

# Translines EXPRESS

Aug. 9, 2017

## District Six



*Left: Traffic follows a pilot car around construction on U.S. 54 in Seward County. Below: The project includes 3.5 miles of new pavement.*

### Wrapping up:

Construction on the expansion of U.S. 54 in Seward County, which began in April 2016, is close to wrapping up. The project includes building 3.5 miles of four-lane expressway on U.S. 54 and improving access to the Arkalon Energy Plant east of Liberal.

Much of the work was completed off the current highway alignment, limiting the impact on traffic on U.S. 54 during the project. Striping, grinding and permanent signing should be completed by the end of August.

With two of the four new lanes completed, traffic shifted



to the newly-completed eastbound lanes in late May as work continued on the new westbound lanes. Michels Corporation of Madison Wisconsin is the primary contractor on this \$14.6 million project. Steve Rocker's road squad designed the project.

**Spread the word:** A story that aired on Aug. 3 on "The Today Show" outlined the dangers of passengers in the back seat not being buckled up. Parts of KDOT's public service announcement on seat belt safety were highlighted during this broadcast. To see the news story, click [here](#).

**Click it.  Or ticket.**  
It's Kansas Law.

## Trivia!

### Kansas routes and counties

1. What county has the most State System (I, US and K routes) mileage?
2. What county has the least state system (I, U.S. and K routes) mileage?
3. At one time, Kansas had 106 counties. What is the current county that was merged?
4. What three Kansas counties do not contain any K-routes?
5. What six counties do not contain any U.S. routes?

## Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

**Poster contest:** Kansas kids ages 5-13 are encouraged to enter artwork in the 16th annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day poster contest.

Three statewide winners will receive a Kindle Fire Tablet with a case from the KTA, a \$50 gift card from WalMart, a \$50 Amazon gift card from the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association and movie passes from AAA. And 18 regional winners will each receive a bicycle and helmet. "The poster contest inspires kids to think about traffic safety at an early age," said Larry Emig, KDOT retiree who started the national safety effort in 2001. "And that helps kids to continue being focused on safety as they get older and start to drive."

Entries must be postmarked by Sept. 22. For more information on this contest, go to KDOT's webpage [here](#).



**Video contest:** For the third year, as part of the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day campaign, the KTA is having a video contest for teens in grades 8-12.

"It is a fun and engaging way to raise awareness about road safety behaviors such as wearing a seat belt or not texting while driving," said Marketing and Communication Director Rachel

Bell. "The contest helps educate teens about how to prevent fatalities while driving, and gives them and their school a chance to win great prizes." Winners will receive a GoPro, iPad, or an DJI Osmo Camera. The grand prize winner will also receive \$500 for their school's booster club. Visit: <https://www.ksturnpike.com/contests> for more information.

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Sumner County, with 207.8 miles.
2. Stanton County, with 53.9 miles.
3. Finney County - Arapahoe and Sequoyah counties were merged in 1883.
4. Allen, Kiowa and Montgomery counties.
5. Ellsworth, Greeley, Lane, Lincoln, Wabaunsee and Wichita counties.



## District Four



**Grading and constructing simple span bridges is under way on seven miles of K-7 from K-102 south to U.S. 160. The section was closed in June and K-7 traffic is using a detour. The four-mile highway section from K-102 north to U.S. 400 underwent reconstruction during 2016, which widened the driving surface to 12-foot lanes with 10-foot shoulders. KDOT awarded the K-7 construction contract of \$35.4 million to Koss Construction Company of Topeka is the contractor. The \$35.4 million K-7 project should be finished by August 2018. Thomas Rhoads' road squad and Chris Meyer's bridge squad designed the project.**

## Aviation

**First statewide drone traffic management initiative:** KDOT announced that it is partnering with AirMap, Inc. to deploy the first statewide Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM) initiative in the United States.

Through the AirMap UTM technology, Kansas will implement an airport notification and awareness system for drones. This airspace management system will be made available to airports across the state. Participating airports will be able to accept digital flight notices, communicate with drone operators, and prepare for UTM milestones on the horizon, such as automating airspace notification and authorization for commercial drone flights.

“Strong leaders set the pace, and we’re proud to see the rapid growth of Kansas UAS advance to a national level,” stated Lieutenant Governor Jeff Colyer. “This initiative continues a proud tradition of leadership and

excellence in aviation.”

Kansas airports, state agencies, and higher education institutions across the state will receive access to the AirMap platform. Training will be offered to support local drone operations and provide safety-critical information.

“This partnership will support a strong foundation for air traffic safety in Kansas,” said Richard Carlson, Secretary of Transportation. “Together, we will foster an environment that allows unmanned systems to contribute to the state economy.”

AirMap is the world’s leading airspace management platform for drones. Millions of drones, hundreds of drone manufacturers and developers, and hundreds of airspace managers and stakeholders rely on AirMap’s airspace intelligence and services to fly safely and communicate with others in low-altitude airspace.

## Maintenance



**Blow-ups on pavements around the state happened in late July as temperatures soared. This blow-up happened on Saturday, July 22, on westbound U.S. 24 near the intersection of Excel Road just east of Manhattan. The Wamego Subarea Crew was called out and had to close the lane temporarily. They milled off the affected area with the milling head on the skid loader and patched it with cold patch.**

## Kudos

*Below are several comments sent to KDOT through email or on social media.*

I was on I-70 Saturday, Aug. 5, eastbound from Colorado. I am a retired Illinois DOT employee and would like to comment on the great condition of your highways and interstates. Keep up the good work!

Over the past 20 years, we have driven HWY 383 from Norton to Oakley. On many of these occasions we have used the rest area on 383, just south of HWY 36. It has always been clean and well maintained. We appreciate the availability and cleanliness of this rest area. Thank you.

Thank you to KDOT employee Rodney Wright (Equipment Operator Trainee in Olathe). He found an iPad on the side of the highway and went out of his way to find the owner (not myself). Nice to see people going above and beyond to help others.  
Amy Daniels

Kudos to Chris Smith (Engineering Technician in Transportation Planning) for his prompt help in obtaining a special state map for me. I contacted him at 11:30 this morning with a map request. At 2:30 I recontacted him and asked if there could be a rush placed on the order since I was leaving Topeka tomorrow morning. Chris followed up with printing and I picked up the map at 4:30.

Thanks!  
Dave Freise

I wanted to send out a compliment to the crew who handles the Junction City area. My family and I drive I-70 and similar roads going to school events and I must say that every place I drive, the JC area from say Chapman to Manhattan is always very clean. I rarely see any debris on the road and am very thankful for those guys who put, literally, the lives on the line to keep our roads clean and driveable. I just want to thank those individuals. Thank you so much.



## In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Clark Royer who passed away on Aug. 1 in Oskaloosa. He was an Equipment Operator Senior at the Subarea in Oskaloosa and worked for KDOT for more than 17 years. There will be a memorial service on Aug. 26 at 6 p.m. at the American Legion in Ozawkie.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Nancy Bogina who passed away on June 21 in Topeka. Bogina served as the Special Assistant to the Secretary and Director of the Division of Public Affairs. She retired in 2003.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Kenneth Herbel who passed away on July 28 in Salina. He worked for KDOT for 38 years on much of the original construction of I-70. He retired in 1994.

*Have an idea for a news brief or picture that could be featured in an upcoming edition of Translines Express?*

*Please e-mail your suggestions to [Kim.stich@ks.gov](mailto:Kim.stich@ks.gov)*

## General

### Available bridge:

According to an article on the Washington State Department of Transportation blog, the agency is looking for a new home for the 1925 State Route 167 Puyallup River Bridge.

After more than eight decades of service, WSDOT decommissioned the bridge in 2015. While in use, the historic bridge sported the longest (371 foot) riveted steel Warren-type through-truss span

built prior to 1940 on our highway system. While unique, it is similar to the "Turner Truss" patented in the 1920s. Unlike the standard Warren truss, this bridge has parabolic top chords (allowing for a longer span), alternating diagonal truss members, longitudinal braces between diagonals in alternating panels and vertical struts adjacent to the portals. Its subdivided panels and the addition of longitudinal members at mid-panel heights in five truss panels allow the bridge to achieve both strength and economy of steel.

The Puyallup River Bridge would be great addition to a city, county or state road, or even to a large facility looking for something historically significant and... well...long enough to carry 20 cars end to end. Interested?



***The Washington State DOT is looking for a new home for this bridge built in 1925.***

Now, there are a few boxes we'd need to check off if you're interested in taking this bridge home. You will be responsible for:

- Maintaining the bridge and the features that give it its historical significance and continued eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.
- Assuming all future legal and financial responsibility for the structure.

This offer to take ownership and relocate this bridge from our storage location is available until June 2019. Sorry, the bridge deck and substructure aren't included.

So act now to get your hands on this historic, well-behaved bridge that would get along fantastically with the rest of your bridges.

## Kansas Transportation

Monday, July 31 and Aug. 7

### Motoring Monday

The U.S. 36 Highway Association sponsors the annual U.S 36 Highway Treasure Hunt the third weekend of September. This year, it will be Sept. 15-17. This event gives people the opportunity to shop garage and antique sales along U.S. 36. It spans 400 miles across the northern part of Kansas through 13 counties, from Cheyenne County to Doniphan County. The event helps promote local businesses that are located along U.S. 36. More than 35 towns participate in this event. Click [here](#) to see a short video highlighting the sales and other things to see along



the route. The history of the event is rooted in the Pony Express, which occurred from 1860-1861, and still follows the original route from St. Joseph, Mo., to Marysville.

U.S. 36. is the only Kansas highway with four geological regions on its route.

To learn more about this statewide event, visit the official website for the [U.S. 36 Highway Association](#).

Maps of the sales locations in cities along

U.S. 36 will be available later this month on this website as well.

The Stauth Memorial Museum is located in Montezuma and features exhibitions on history, art, science and more.

The museum presents the personal travel excursions of Claude and Donalda Stauth

in the exhibition, Around the World. In addition, the museum also offers special exhibitions and galleries, highlighting different features from renowned sources, both national and international, in the natural world. From hunters and conservationists, to those curious about history or science, the museum offers something for everyone, because it is full of



information on natural wildlife and the world.

There are many exhibits at The Stauth Memorial Museum

The museum is open Tuesday-Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sundays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Visit [Stauth Memorial Museum](#) today for a more in-depth look at this acclaimed Kansas museum.

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