worker

By: Tim Potter  
District Five Public Affairs Manager

Kirk Clawson was performing a routine maintenance check of U.S. 56 on the west side of Lyons when he spotted a pink wallet on Monday.

It was lying among trash near the edge of the road and looked as if it had been run over. The wallet was partially open, and Clawson saw a woman driver's license and bank cards inside.

"I wanted her to get it back because I've lost my wallet before. It's a pain to get everything back," said Clawson, an Equipment Operator in his first year with KDOT.

He returned to the office, showed Lyons Subarea Crew Supervisor Randy Miller what he found, and after confirming who the owner's identity was, Miller reached out to her. She had realized she had lost her

wallet and was retracing her steps, without success.

"She was extremely grateful that we found it," Miller said. "I could just see the relief in her face when she got it back."

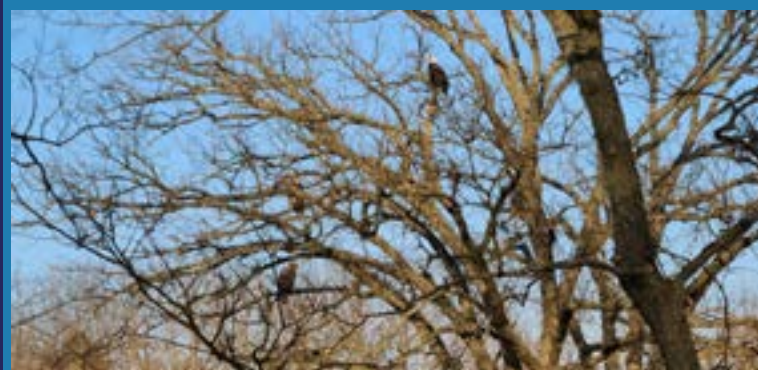
Miller said, "If we find something of value, we get it back to the people if we have enough information, or turn it into the relevant law enforcement agency such as the Kansas Highway Patrol."



## Kansas Governor, Representative wear IKE masks



Photos by WIBW news and Rep. Sharice Davids show that Gov. Laura Kelly and Rep. Davids have both been spotted wearing masks that celebrate the IKE program that was passed last year.



In this photo provided by Local Projects Bureau Chief Mike Stringer, at least five eagles perch in a tree located at Pomona Lake over the weekend. Stringer said an additional eagle was hanging out nearby but was not present at the time of this photo.

# KDOT KUDOS

I wanted to reach out and let you know what a fabulous job the road crews have done the last few inclement weather days. I couldn't be more impressed. I just wanted to let you know how much it is appreciated. Thank you so much, and please pass the kudos on to your crews as well!

-Julie Tabor