

EN ROUTE TO FRIDAY

March 19,
2021

The road to staying connected

Lewis and Clark Viaduct project completion a cause for celebration



“The Lewis and Clark Viaduct reconstruction project demonstrates the power of federal, state and local partnerships to deliver more for Kansans.” – Gov. Laura Kelly

Earlier this week, Gov. Laura Kelly joined U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids, Secretary Julie Lorenz and local officials to commemorate the completion of the re-opening of westbound I-70 as part of the multi-phase Lewis and Clark Viaduct project.

Gov. Kelly said since day one of her administration, she has worked to rebuild the state’s foundation and invest in programs pragmatically.

“The Lewis and Clark Viaduct reconstruction project demonstrates the power of federal, state and local partnerships to deliver more for Kansans,” Gov. Kelly said. “By working together, we can restore our aging infrastructure and make transformational investments to make travel safer, create jobs and propel our economy forward.”

“I’ve never been more optimistic about the future of Kansas infrastructure,” Lorenz said. “With the IKE program, federal investments may allow us to make innovative investments – and most importantly, we have local, state and federal leaders who all want to work together to make infrastructure work better.”

“Thanks to the collaborative work of our federal, state and local partners, the completed Lewis and Clark Viaduct project will help keep our families safe, our communities connected and our economy running,” said Davids.

The Lewis and Clark Viaduct is comprised of a series of bridges that carry I-70 over the Kansas River, providing a vital connection between Kansas City, Kansas, and Kansas City, Missouri. [Click here for the video.](#)

WOMEN

In Kansas
TRANSPORTATION



March is Women's History Month and KDOT is highlighting women who work hard to help keep Kansas moving.

Shenee Kendall, Equipment Operator Senior in Kingman, likes working outdoors. And she likes being outdoors when she's not part of the Kingman Subarea crew.

"I'm a bow hunter," Kendall said. "I hunt deer. I like to fish; I like to go to the lake and get out on the boat. Hours out there by yourself – I enjoy that as much as the hunt, sitting up in a tree and being outside. And it's a time you can be calm. You're just so close to the deer and the wildlife."

She also appreciates her co-workers and supervisor: "It's just a team – we work as a team on anything we do. We take pride in our area."

With almost eight years of KDOT field experience, what does she think the most important thing is for a crew to remember? "Keep your head up. You've got to pay attention. Because there's nothing more important than going home at night. Safety is first at this job."

Cost Share project in Eudora breaks ground



Deputy Secretary Lindsey Douglas participated in a groundbreaking ceremony hosted by the City of Eudora earlier this week for the city's Church Street Reconstruction project that was selected in the Cost Share program.

The project will widen the street, improve infrastructure, replace and improve sidewalks and install Eudora's first traffic signal. The project is slated

to begin on March 22 and will run for six months, through four difference phases.

The phased construction is designed to minimize traffic congestion and disruption to local businesses.

The City of Eudora received more than \$1.2 million from the state through the KDOT Cost Share program to help fund the project.

Safety first in District Two as warm weather encourages training



The warmer weather in District Two earlier this month provided a good opportunity for a new KDOT safety specialist to participate in safety training in north central Kansas.

The new specialist, Vance Donahue, visited several subareas with Mark Johnson, KDOT Safety

Coordinator, to provide safety training to KDOT workers across the district.

While following COVID-19 safety precautions, workers were able to engage in bucket truck and fall protection training.

Summer 2021 interns wanted

INTERNS

WANTED

Do you know a high school or college-age student in need of an internship this summer? KDOT has you covered! With nearly 40 positions available, there are plenty of opportunities at KDOT in offices across the state.

Interns looking to apply for engineering positions will need to check out the application to know what the qualifications are for each position.

The link to apply for those internships can be found [here](#).

For more information check out:

<https://www.ksdot.org/burpersonnel/employment.asp>

Avoid toxic chemical reactions: Pay attention to labels

Some friendships can be really toxic.



PROTECT YOURSELF.

Know which cleaning chemicals should never be mixed together.

[Click here](#) for more information on the dangers of mixing bleach with other chemicals.

Information provided by Troy Whitworth. Division of Safety Director

Many of you probably have a recipe for your favorite food dish, and you have that secret ingredient that makes the dish taste just right. If it's been a few weeks or months since you cooked the dish, you may have to refer to the written recipe to remember the exact ingredients to get it perfect.

Everything we buy these days seems to have detailed instructions on its proper use, how to mix it and how not to use it. But do we read them?

We should. Some chemicals can produce toxic gases when mixed together. You may remember hearing about a toxic gas used in World War I, called chloramine. The gas is created by mixing two common household cleaners - ammonia and bleach.

In small quantities, the fumes from the mixture will irritate your eyes, nose, throat and lungs. High concentrations of the gas can kill you. This is just one example of why reading the instructions on use is so important.

Our lives have all changed since the outbreak of COVID-19. We spend a lot of time wearing masks, washing our hands and cleaning frequently touched surfaces.

We are dealing with cleaning chemicals every day now. Remember to read the instructions for the use of these chemicals, just like you would when following that masterpiece recipe.

KDOT KUDOS: KanDrive update works for crews and public

I'm really liking the new KanDrive site! The ability to overlay the weather radar is a huge benefit. Saves looking at two sites. Being able to obviously select the layers to see the desired information is great. The default layer selections should stop the complaints where someone checked the site, but didn't know to look in the right place, and then got surprised during their trip.

I recently had a contact from an OS/OW load hauler who said they'd be calling us for weekly updates for their route, per their customer's direction. I directed them to the KanDrive page and suggested they could create a login, and then create a route to get direct notification of any updates that we'd access if they called. Saved us all time on the phone.

Thanks to you and any others for the effort on this upgrade! I know they don't happen without a bunch of effort from folks somewhere in the background.

-District Six Engineer Ron Hall