

Translines EXPRESS

March 22, 2017

District One



Numerous local and state officials from Kansas and Missouri, including KDOT's State Transportation Engineer Catherine Patrick, fifth from right, participated in the U.S. 69 bridge ribbon cutting on March 16.

Kansas, Missouri celebrate new bridge: The Kansas and Missouri DOTs celebrated the completion of the U.S. 69 bridge over the Missouri River, located between Wyandotte County, Kan., and Platte County, Mo., at a March 16 ribbon cutting. KDOT, MoDOT and local city and county officials from both sides of the state line spoke at the event. After the ribbon cutting, pedestrians, bicyclists and several classic vehicles travelled across the new bridge. The original two U.S. 69 bridges included the

northbound bridge, commonly referred to as the Platte Purchase Bridge, built in 1957, and the southbound U.S. 69 bridge, known as the Fairfax Bridge, built in 1933. Both bridges were replaced with one bridge in a bi-state design-build project led by MoDOT. Construction began in fall 2014 and the new bridge opened in December 2016. Project construction costs totaled \$73 million with KDOT providing \$35.8 million in cost sharing. The new four-lane bridge includes a 10-foot wide bike/pedestrian shared use path.

District Five

Tarverdi retires, Terstriep leads District Five: On March 10, Benny Tarverdi retired after serving four years as District Five Engineer in a KDOT career that included nearly 38 years of service. He said one of his fondest memories was hiring new staff and taking pride in their personal development as they transformed into leaders at KDOT. The following Monday after Tarverdi's retirement, Larry Thompson, Director of Operations, announced that Brent Terstriep had been selected as the new District Five Engineer. Terstriep came to work at KDOT in June 1999 after graduating from the University of Kansas and has served in various engineering positions in District Five for the past 17 years. For the last three



Brent Terstriep

years, he has been the Assistant District Engineer.

Terstriep said he welcomes the new challenges the position will bring as well as the opportunity to make a larger, positive impact by helping the people who reside within District Five. He humorously said he looks forward to getting in touch with the S.O.M. Handbook as much as the Construction

Specifications Handbook that he has used throughout the years.

Wildfires

KDOT crews assist across the state: KDOT crews in several areas assisted in firefighting and traffic control efforts during the wildfires that burned more than 1,000 square miles earlier this month.

In northwest Kansas, Josh Hudson, Stockton Subarea Supervisor, and his crew worked along U.S. 183 south of Stockton.

“The smoke made it impossible to see anything on U.S. 183 between town and the top of the hill south of Stockton,” Hudson said. “There were flames taller than the motor grader burning the right of way.”

Public Affairs Manager Lisa Mussman said the Russell Subarea assisted with closing I-70 for the fire near Wilson Lake. The fire spread north and jumped the Interstate, coming close to Wilson. Farther south, Dodge City Superintendent Galen Ludlow said KDOT crews assisted with traffic control and closing routes where the smoke and fire burned the roadways.

“I was in contact with all my personnel in Ness, Hodgeman, Ford, Clark and Gray counties to get the crews in position to detour traffic,” Ludlow said. “We had to close the highways at the state line going both ways, so I was in contact with Oklahoma to stop traffic going into Oklahoma and vice versa coming into Kansas.”

Ludlow said this was the first time he had ever been involved with a fire of that size and scale. “We started with the fire here in Dodge City at approximately 1 p.m.,” Ludlow said. “We received a call from the KHP and Ford County communications that they were requiring traffic assistance. It was a pretty big fire that was burning around the four-way stop at the U.S. 283 and U.S. 56/400 junction on the south end of Dodge City.”



Fires burn near U.S. 183 south of Stockton.

Public Affairs Manager Zach Oswald said that KDOT assisted with traffic during the Reno County fires, flagging and redirecting traffic along alternative routes.



Smoke blows across U.S. in Cheyenne County.



Right of way burned in Reno County.

District Four



Gov. Sam Brownback, with Secretary Richard Carlson looking on, congratulates officials and citizens on the start of the U.S. 69 project to expand the highway to four lanes in Bourbon County. The expansion begins at the two-lane section south of Fort Scott and continues south for six miles to the Bourbon-Crawford county line. The Governor, Secretary Carlson and several other officials made remarks during the March 13 groundbreaking ceremony at the Cherry Grove Baptist Church along U.S. 69.



Participating in the groundbreaking were, from left to right: Warren Ebberts, KDOT Project Inspector; George Dockery, Area Four Engineer; Jacob Grace, Koss Construction; Wayne Gudmonson, District Four Engineer; Sam Mason, Fort Scott City Commissioner; Darrin Petrowsky, Area One Engineer; Ken Brock, Highway 69 Association; Secretary Richard Carlson; Gov. Sam Brownback; Sen. Jake LaTurner; Rep. Trevor Jacobs; Sen. Caryn Tyson; and Patrick O'Bryan, Pittsburg city commissioner.

Trivia!

April Fools' Day

1. In France, pranksters tape this to a person's back on April Fool's Day.
2. Where was the earliest recorded reference to April Fools' Day?
3. In 1957, the BBC fooled the nation with a documentary broadcast about this. Then in 2008, the BBC made an April Fools' Day film about this animal.
4. In 1996, Taco Bell pranked newspaper readers saying they had purchased this historical monument.
5. Twitter even got in on the prank in 2013. What did they announce?

Retirees

The following employee will retire from KDOT on April 1.

District Five
Edward Niemczyk,
Engineering Technician
Senior, El Dorado

Aviation Art Contest



Kansas winners of the 2017 International Aviation Art Contest received their prizes recently from Director of Aviation Merrill Atwater, left, and Marketing and Outreach Manager Lindsey Dreiling, right. The winners, from left to right, are Jade Benimon, Julietta Otter and Lindsay Hayes, and they attend Sunset Hill Elementary in Lawrence.

In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree Robert Penrod who died on March 5 in Wichita. He retired as a Highway Maintenance Supervisor in Wichita in 2010 after 24 years of service.

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

KTA



Demolition has started at the 188th bridge near Eastern Terminal along the Kansas Turnpike.

Kansas Transportation

Monday, March 20

Kansas couple accomplishes aerial feat

There are 137 public-use airports in Kansas and Kent and Cindy Stone decided to visit all of them.

On March 10, as their plane landed at the Philip Billard Municipal Airport in Topeka, they accomplished their goal with a total of 12 days of flying under their wings.

The couple began their flight in December and according to their Facebook page, they had visited all 52 airports in western Kansas in just four days.

“Boredom got us going,” Kent said. He and his wife kept flying their renovated Beechcraft E33 Bonanza to the rest of the public-use airports in Kansas.

Although the couple took a break for a few weeks, they started up again early last month. Their arrival in Topeka ended their saga and earned them a certificate of merit from the KDOT Division of Aviation and the compliments of Aviation Director Merrill Atwater.

“Kent and Cindy show how passion fuels aviation,” Atwater said. “They exemplify for anyone that aviation has something for everyone.”

After visiting 137 airports, the Stones said they still found something new each time they landed.

“Every airport has a story to tell or an experience to be enjoyed,” Kent said.

Their endeavor may have had a turbulent start more than 30 years ago when the couple bought their Beechcraft E33 Bonanza.

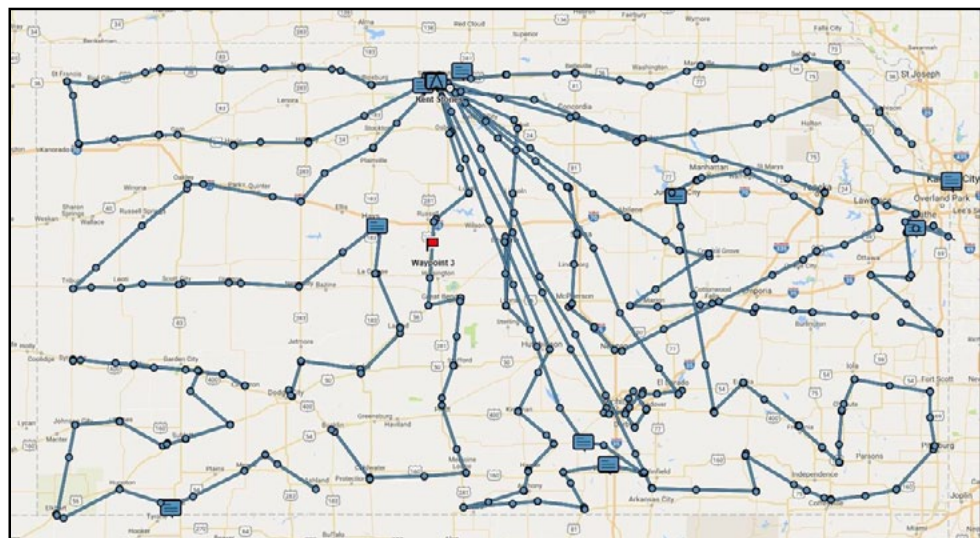
“There was a long interval of engine troubles after buying the plane in 1986,” Kent



Cindy and Kent Stone were honored with a certificate of merit from KDOT for visiting all 137 public-use airports.

said. “It kept cutting in and out after (doing) virtually everything to fix it. I had three choices: Hanger it, sell it, or start over and restore it.”

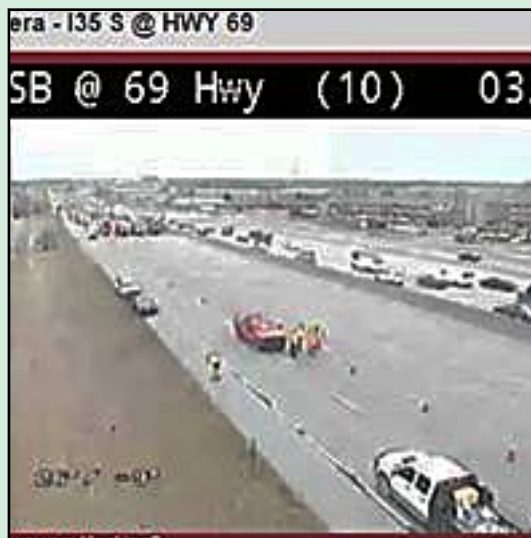
To see more stories on other transportation topics, check out the regular posts on the Kansas Transportation blog at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>



This image from Kent and Cindy’s Facebook page shows all 137 airports they visited.

District One

Sign structure removed: A southbound I-35 overhead sign structure located just before southbound U.S. 69 in Overland Park was struck and severely damaged in a single vehicle crash on March 10. The driver survived the crash, but the overhead sign structure had to be removed that day for the safety of the traveling public as the leg brace support was damaged. Southbound I-35 just before U.S. 69 was closed to traffic during evening rush hour between 5:30 and 6 p.m. as the contractor removed the overhead sign structure from the leg supports with a crane. Repairs to the overhead sign structure will be completed at a later date.



A traffic camera shows traffic completely stopped on I-35 just before U.S. 69 after a sign structure was hit.

KTA

2017 NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK
DESIGN CONTEST

GET YOUR DESIGN IN VYPE MAGAZINE!
WIN A FITBIT BLAZE!
OR \$200 (WINNER CHOOSES)



BE IN THE ZONE. WHEN THEY'RE IN THE ZONE.

EYES ON THE ROAD. HANDS ON THE WHEEL. FEET ON THE BRAKE.

DON'T BE THAT DRIVER.

Design your own safety sign for National Work Zone Awareness Week. VISIT KSTURBANK.COM TO SEE MORE!

Don't miss out!

The deadline is this Sunday, March 26, to enter the KTA's Work Zone Awareness Week design contest. Students in grades 8-12 can submit a print design regarding work zone safety for a chance to win a FitBit Blaze smartwatch or \$200. Additionally, they will have their work printed in VYPE Magazine, a high school sports magazine for the south central Kansas area.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. A paper fish.
2. In Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales in 1392.
3. Spaghetti crops in Switzerland and the annual harvest that took place. The film was about flying penguins that migrated to South America.
4. It said Taco Bell purchased the Liberty Bell and planned to rename it the "Taco Liberty Bell."
5. They announced Twitter was shifting to a two-tiered service. Those who wanted to use their services free could use Twtr, where they could only tweet consonants. Those who paid \$5 a month could use consonants and vowels.

Please Note:

The next edition of Translines will be April 12 and will feature all the National Work Zone Awareness Week activities as well as numerous other topics.