

Translines EXPRESS

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America's Transportation Awards

Two Kansas projects named regional winners: Two major KDOT projects that were completed in Overland Park and Lawrence last year were announced today as regional winners in the 2017 America's Transportation Awards competition.

KDOT's Johnson County Gateway Phase 2 project, the first and largest design-build transportation project completed in Kansas, tied for first in the "Operations

Excellence, large project" category. The K-10 South Lawrence Trafficway East Leg was selected the regional winner in the "Operations Excellence, medium project" category. Both projects will now be considered for inclusion as national finalists to compete for the Grand Prize and the People's Choice Award.

"These well-deserved awards are a testament to the excellence of Kansas highways," said Gov. Sam Brownback. "Our state highway system is one of the best in the nation, and Kansas will continue to see the benefits from these projects for years to come as they serve commuters and facilitate commerce in vital economic corridors for the state."

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Above, the South Lawrence Trafficway East Leg included construction of a new four-lane, six-mile freeway around the east side of Lawrence, connecting the existing K-10 with the new highway. At right, within the Johnson County Gateway project, there were 56 new lane miles added as well as 22 new and five rehabilitated bridges, including three new two-lane flyover bridge ramps and widened bridges on I-435 and I-35.



America's Transportation Awards

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Secretary Richard Carlson said, "I am proud of the hard work and dedication demonstrated by KDOT professionals to help make these projects successful. From the beginning of the planning process to a project's completion, our staff is committed to pursuing excellence every step of the way, and the Johnson County Gateway and South Lawrence Trafficway were no exceptions. These projects are great examples of KDOT's commitment to providing a highway system that meets the needs of Kansans."

The America's Transportation Awards competition is celebrating its 10th year and is sponsored by



The Johnson County Gateway project included reconstruction and capacity improvements within the I-435, I-35 and K-10 interchange area along with improvements at several major local interchanges.

the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, AAA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.



Construction work on the South Lawrence Trafficway East Leg included 24 bridges, 29.4 highway lane miles, 16.3 miles of local roads and three new interchanges.

Trivia!

Santa Fe Trail

1. What event in 1821 led to the opening of the Santa Fe Trail?
2. Which countries did the Santa Fe Trail pass through in 1821?
3. In what state is the longest part of the Santa Fe Trail located?
4. Why would travelers along various trails across

the country sometimes leave their furniture, dishes and belongings along the trail?

5. What Kansas town features several locations on the National Register of Historic Places that were gathering places, trading posts or other meeting places for people traveling along the trail?

6. What was the approximate length of the Oregon-California Trail?

District Three



A scenic view in Phillips County shows the recent completion of a mill and overlay project on K-383. The project started at the end of June on a 15-mile stretch from the Norton County line to the U.S. 183/K-383 junction. Venture Corp. of Great Bend was the contractor on the \$1.2 million project. Thomas Rhoads' road squad designed the project.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Mexico gained its independence from Spain.
2. The United States and Mexico.
3. Kansas.

4. To lighten the load. Heavy loads weakened the animals.
5. Council Grove
6. 2,000 miles.

Solar Eclipse

Eclipse webinar:

The National Operations Center of Excellence (NOCoE), a transportation operations organization, is coordinating resources for the August 21 total solar eclipse. The webinar at 1 p.m. on July 27, Solar Eclipse Planning and Preparation One Month Out, will highlight preparations underway from states in the path of totality. The webinar will also feature an update from StormCenter's

nationwide outreach campaign and discuss the travel volume estimates from the team at www.greatamericaneclipse.com.

Register for the webinar and then visit the NOCoE resource page to find out more about planning for the eclipse.

They also recommend you watch the first 2017 Total Solar Eclipse Webinar for an overview of total eclipse and its impact on traffic operations.

NOCoE is designed to offer a suite of resources to serve the transportation systems management and



operations (TSMO) community. The Center offers an array of technical services such as peer exchange workshops and webinars, ongoing assessments of best practices in the field and on-call assistance. The Center is a partnership of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), and the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITSA) with support from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Aviation

Additional Kansas airport improvements announced: An additional 10 airports will receive funding assistance in fiscal year 2018 to repair or improve facilities from the Kansas Airport Improvement Program (KAIP), according to KDOT. Twenty-six airports were awarded assistance earlier this year.

“Aviation is a large part of the state’s economy, and airports are significant economic engines for that activity,” said Transportation Secretary Richard Carlson. “By providing this financial assistance, we help continue to build a strong economic tradition of aviation in Kansas.”

KAIP receives \$5 million annually through the T-WORKS transportation program. KDOT’s

Division of Aviation, which manages the program, received 130 applications for projects totaling \$31.7 million.

“Aviation in Kansas accounts for \$20.6 billion in total economic activity,” said Aviation Director Merrill Atwater. “The General Aviation segment, which is everything except military and commercial air carriers, accounts for over \$9 billion of that total activity. We are proud to help keep Kansas aviation strong and assist these airports.”

KAIP requires airport sponsors to share the project costs by paying a minimum of 5 percent of the total project costs up to a maximum of 50 percent, depending on project category (of modernization, equipment, design and preservation).

District Six



In the photos at left and below, whether it's by truck or by rail, many items are being transported at the Garden City transload facility.

Growth with transload facility: With wind farms spreading across the plains states and Texas, suppliers and support industries are looking for better ways to serve the wind industry.



Recognizing the need for a centrally-located transportation hub that could meet the needs of the wind industry, Transportation Partners & Logistics (TP&L) began storing and transporting the 10 components needed by the wind farms from a 10-acre site in Garden City in 2011. Today, the Garden City TP&L site has grown to 640 acres and stores 8,000 components on the ground.

This growth has been due in part to \$4.5 million in funding that KDOT provided for the transload facility in Garden City. The funding included \$3 million from the State Rail Service Improvement Fund, which was used to build a rail siding into the facility, and \$1.5 million from the KDOT economic development fund that will be tapped for reconstruction of Farmland Road.

The facility employs approximately 100 people and handled more than 10,000 components during the first

half of 2016, said Jim Orr, President of TP&L. Because most components are oversized, they are transported one per truck and require two pilot cars per truck. During the first half of 2016, more than 8,000 truckloads were shipped out of the Garden City facility.

The transload facility has had a tremendous impact on Garden City and Finney County, said District Six Office Coordinator Richard Coghill. Since 2014, the KDOT District Six office had processed more than 12,500 large structure permits primarily because of the wind energy components and the transload facility. That's nearly double the oversized permits of any other KDOT District (except District Five) during the same time. In addition, the truck drivers and pilot car drivers purchase fuel, eat and stay in local hotels while transporting components giving the local economy a boost in revenue.



An aerial view of the 640-acre Transportation Partners & Logistics site.

Kansas Transportation

#IAMKDOT



This month's #IAMKDOT feature is Jason Dlugopolski who is an Equipment Operator Specialist in the Kansas City Metro Area. Dlugopolski began his career with KDOT in October 1999, as an Equipment Operator Trainee at the Lamar Subarea and has worked his way up to his current position in the agency.

"I was lucky to fall into a shop that I have really enjoyed working at through all these years," Dlugopolski said.

When he is not working at KDOT, Dlugopolski is a part time instructor at Johnson County Community College where he teaches students how to receive their CDL. He is a husband, foster parent, father, brother and son, as well as a Knight of Columbus.

#IAMKDOT is an illustration project that recognizes KDOT employees who work hard to keep Kansans moving. This series also serves as a reminder for travelers to slow down and remember that underneath those neon vests are individuals with families, friends and hobbies waiting for them at home.

Do you know a KDOT worker that deserves recognition? Email Mallory.Goeke@KS.gov today to get started.

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

TSMO Webinar

TSMO webinar: ITS Heartland, a five-state consortium of state DOTs and other Intelligent Transportation Systems partners, is offering its second Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) webinar on July 27 from noon to 1 p.m. This month's title is TSMO to Improve Safety – Laying a Foundation. The webinar will feature low cost improvements with increased access to static and real-time data including weather, crash data, volumes, peak hour, etc. that can bring about tremendous safety benefits for the

costs. The webinar will focus on various operational strategies to improve the safety of our transportation network and supporting data. During the last portion of the webinar, guest presenter David Millar will provide real world examples of using TSMO strategies in Colorado to improve the safety of I-70. Register Now: Go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1945846792935041538> to save your spot in the Webinar. A VoIP option and call-in option will be provided when you login to the webinar.



A two-year project to reconstruct two bridges over Dagoon Creek and remove two bridges crossing an abandoned railroad track in Osage County is underway about 20 miles south of Topeka. The northbound bridge was reconstructed in 2016 and work on the remaining bridges will occur in 2017.

General

New way to repair: According to an article in Better Roads, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) has used carbon fiber strips coated with reinforced polymer to fix girders on two Interstate 17 bridges in Phoenix that have been struck by vehicles that exceeded height restrictions.

This is the first time the agency has used the Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP) strips for repairs. The material wraps the girders, compared to other options that include injecting epoxy to rebuild portions of the steel-reinforced concrete structures, ADOT says.

The work, finished in May, was on the I-17 bridge over 19th Avenue and the Jefferson Street bridge of I-17.

“Our ADOT Bridge Group focuses on using new and innovative bridge-repair technologies that enhance safety while saving time and taxpayer dollars,” says ADOT Senior Bridge Engineer William Downes. “The reinforced fiber strips add strength to the girders and are designed to limit the amount of debris that could fall should a girder be struck again.” Tuscon-based QuakeWrap developed the process,



Carbon fiber strips were used to fix girders on two bridges in Arizona.

and FNF Construction of Tempe, and FRP Construction of Tucson, were the contractors.

“We think the carbon-fiber repairs are effective, can extend the lifespan of structures and can be done in much less time than other repair methods,” says ADOT State Bridge Engineer David Eberhart. “We’re likely to use it again if and when repairs are needed.”

Motoring Monday

Motoring Monday highlights: Since 1955, Russell Springs has featured an annual cow chip throwing competition. Competitors from around the state gather to take part in the contest, which includes men's, women's and junior's classes as well as politicians and VIP classes. The event is part of the community's Old Settlers' Day celebration that also includes a parade and a junior rodeo. The Cow Chip Throwing Contest happens annually on Labor Day Weekend.



*Above, cow chip throwing;
at left, the Old Mill Museum.
Photos provided.*



The Old Mill Museum Complex and Wild Dala Horses are located along The Prairie Trail Scenic Byway in Lindsborg. The Old Mill Museum offers the opportunity to experience a roller mill in its original condition from the early 20th century. The Mill is open all year, Monday-Saturday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For more information on the Mill, visit [The Old Mill Museum](#).

Lindsborg's historical downtown is decorated with Wild Dala horses. They are dubbed one of the "8 Wonders of Kansas Customs" and created by local artists with inspiration by the traditional Dala shape. The horses are creatively named, such as, Hello Dala! And Fala the Dala Brick Road. To see what people are saying about this popular



Wild Dala horses can be seen in Lindsborg. Photo by Jim Richardson

Kansas attraction, visit [Wild Dala Horse Herd, Lindsborg](#).