

EN ROUTE TO FRIDAY

March 12,
2021

The road to staying connected

Open Skies, Open Arms and Opportunities



Kansas Transportation Secretary Julie Lorenz and Director of Aviation Bob Brock join ACEC's Podcast, *The QBS Express*, to discuss the Kansas Supersonic Flight Corridor and the exciting future KDOT is creating for Kansas.

LISTEN HERE:

<https://bit.ly/3bg9Eui>

Traffic control changes on east U.S. 54 in Wichita from Greenwich to K-96



Traffic control changes began March 8 on East U.S. 54 in Wichita from Greenwich to K-96 with crews removing temporary traffic control and finishing permanent striping.

Once it's complete, all U.S. 54 lanes will be open and the speed limit on the mainline will be increased from 45 to 60 mph.

But there's still more work to be done on this project. It is scheduled to end in late 2021 after improved access

to the turnpike is completed.

The East Kellogg project from Greenwich Road to the K-96 interchange began in September 2016. The project is a partnership between the City of Wichita, KDOT and the Kansas Turnpike Authority. The total cost of the East Kellogg corridor improvements, including design, right-of-way, utility relocation, construction engineering, is expected to be more than \$300 million.

For more information check out www.E54ict.com.

WOMEN

In Kansas
TRANSPORTATION



March is Women's History Month and KDOT is highlighting women who work hard to help keep Kansas moving. Andrea Barnes is the Highway Maintenance Supervisor in Louisburg.

"I started with KDOT in February 2001 as a utility worker for about a year," Barnes said. "Then I got on as an Equipment Operator and became a senior. And now I am a supervisor."

Barnes said she has the opportunity to train a lot of employees. "I always enjoy watching new employees experience plowing snow with bowling balls," Barnes said. "Not to name any names but someone actually split a bowling ball in two."

One thing Barnes would like crews to remember is to, "never get comfortable on the road, always look out for yourself and your team."

Barnes said that after raising five kids and spending time with three grandchildren (with one on the way), family comes first. She also enjoys morel mushroom hunting in her spare time.

Tech Tip: SOPHOS software free for KDOT employees

SOPHOS

KDOT employees now have FREE access to Sophos home commercial edition for up to 10 personal home devices.

Visit our Sophos Home Landing page at: <https://home.sophos.com/en-us/employee/stateofkansasdot.aspx> for more information.

NOTE: Employees will manage their own licenses and security settings. KDOT will not have any access or visibility into personal devices or assist with technical support

SOPHOS HOME COMMERCIAL EDITION INCLUDES:

- Real-time anti-virus
- Advanced web protection
- AI threat detection
- Ransom-ware protection
- Banking protection
- Privacy + identity protection
- Malware scan and clean
- Remote management
- Scheduled scans
- Automatic updates

Four reasons video meetings can wear you out and how to help

We may feel like too many people



are watching us too closely.

Who needs a mirror?



We see ourselves all the time and we don't like it.

We can feel trapped...



...sitting in the same place.

Communication breakdowns happen



due to lack of body language cues

Many employees across the country have been working remotely since March 2020. Some have acclimated well to the “new normal” of working from home, and others miss office life. One thing plenty of employees have in common - video meeting fatigue.

According to a study from Stanford University and an article from The Mercury News in Santa Clara, Calif., video calls can cause more stress and fatigue than face-to-face meetings. Four reasons include:

We are all too close for comfort: “I always feel like somebody’s watching me” may be a catchy song, but when you feel like all eyes are on you, it can feel a little overwhelming. Check with your supervisor and ask if it is okay to opt out of some video calls.

We hate watching ourselves on camera: Piggy-backing on the last point, looking at yourself throughout the day can be frustrating. You know you brushed your hair before you turned your computer on! So why is that strand refusing to stay down. Was that piece of spinach ALWAYS in your tooth?

Again, ask your supervisor if you can opt out of video calls and just use voice.

We are stuck in one place: If you have back to back meetings, sitting in the same place can not only be boring, it can also be unhealthy. Sitting too long can cause circulation problems.

So between meetings, get up and move around. Do some paces, step outside and breathe in the fresh air. Drink some water or coffee. Then, when the next meeting starts you may have a little more energy.

We can't see body language and miss out on that key point of communication: Video meetings can be difficult. Everyone may accidentally speak at once, or even misunderstand. That's because our visual cues could be a little strained.

We can't see body language as well from behind a screen. One way to help is to speak as clearly as possible and say what you mean.

**KDOT
KUDOS!**

I love our Rooks County @KDOTHQ workers. Out sealing highway and they smile and wave when I drive by. Good people. Thanks for your hard work guys! @NWKansasKDOT

New KDOT utility permit system enables electronic submission of highway right of way permits

The screenshot displays the KDOT utility permit system interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'My View', 'Supervisor', and 'Admin'. A search bar contains 'Go to record' and user information 'User Admin | Logout'. The main header shows 'Record: 1-2021-0080 Permit'. Below this is a sidebar with navigation options: 'Map (Start Permit)', 'Inbox 70', 'Records', 'Permit', 'Standing Permit', 'Services', 'Reports', 'Queries', and 'Help'. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Record' (with sub-tabs: Record, Locations, Contacts, Inspections, Activities, History, Comments), 'Checklists', and 'Permit Data'. The 'Permit Data' section includes fields for Record # (1-2021-0080), Record Type (Permit), Status (Draft), Record State (Fully Submitted), Created Date (3/3/2021), Closed Date, Approval Date, Permit Duration (90 days), Expiration Date, Emergency Contact (Alexander Bell), Emergency Phone (785-296-6667), and Petitioner Tracking No. (XCOM 1234). The 'Checklists' section contains four items with checkboxes and 'Clear' buttons. The 'Permit Data' section also includes a 'Description of work' field with a warning message: 'No Valid / Verified insurance found'. The 'Primary Location' is set to '089U007500S0:152.32' in District 14, Topeka, KS.

A screen shot of the Permit Data Entry Page a petitioner may populate with important information like a description of the permit install, as well as any design drawings or documentation that provides more detail.

KDOT's use of right of way permit process has been migrated online. This provides utility providers and Kansas residents with a more user-friendly and streamlined system that workflows and tracks utility installation and facility maintenance requests on Kansas right of ways across the state.

The new KDOT Utility Permit System (KUPS) website is designed to provide permit petitioners with a "one-stop shop" experience for right of way permit requests and includes intelligent routing features that will help permit review authorities to receive, review and respond to permit requests in a more timely and efficient manner.

The system leverages GIS mapping technology for users to mark utility installation start and endpoints

on a Kansas state GIS map that supports the following features:

- Kansas Interstate and state route identification
- Highway right of way indication markup (light green shading)
- City limit boundary indication markup (light yellow shading)
- County, range and milepost indication
- Point and click markup of utility installation start and endpoints
- Latitude and longitude readouts of each waypoint of a utility installation
- Screen capture of the completed GIS map markup

KDOT plans to roll out its new system on April 8.

Keeping Kansas connected: It starts with highways



KDOT Chief Counsel Gelene Savage was traveling recently on K-9 in Barnes when she came across a house being physically moved along the highway. She said she appreciated that all the drivers pulled over as the wide load passed, and the driver of the oversized load even waved. But seeing this happen made Savage reflect on the importance of highways in people's lives.

"After working at KDOT 30 years and seeing a sight like this still fills me with pride for the magnitude of KDOT's effect on people," Savage said. "Someone is getting a new house because KDOT maintains a highway system that makes moving that house possible."

Gelene Savage took a photo a house being moved along K-9.