

Translines EXPRESS

Dec. 6, 2018

Weather

At right, white-out conditions motorists and KDOT employees faced on U.S. 24 in western Shawnee County on Nov. 25. Below, a view from KanDrive around noon on I-70 at Hays showed KDOT trucks working together to clear the Interstate. Numerous highways were closed throughout the northern half of the state. The wind caused snow drifts up to four feet high in Belleville and gusts up to 68 mph in Concordia (reported by weather.com).



These photos above and at right were taken by David Casper, Highway Maintenance Supervisor in Concordia, and show views from the motorgrader during and after the storm.



More photos, a story and notes from the public involving storm efforts are in this edition.



Weather

Outstanding efforts: A major storm hit most of Kansas on Nov. 25, and the hard work of KDOT employees across the state to clear the highways did not go unnoticed. Two examples of these efforts include employees from District Two.

For Clyde Thrush, Highway Maintenance Supervisor in Minneapolis, snow removal is just part of the job. But that day, it meant helping a critically ill patient get urgent medical care.

Jim Frye, KDOT Field Maintenance Manager, was contacted by Concordia Hospital - they had an patient who needed to get to Salina Regional Hospital as quickly as possible. They asked for a snow plow to lead the way down U.S. 81. Frye contacted Thrush, who was at the U.S. 81/U.S. 24 junction at the time, he and was more than happy to assist.

"We do what we can here at KDOT to help the public," Thrush said.

According to a thank you note written by Brandon Bennett of Concordia Fire Department, he said Thrush went above and beyond the call of duty that day.

"While en route, we got a call from dispatch that there was a snow plow truck trying to catch up to us to lay salt in our path," Bennett said. "Mind you, Highway 81 this evening was a sheet of ice, and we were barely able to maintain 25 mph without our ambulance starting to slide.

"So eventually the snow plow caught up to us about 15 miles south of Concordia and we fell in behind him as he laid salt. This plow driver stayed in front of us all the way to Salina. Not only that, but he even got off the freeway and ensured our path was clear on the side streets up until we pulled into the hospital with our patient."



Highway Maintenance Supervisor Clyde Thrush 'paved' the way for an ambulance to transport a patient from Concordia to Salina during the blizzard.

For Cody Deneault, Equipment Operator in Belleville, helping the public meant getting out to help a person whose vehicle was stuck in a snow drift. According to an email sent to KDOT, Deneault pulled over to assist the motorist to dig underneath the car and then helped to push the car out of the snow drift.

A special thanks to all the KDOT employees who worked around the clock to clear the highways.

Below are comments made on the District Two Facebook page about their efforts.

♦Great work! You and your crews are appreciated!!

♦Thank you for your many extra hours and time away from family on a holiday weekend.

♦Thank you for looking out for us and helping to keep us safe!

♦A special THANK YOU from the facility that sent the

resident!!! We appreciate you, Clyde, very much!!!!

♦Thank you so much for going way beyond the call of duty to help other people.

♦Awesome! Thank you for your good heart and your hard work!

♦Great job Cody...thank you!



At left, Cody Deneault, Equipment Operator in Belleville, assisted a stranded motorist during the storm.

Kudos

Below are just a few of the nice comments received on the efforts of KDOT employees in regards to the Nov. 25 blizzard.

♦Dear KDOT employees - Thank you for all the hard work this weekend with the snow storm. As I drove to Salina yesterday I kept knowing the great interstate conditions were b/c of your hard work. Many thanks!

♦Thanks for all your hard work today KDOT

♦Thanks to all the crews working a holiday weekend. Getting I-70 open from Hays west. Made it safely back to Denver from a weekend with family.

♦Thanks to all of you who have to work in these conditions to keep us safe!

♦Thank you for making our roads as safe as possible. God Bless you!

♦GREAT job to all at KDOT for the clean up from Sunday! Thank you ALL for a job well done! Hope all are safe and rested.

♦Thanks for doing a great job in the Blizzard of 2018 –

♦Thank you for keeping us up to date and safe!

♦Thank you KDOT. I appreciate your service.

♦Thank you to everyone working on the roads and the officers and EMS and Fire

♦Thank you Kdot we all appreciate what u do !

♦Thank you to all of you working in this storm.

♦We got stuck on US-36 about 5 miles east of Cuba today. We were digging and rocking and screwing around for about a half hour when Cody in Truck No. 3020 stopped, dug out underneath our car, spread sand under our wheels, and helped me push the car out of the snow drift. He was so pleasant and helpful when, in fact, we should not have been on the road. A special thanks to Cody for his terrific public service.

Editor's note: the KDOT employee is Cody Deneault, Equipment Operator in Belleville.

♦Dear KDOT,

I would just like to let you know about one of your employees going above and beyond the call of duty today. I am a member of the Concordia Fire Department. This evening, we had to transport a critically ill patient to Salina regional health center. While en route, we got a call from dispatch that there was a snow plow truck trying to catch up to us to lay salt in our path. Mind you, Highway 81 this evening was a sheet of ice, we were barely able to maintain 25 MPH without our ambulance starting to slide.

So eventually the snow plow caught up to us about 15 miles south of Concordia and we fell in behind him as he layed salt. This plow driver stayed in front of us all the way to Salina. Not only that, but he even got off the freeway and ensured our path was clear on the side streets up until we pulled into the Hospital with our patient. I don't know who he is, but this person went out of his way to help get an ill patient to advanced care when he didn't have to.

I hope there is some way you can track down his identity and ensure that he is recognized, he surely deserves it.

Sincerely,
Brandon Bennett
Firefighter/AEMT
Concordia Fire
Department

Editor's note: the KDOT employee is Clyde Thrush, Supervisor in Minneapolis.



As seen here along I-70 in District Three, white-out conditions were all too common for motorists across Kansas on Nov. 25

Trivia!

Kansas National Forest/ From the Kansas Historical Society

1. Who signed an executive order designating 80,000 acres as a national forest? What year was the order signed?
2. What was it called, and where was it located?
3. Why was the forest created?
4. About 250,000 trees were planted in the first two years. What happened the following year?
5. What killed about 90 percent of the living trees in 1911?
6. What president abolished the forest?

District One

Gov. Jeff Colyer and Johnson County Chairman Ed Eilert announce the newest widening project along one of Kansas' freight corridors Nov. 20 at the Area Two Lamar Subarea. Gov. Colyer announced I-35 will be widened at 75th Street in Johnson County to relieve one of the most congested locations in the state as part of a project using federal freight funds to improve freight flow into and out of the Kansas City area. The area is a Tier 1 (most critical) freight bottleneck, with more than 13,000 trucks and 150,000 vehicles using that section daily. The \$15 million project is set to start construction in spring 2020.



Retirees

The following employees will retire in January.

Headquarters

David Nagy,
Professional Engineer II,
Engineering & Design

District One

Gary Cole, Equipment
Operator Specialist,
Leavenworth

District Five

Jon Turkle, Equipment
Operator, Wichita

District Six

Ronald Munyan Sr.,
Highway Maintenance
Superintendent,
Syracuse

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. President Theodore Roosevelt, in 1905.
2. The Garden City Forest Reserve. It was south of the Arkansas River and southwest of Garden City.
3. It was an experimental effort to determine which species of trees adapted best to the southwest climate.
4. In 1908, the forest was expanded to include 302,387 acres and was renamed the Kansas National Forest. It included Finney, Kearney, Hamilton, Grant and Haskell counties.
5. A harsh drought. Some of the trees were replanted but the uncertainty of precipitation and hot summers spelled doom for the forest.
6. President Woodrow Wilson in 1915. The national forest was added to federal land that was available to homesteaders.

In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of retiree Patricia "Pat" Barnett who passed away on Nov. 8 in Olathe. She was an Administrative Assistant at the District One Olathe office. Barnett worked for KDOT for nearly 30 years, retiring from the agency in 2005.

Condolences to friends and family of retiree Donald DeForest who passed away on Nov. 28 in Topeka. He had 39 years of state services and retired as an Engineering Technician.

National Award



Asphalt projects completed on portions of U.S. 160 (left), U.S. 50 (bottom left) and U.S. 69 (below) received recognition from the National Asphalt Pavement Association.



National honors: APAC Shears of Hutchinson has received three awards from the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) for projects in Kansas. The APAC Hays Branch was awarded the Larry H. Lemon Quality in Construction Award for a mill and overlay project on U.S. 160 in Meade and Clark counties. The award recognizes asphalt pavements that use less than 50,000 tons of asphalt in the project. The APAC Heavy Highway Branch of Hutchinson

received two awards - one for U.S. 50 in Harvey County in the category of projects with 50,000 tons or less asphalt, and one for U.S. 69 in Linn County in the category of projects of 50,000 tons or more asphalt. "A Kansas asphalt contractor achieving this award is testimony of the high-quality work performed by our producer members," said Dan Scherschligt, Executive Director of the Kansas Asphalt Pavement Association.

Kudos

On behalf of the National Geodetic Survey, I would like to thank you and your crews, for an outstanding effort during the recent GPS on Bench Marks campaign, which ended in September.

Your group (KDOT) ranked 5th overall, with OPUS Share submissions. KDOT had an 83% success rate of completion, for the Bench Marks we suggested be observed. That is well above average inside the U.S. KDOT accomplished this with a relatively small group compared to other States.

Your group's hard work will be reflected, when GEOID18 is released sometime in mid 2019. Kansas

will see more consistent and accurate heights, when using GPS for surveys.

The entire State of Kansas will benefit from KDOT Field Crew's exceptional work.

I will be passing this information on to other groups in State, who should be aware of the great work KDOT accomplished. My region, AR, KS, MO and TN supported the GPS on BMs campaign very well. I am proud to work with such fine folks and look forward to future efforts.

Brian Ward, NOAA / National Geodetic Survey
Central Plains Regional Advisor, Little Rock, AR

Wichita/Green Project

At right: KDOT Road Design Leader Thomas Rhoads, center, explains the impacts of the upcoming I-235 Green Project to residents and business owners at a recent public meeting in Wichita. The Green Project improvements on I-235/K-96 will add auxiliary lanes, replace six bridges and improve the geometrics at the N. Broadway interchange. It is the first of three projects that will address the bottlenecks at the North Junction where I-135, I-235, K-96 and K-254 converge. Below, Gov. Jeff Colyer and Secretary Richard Carlson visited Wichita on Nov. 20 to announce the project. Joining them at the podium were Sedgwick County Commissioner David Dennis and Wichita City Councilman Bryan Frye. The city and county are partnering with KDOT by acquiring right-of-way needed for the second North Junction project (the Gold Project).



Scenic

This photo by Neil Croxton shows the K-66 bridge over the Spring River at Riverton.

Kansas Transportation

Tuesday, Nov. 27

U.S. 24 in Graham County reopens after flood damage

Less than six months after sustaining significant flood damage, a portion of U.S. 24 in Graham County has been reopened to traffic.

Memorial Day flash floods caused damage to a box bridge structure and adjacent roadway, prompting the closure. Crews from the KDOT's Hill City and Stockton Subareas stabilized the area to reopen it to one-lane traffic. KDOT's bridge inspection staff then began assessing the scope of the damage. The road was partially reopened in mid-June and plans were already underway by KDOT design staff for a complete bridge replacement project.

Work on the bridge replacement began at the end of July. The contractor was able to immediately mobilize following the contract agreement and finished work two weeks earlier than the required completion date. Hays Area Construction Engineer Nick Rogers said safety and weather concerns played a role in expediting the project. "We had some safety concerns with the possibility of having one-lane traffic through the area, especially during the winter months," Rogers said. "Also, the chance additional precipitation events could have caused further damage, so we wanted to get a plan in place and repairs underway as soon as possible." Even though the road was closed during the busy summer travel and harvest season, Rogers said the locals were understanding of the situation. "The county and local residents were really supportive and understanding that this was an entirely unanticipated situation," Rogers said. "We really appreciated their patience."

Numerous Areas and Subareas in District Three as well as Headquarters staff worked together on this effort.

King Construction Company was the primary contractor for the project with a total contract cost of approximately \$559,000.



Top photo: Earlier this year a portion of U.S. 24 in Graham County was damaged by flooding. Above: Crews work to repair the bridge. Below: The bridge on U.S. 24 in Graham County is now open to traffic.



District Five

This photo by KDOT's A.J. Wilson shows the West Madison Avenue bridge on U.S. 166 before construction began.



Bridge work begins: Work has started to replace the West Madison Avenue bridge on U.S. 166 over the Arkansas River in Arkansas City. The bridge closed to traffic Dec. 3 and is expected to be out of commission for about 18 months. The project is five miles east of the Cowley/Sumner county line. The \$6,368,390 project has a 250 working-day schedule. KDOT awarded the project to A.M. Cohron & Son Inc. of Atlantic, Iowa, which also has an office in Emporia. Area Engineer AJ Wilson said the contractor will remove the bridge deck concrete from one side to the

other and try to reuse as much material as possible on other areas of the project. The contractor will do the same with the steel but take it to be recycled. "This process won't be as instant as an implosion but will leave less of a mess," Wilson said. Steven Bass' road squad and Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project.

District One

Below, Secretary Richard Carlson and Communications Director Laurie Arellano pause for a photo with Smokey Bear in Perry Nov. 20 during an official stop of the National Christmas Tree on its route from Oregon to Washington, D.C. The U.S. Forest Service coordinates the transport of the tree from where it is cut to its new home at the U.S. Capitol. This year's tree followed portions of the Oregon Trail, which roughly follows U.S. 75 and U.S. 24 through District One.



The People's Tree is transported inside a clear trailer already decorated for interested citizens to view (as seen above) and with banners for the public to sign as it makes its way across the country.

District Two



A large crane used in the new wind farm construction north of Durham was moved across K-15 about 5.5 miles north of Durham on Nov. 22. KDOT assisted the contractor, RES, to get a permit to close K-15 from midnight to 4 a.m. while they put three feet of sand over the road and laid crane mats on top of the sand. This allowed the crane to cross the road at a half-mile per hour. The crane weighed 900,000 pounds with a lifting ability of 800 tons.

KTA



KTA briefs:

♦Travelers will see fewer orange cones along the Kansas Turnpike with several projects being recently completed, with four more scheduled to be completed before the end of the year, weather permitting. Learn which projects have been completed in KTA's recent news release [here](#).

♦KTA and Kansas Highway Patrol want to remind travelers to buckle up this holiday season in their latest video together (a clip from the video is at left) - watch it [here](#).

KDOT Employee Council Holiday Ornament Order Form

2018



Great Gift Ideas!

Year	Quantity	Cost	Total
2018		\$5.00	
2017		\$3.00	
2016		\$3.00	
2015		\$3.00	
2013		\$3.00	
Total enclosed			

Please Print -

Name: _____

Address: _____

(Retirees only - home address)

Work phone: _____

How to Order:

Headquarters: Contact your Council Rep.

Districts/Retirees:

Mail form to -

Ruby Hilton,
ESOB - 13th Floor,
700 SW Harrison,
Topeka, KS 66603

Make checks payable to KDOT Employee Council

For more details, call Ruby at (785) 291-3980

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2017



2016



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