

# Translines EXPRESS

July 31, 2019

## Bridge removed in Wichita



Crews took down the Seneca bridge over I-235 in Wichita the weekend of July 19-21. I-235 traffic was closed in both directions while the work took place. Traffic can now use the new 40th Street bridge to access that area. This work is part of the I-235 Green Project that began this spring, which is the first phase of the Wichita North Junction rebuild. Photo by Tom Hein, District Five

## Overhead sign truss hit

For the second time in less than a month, a truck has hit an overhead sign truss along I-35 in the Kansas City metro area. This incident happened on northbound I-35 just north of 95th Street about 9:30 p.m. on July 28. The highway was closed until 4:30 a.m. the next morning. Photo by Drake Jennings, District One



## IT security change starts Aug. 1

**IT security change starts Aug. 1:** A reminder that the Kansas Information Technology Executive Council (ITEC) has modified an existing policy – Information Technology Standards Policy 7230A.

**HOW IT IMPACTS KDOT EMPLOYEES** - The first time you change your network login password after Aug. 1, you will have different requirements for building your password.

Even though the password now must be longer, it will last for 180 days rather than 30 days as we now require.

New password construction requirements:

- ♦A minimum of 12 and no more than 127 characters in length.
- ♦Contains three out of four of the following

categories:

- ♦Uppercase,
- ♦Lowercase,
- ♦Numeral,
- ♦Non-alpha numeric character,
- ♦Must not contain the user ID,
- ♦Must not have a lifespan that exceeds 180 days,
- ♦Must be different from the previous 24 passwords.

“We realize the longer password will take some time to become accustomed to, but recognize the need to protect our environment,” said Jeff Neal, Chief, KDOT Office of IT Services. “We appreciate your understanding as we all work to safeguard the safety of our systems and data.”

## Geometric Improvement project

By Priscilla Petersen, District Four

### Geometric Improvement project in Coffeyville:

The intersection of 11th Street and Willow Street in Coffeyville is feeling the summer heat as construction is underway and will be widened with new turn lanes and traffic signals. The City of Coffeyville is reconstructing 11th Street, also known as U.S. 166, at the intersection between Spruce and Elm streets as part of a Geometric Improvement (GI) project.

Coffeyville Public Workers Director Chuck Shively said the

completed project would result in smoother traffic flow.

“The old signals were becoming obsolete and the detector loops did not function correctly,” Shively said.

KDOT is funding 90 percent of the project cost. The city’s share is 10 percent, plus any costs above \$1 million. Mission Construction Company, Inc., of St. Paul is the primary contractor on the \$1.3 million project.

Officials anticipate an October completion. This project was developed through KDOT’s Bureau of Local Projects.



*The city of Coffeyville is reconstructing U.S. 166 at the intersection between Spruce and Elm streets. KDOT is funding 90 percent of the project cost of the Geometric Improvement project. Photos by Priscilla Petersen, District Four*



## Trivia!

### A Star is Born

1. How many times have versions of this movie been made?
2. What years did they debut?
3. Who were the leading ladies in these movies?
4. Who were the leading men in these movies?
5. In the latest movie, who plays the leading lady's father?
6. What did Bradley Cooper learn to do for this movie?
7. In regards to the 2018 film, who was originally scheduled to star in the movie, and who was slated to direct it?

## Signs replaced

*Dennis Senters, Equipment Operator in Beloit, uses the loader to place a new sign in the ground while Bret Wildfong, Equipment Operator Specialist in Beloit, positions the sign. Recently, Highway Maintenance Supervisor Doug Newquist was monitoring his area in District Two and found signs that were damaged from large farm equipment used during harvest. Newquist says he and his crew prefer farmers remove the header from their combines before driving down roads. Photo by Ashley Tammen, District Two*



## Retirees

The following employees are retiring from KDOT on Aug. 1.

### Headquarters

**Paul Ahlenius**, Engineering Associate III, Local Projects

**Phyllis Marotta**, Program Consultant II, Traffic Safety

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Four times.
2. The original was in 1937. Then it came out in 1954, 1976 and 2018.
3. In order: Janet Gaynor, Judy Garland, Barbra Streisand and Lady Gaga.
4. Fredric March, James Mason, Kris Kristofferson and Bradley Cooper.
5. Andrew Dice Clay.
6. Play guitar and piano.
7. Clint Eastwood was to direct it and Beyonce was going to star in it.



## U.S. 166 work progressing

*At right, the new U.S. 166 bridge being built at Arkansas City will give travelers a wider path than the previous bridge. Below, Area Engineer Andrew Wilson pilots a drone that regularly flies over the bridge, recording the progress of construction on the new bridge.*



By Tim Potter, District Five

**U.S.166 work progressing:** As KDOT's Project Manager for the U.S. 166 bridge at Arkansas City, Robin Gregory has seen plenty of progress – and a copperhead snake up close – during construction of a 980-foot structure over the Arkansas River.

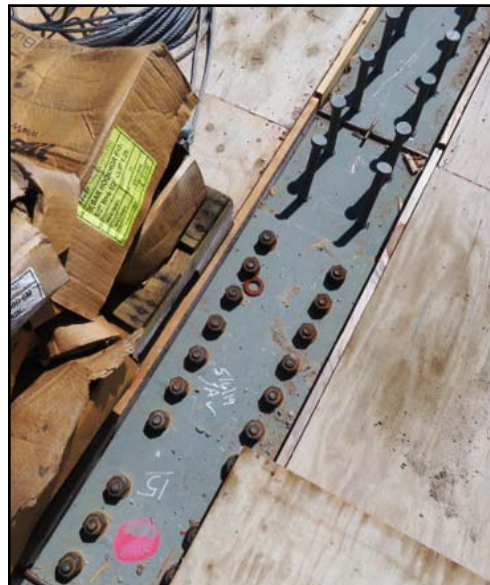
Gregory has watched crews work around flooding this summer, keeping the project in line for a November completion. “We have fought mud,” she said. Before that, “I’ve seen these guys work in rain and snow.”

She’s had to stay nimble herself. One summer day, while checking flooding near a bridge abutment, Gregory encountered a copperhead snake just a few feet away. “I’m done!” she thought. The snake hissed. She retreated. “After that,” Gregory said, “everywhere I walk, I watch.”

The new bridge will offer travelers a wider east/west span. The old bridge, built in 1937, was 22 feet wide; the new bridge will be 44 feet wide, with ample shoulders.

The new bridge is a steel-beam supported structure, with nine piers across the river. It took a methodical process to drill through the riverbed and set the piers into bedrock.

As Gregory walked over temporary decking on a recent day, she pointed out massive bolts that help connect the



*As part of the bridge construction inspection process, bolts that help tie the underlying structure together get checked for proper tightness. Photos by Tim Potter*

underlying structure. The bolts get checked to make sure they have the right tightness.

A.M. Cohron & Son Inc., of Atlantic, Iowa, is the primary contractor on the \$6,368,390 project. Stephen Bass’ road squad and Mark Hurt’s bridge squad designed the project.

For Gregory, the bridge will be her last project before she retires. “I’m proud to have this be my last one,” she said.



## U.S. 281 slide repairs



*At left and below: Crews begin the process of digging up the slide area on U.S. 281 in Russell County, aided by the help of an excavator on loan from District Two.*



By Lisa Mussman, District Three

**U.S. 281 slide repairs:** The Russell Subarea spent much of last week repairing an active slide area that has been affecting U.S. 281 north of Russell.

The road has been reduced to one-lane traffic at the affected area approximately two miles north of Russell since the end of May. KDOT closed the road starting July 22 for crews to begin a partial repair job, which consisted of digging out the sinking portion of the road, installing a drainage pipe and building the surface back up with lighter weight aggregate.

Crews dug down nearly 10 feet and found parts of the asphalt were up to nine feet thick in some areas, where it normally would be 18 inches thick. Thirty-five truckloads of asphalt, 16 truckloads of dirt and two loads of boulders and mixed dirt were removed from the hole. The road was reopened back to one-lane traffic on July 25.

An overlay to complete the project and reopen the area to two-lane traffic will take place sometime this fall. This section of U.S. 281 is among the four modernization projects that will be moving forward, with a planned letting date of spring 2020.



*At left and above: The slide area was filled in with lightweight aggregate and will be given some time to settle before an overlay is applied later this fall. Photos by Lisa Mussman and Kevin Zimmer, District Three*



## U.S. 56 closure

*Highway Maintenance Supervisor Rick Looper found this huge limb across U.S. 56 in Fairway early on July 19. Lamar Subarea crew members were sent to the location and cleared the highway.*



## KTA projects

A two-year project for various improvements in Chase and Lyon counties on I-35/KTA and I-335/KTA is set to begin Aug. 1, weather permitting. Learn more about the project in the news release [here](#).

For July's construction spotlight, Glen Scott, KTA Engineer, talks about the bridges south of Wichita. Watch the video to learn more [here](#).

## Construction Spotlight South Wichita Bridges



***Do you know of a KDOT retiree not receiving the electronic KDOT newsletter Translines?***

*Please let them know that if they are interested in receiving it, send an email to [Kim.Stich@ks.gov](mailto:Kim.Stich@ks.gov)*



# Kansas Transportation

Monday, July 22

## Motoring Monday - Tallgrass Prairie

By Ashley Tammen,  
District Two

If you're traveling through north central Kansas and want to stretch your legs while taking in some history, there's no better place to go on a hike than the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. The prairie once covered more than 170 million acres of beautiful tallgrass in the United States. Unfortunately, nearly all the prairie has been plowed under or lost by development of towns except for a vast majority found in the Flint Hills of Kansas. The preserve offers 11,000 acres of the prairie with 40 miles of nature trails and eight historic buildings to tour.

These nature trails allow you to experience the prairie first-hand but still are near visitor services. The Southwind Nature Trail is a 1.75-mile-long view of what makes up the preserve and starts in front of the Spring Hill Ranch house.

The Bottomland Trail offers a trailhead kiosk at the beginning with either 3/4- or 1/2-mile trail loops to choose from. This trail features both natural and cultural history with five interpretive way side panels, benches, and a comfort station. And lastly, the Fox Creek trail is a 6.1-mile round trip northern extension from the Bottomland Trail in the Fox Creek area. In the fall, the grass can reach about six feet tall here.

Throughout these multiple trails in the prairie you can experience a wide range of wildlife including turkey, white-tail deer, a variety of bird species, and even a herd of bison which can be found in the Windmill pasture.

If you're not looking for a hike but want to view the prairie's history, the prairie also offers guided bus tours, free of charge. The tours must be scheduled in advance, are 60-90 minutes long, and run until October, weather and staffing available.



*The Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve covers 11,000 acres; most is in the Flint Hills.*



One of the best times to visit the Tallgrass Prairie is when the grass turns a golden brown and reaches its peak height in late September or early October. The prairie is located two miles north of the intersection of U.S. 50 and K-177 just west of Strong City. Visit [www.nps.gov/tap](http://www.nps.gov/tap) for more information.

See more stories on the Kansas Transportation blog at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>