

EN ROUTE TO FRIDAY

July 24,
2020

The road to staying connected

Gov. Kelly and Secretary Lorenz celebrate U.S. 50 delayed T-WORKS groundbreaking in Lyon County



Community leaders left to right – Secretary Julie Lorenz, Kala Maxfield with Emporia Chamber of Commerce, Jeanine McKenna with Emporia Chamber of Commerce, Kent Heermann with Regional Development Association of East Central Kansas, Gov. Laura Kelly, Emporia Mayor Danny Giefer, NiK Roth of PrairieLand Partners and Rob Gilligan with Ignite Emporia.

On location in Emporia, Gov. Laura Kelly and Secretary Julie Lorenz joined community leaders to break ground on a delayed T-WORKS project on U.S. 50 in Lyon County.

The project, which spans from Road E5 to a half-mile east of Road F in Lyon County, will widen the highway to 4-lanes for one mile. This stretch of highway carries the most truck traffic of any 2-lane highway in the state. Improvements are also being made at the Road E5 and Road F intersections. It will cost around \$8 million. The primary contractor is Koss Construction. “The announcement of the U.S. 50 T-WORKS project

will bring jobs, safety and a long-term economic boost to the community,” Gov. Kelly said. “My administration is committed to rebuilding our infrastructure and putting an end to using critical transportation dollars to cover the state’s unpaid debts.”

“Through this process, we were able to build eight sets of passing lanes rather than five along the corridor,” Secretary Lorenz said. “And now, we will add one mile of 4-lane too.”

The project should wrap up in November 2021, watch a replay of the event [here](#).

Bridge replacement project prompts overnight closure of I-135 in McPherson County



The Avenue A bridge, located south of U.S. 56, was demolished on July 17. Photo credit: Lieutenant Rust, Kansas Highway Patrol.

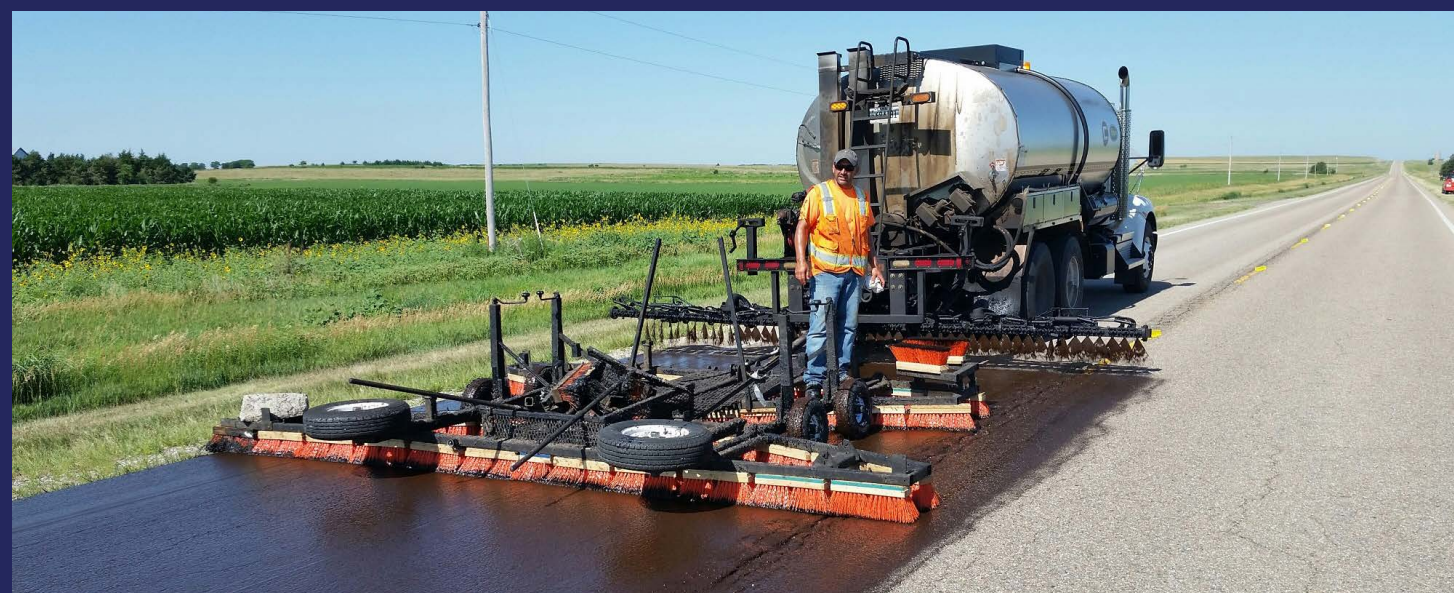
On July 17, the Avenue A bridge, located south of U.S. 56 in McPherson County, was demolished and removed so new construction can begin to replace the bridge.

I-135 was closed overnight and traffic was detoured through McPherson. Debris was removed with southbound I-135 reopening at 6 a.m. on July 18 and northbound I-135 opening at 4 p.m. that same day.

The bridge is being replaced by Dondlinger and Sons Construction Company, Inc., of Wichita. The project is scheduled to be completed in January 2021, weather permitting.



Lessons from the field: Explaining a scrub seal



The scrub equipment consists of a metal frame with a series of brooms that squeegee the oil into the cracks. Photo By Blair Heptig, Field Materials Engineer.

District Five is performing its first scrub seal project on K-96 in Rush County.

What is a scrub seal? Nick Squires, District Construction and Materials Engineer, explains:

Oil sprays onto the road from a truck that pulls brooms behind the sprayer. The brooms push the oil into cracks. Then rock is spread over the oil. The second part of the process is to add another layer of oil and rock, this time without the brooms.

The scrub equipment consists of a metal frame with a series of brooms. The brooms “squeegee” the oil into the cracks. Great Bend Area Engineer Michelle Burnett notes that the first layer of rock is very fine -- so it gets down into the cracks.

The scrub seal – with the use of the broom – goes beyond a standard chip seal where oil and rock are applied over a couple of days. A chip seal “is a great preventive maintenance tool that we have,” Squires said.

KDOT Bureau of Road Design personnel changes



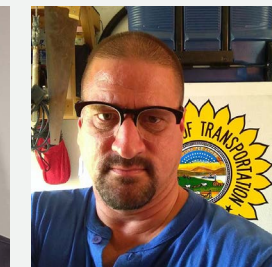
Stephen Bass



Thomas Rhoads



Brian Kierath



Kris Norton



Steve Rockers

Several changes are taking place in the Bureau of Road Design. Stephen Bass rejoined the Road Design team after transferring from Program and Project Management. Bass will be a Road Design Leader in the Topeka office and be in charge of the quality control process, manage consultant projects and serve as roundabout expert.

Thomas Rhoads will be the Alternate Delivery Manager in the Topeka office and will primarily be involved in alternate delivery projects.

Brian Kierath will replace Aaron Frits as the Road Design Leader and manage the squad in the Lawrence Office.

Other staff changes:

After transferring from the Senior Road Design Leader/Lawrence Office Manager, Kris Norton, will now be in Program and Project Management as the new IKE PMC manager.

Steve Rockers will be the interim Lawrence Office manager along with his regular squad duties.

Tech Tip: VPN issues

1. If your computer is running slowly or having trouble connecting to the VPN, try rebooting it.
2. If your home network is running slowly, rebooting the router often can fix the issue. You do that by unplugging the router for 30 seconds and plugging it back in.
3. Try connecting device directly to your router with an ethernet cable.

Transportation chat: Secretary Lorenz discusses IKE, other programs with U.S Representative Sharice Davids



Secretary Lorenz joined U.S. Representative Sharice Davids on Friday, July 24, to discuss the IKE program and other transportation topics that impact Kansas.

Secretary Lorenz said that transportation is the connecting fiber in our lives.

“It’s not about what we build, it’s why we build,” Secretary Lorenz said. “It’s about getting people back to work and making those investments that stand the test of time.”

Check out the replay here:

<https://www.facebook.com/RepDavids/>