

Performance Engineered Mixtures Program



KDOT Bureau of Research employees demonstrate different tests conducted on concrete at the FHWA mobile concrete trailer at an event at KDOT's Research Lab on Aug. 8. Photo by Kim Stich, Headquarters

By Kim Stich, Headquarters

KDOT is participating in the Performance Engineered Mixtures (PEM) Program to help states to specify, and contractors deliver, durable concrete pavements that will improve the quality and life of highways.

Dave Meggers, Chief of the Bureau of Research, said PEM is important because KDOT is always working to improve the quality of concrete.

"We already do a lot of the things that the PEM does," Meggers said. "But what we're really after is - is there a better way to do what we do now? Is there a more consistent and faster way to get the information we need to ensure that we have a good quality, 50-year pavement, so we can evaluate the concrete quicker, easier and be more consistent? It's another step in the right direction."

(Continued on next page)

KDOT Safety Committee

Think safety: KDOT has a new Statewide Safety Committee made up of various field and Headquarters employees to help implement safety enhancements or make changes to existing processes.

"We never like to implement change without input from the KDOT staff," said Catherine Patrick, Special Assistant to the Secretary. "Some of our best ideas come from our own folks."

The committee's goal is to grow the safety culture throughout the agency. "Our ultimate statewide goal is for zero fatalities, zero injuries, zero lost time incidents, and zero vehicular accidents, even one of these happening to



Safety Committee members are, from left to right, Kyle Halverson, Headquarters; Catherine Patrick, Headquarters; Kevin Zimmer, District Three; Tammi Clark, Headquarters; Mark Johnson, Headquarters; Chris Collins, District Five; Rory Tillett, District Two; Clyde Thrush, District Two; Levi Miller, District One; Tim Nichols, District Six; Marc Holloway, District Five; and Tim Trammel, District Four. Photo by Ashley Tammen, District Two

our employees is one too many," Patrick said.

One of the committee's first tasks was to select the top 10 safety slogans that were submitted earlier this summer. Then the top 10 were presented to the Executive Staff to select the winner. See an article in this edition on the winning slogan.

Trivia!

50th anniversary of Woodstock

1. When did the original Woodstock musical festival take place?
2. Where did it take place?
3. About how many people attended?
4. Who performed the Star-Spangled Banner at the event?
5. What musical group split up right before the event and didn't play?
6. What band played its set standing in ankle-deep water, which caused frequent electrical shocks when they touched the metal guitar strings or the microphone stand?

PEM program

(Continued from front page)

Meggers said one of the biggest problems KDOT faces in concrete is the freeze/thaw damage that occurs around joints due to poor air void systems in the concrete.

"The equipment we've got to test that is old, sometimes it would be a week or more in between test results because it was so difficult to run," Meggers said. "If we can use a Super Air Meter (SAM) on the spot, that puts us way ahead. We can test it more often and we'll know we have good pavement as we go along. We and the contractor will have a much more consistent control of the mix."

The PEM program is part of a pooled fund initiative that numerous states are participating in, including Kansas. The National Concrete Pavement Technology Center team and the FHWA mobile concrete trailer are traveling to highway concrete projects in numerous states gathering data. Then this data is being collected at Iowa State University so that it is then available to help participants find new ways to improve concrete pavements across the country.

One of the projects involved in the PEM project is the I-70 reconstruction effort currently underway on I-70 in Gove County. The nine-mile project extends from one mile west of the K-23 spur near Grainfield to four miles east of K-211. Median crossovers were built last year, the existing pavement was removed and full-depth reclamation took place this spring and concrete paving work began in July.

Rob Percival, District Three Construction and Materials Engineer, said the PEM team visited the project for 10 days during part of the paving efforts and conducted various tests.

"It's been going well. They've demonstrated some new



The National Concrete Pavement Technology Center team members demonstrate non-destructive thickness determination of concrete pavement on I-70 in Gove County. Instead of cutting a pavement core to determine thickness, a pad is placed on the base or subgrade. After the concrete pavement is placed, the pad is relocated and the pavement thickness is determined by rolling the instrument on the new pavement above where the pad was placed. Photo by Rob Percival, District Three

technologies and testing methods that we weren't aware of or weren't using," Percival said. "Then they also did some test methods that we were already doing, so that gave us the ability to share data between each other."

Meggers said KDOT and the Bureau of Research will continue to evaluate processes and products in-house as well as through national research efforts. "Our goal is to bring a longer lasting, more economical pavement to the traveling public," he said.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Aug. 15-18, 1969.
2. In an alfalfa field near Bethel, New York.
3. Nearly 500,000 people.
4. Jimi Hendrix
5. The Jeff Beck Group, with Rod Stewart and Ronnie Wood.
6. The Grateful Dead.

Safety slogan contest winner

By Lisa Knoll, District Six

KDOT slogan selected: KDOT's safety slogan contest had an overwhelming response as 326 entries were received. With the help of the newly-formed Statewide Safety Committee and the Executive Staff, the slogan by Bonnie Hirsh, Administrative Specialist in Dodge City, "Safety first – for your family and mine," has been chosen as KDOT's new safety slogan.

According to Catherine Patrick, Special Assistant to the Secretary, "Having a slogan is important. It reminds us to be safe every day in all that we do. It only seemed natural to open it up to employees to help find a slogan that was uniquely KDOT."

In June, KDOT announced its safety slogan contest, and all employees were encouraged to participate. The safety committee, consisting of employees from all six Districts, reviewed the submissions and narrowed them down to 10 slogans. Those 10 slogans were forwarded to the Executive Staff for final selection.



Bonnie Hirsh, from the KDOT Area office in Dodge City, created the new winning safety slogan for KDOT. Photo by Lisa Knoll, District Six

**"Safety first –
for your family
and mine."**

Bonnie Hirsh

"I'm thrilled with our increasing focus on safety," said Secretary Julie Lorenz. "This speaks volumes to me about watching out for each other – both for our KDOT family and for our families at home. Safety isn't just a slogan – it's a full-time, all-the-time responsibility."

Like most KDOT employees, Hirsh considers her co-workers family. When asked about her slogan and her KDOT family, Hirsh said, "These guys are all like my brothers. We're all family, so it has special meaning to me."

As the contest winner, Hirsh earned eight hours of paid time off.

Construction at Eureka



Construction is underway on the new office of the KDOT Subarea in Eureka. An EF-3 tornado touched down in Eureka in late June 2018. The existing office, left, and other subarea buildings received extensive damage. Photo by Jeff Marks, District Four

Kansas Local Bridge Improvement Program

By Jeanny Sharp, Headquarters

KDOT bridge program reinstated:

KDOT has reinstated the Kansas Local Bridge Improvement Program, a \$5 million state-funded program that helps cities and counties by providing up to \$150,000 toward the replacement or rehabilitation of a bridge on the local roadway system.

Secretary Julie Lorenz announced the program on Aug. 7 in Butler County joined by leaders from the Kansas Association of Counties, the Kansas County Highway Association and the Kansas Contractors Association.

“Kansas’ local road system is critical for getting people and goods where they need to go,” said Gov. Laura Kelly. “I’m pleased to see state and local government working together and combining resources to replace aging infrastructure - creating healthier communities and economies.”



Secretary Julie Lorenz spoke about the benefits of the Kansas Local Bridge Improvement Program to cities and counties at the event announcing the reinstatement of the program. Photo by Support Services



These two photos show the before and after of a bridge in Butler County that was improved during the program in 2014. Photos submitted by the Butler County Engineer’s office



Funding for the program is part of the \$216 million in sales tax authorized by Gov. Kelly to remain in the state highway fund in fiscal year 2020.

“This was a popular program when it was offered in 2014 and I’m very happy that we’re able to bring it back,” said Secretary Lorenz. “Reinstating the Kansas Local Bridge Improvement Program was one of the top recommendations coming out of last year’s Joint Legislative Vision Task Force and is a great way for us to work together with cities and counties to address needed improvements.”

Applications will be accepted through mid-September. More details on the program are posted on KDOT’s website, www.ksdot.org.

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day contests

Students, schools can win prizes:

Kansas students can win great prizes and learn about traffic safety by participating in the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day poster and video contests.

In addition, the school, class or booster club of the grand prize-winning students will receive prizes.

Poster contest: For Kansas students ages 5 to 13 - three statewide winners will each receive:

- ♦Kindle Fire Tablet and case from the KTA;
- ♦\$50 Amazon gift card from the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas;
- ♦Movie passes from AAA Kansas; and
- ♦\$200 for the school, class or the booster club.

A total of 18 regional winners will receive a bicycle from the KTA and a helmet from Safe Kids Kansas. Poster entries must be postmarked by Friday, Sept. 20.

Video contest: For Kansas teens in grades 8-12.



PUT THE BRAKES ON FATALITIES DAY

2019 **Poster Contest**
& **Video Contest**

ENTER NOW!

More information on both contests is available [here](#).

Prizes from the KTA include an iPad, a Go Pro and a DJI Osmo Pocket, and the grand prize winner's school, class or booster club will receive \$500. Video entries must be posted by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 29.

Touch a truck

Kids and adults alike had the opportunity to climb into the cab of a KDOT dump truck and learn about the controls during an Aug. 2 Touch a Truck event at Louisburg. Equipment Operator Dean Wagner and Subarea Supervisor Al Loveall gave tours of the truck, while Debbie Loveall distributed coloring books, maps and key chains. Photo by Al Loveall, District Four



Kudos

Email sent to Headquarters - I know that you are accustomed to receiving complaints from Kansas drivers on the condition of our roadways. This is not one of them. I would like to commend KDOT for the speed and quality of the road repairs on I-35 in Johnson County. I drive from 87th to Gardner twice a day for work, and the winter played havoc on I-35. The way that you have repaired the roadway without interrupting rush hour traffic is welcomed and has been so quick.

Thank you for reducing interruptions and providing

such high quality repairs. Of course I will be looking forward to the conclusion of the work around 151st Street and I-35! Thank you for such great work!

Phone call at Headquarters - A caller said he wanted to thank the KDOT workers who were painting lines on K-10 at Evening Star Road about noon on Aug. 10. He had a flat tire on his pickup truck that was pulling a trailer, and they stopped and helped him. He said he didn't have the right jack, but those guys jumped in and saved his day. He is really grateful and would like to let them know how appreciative he is.

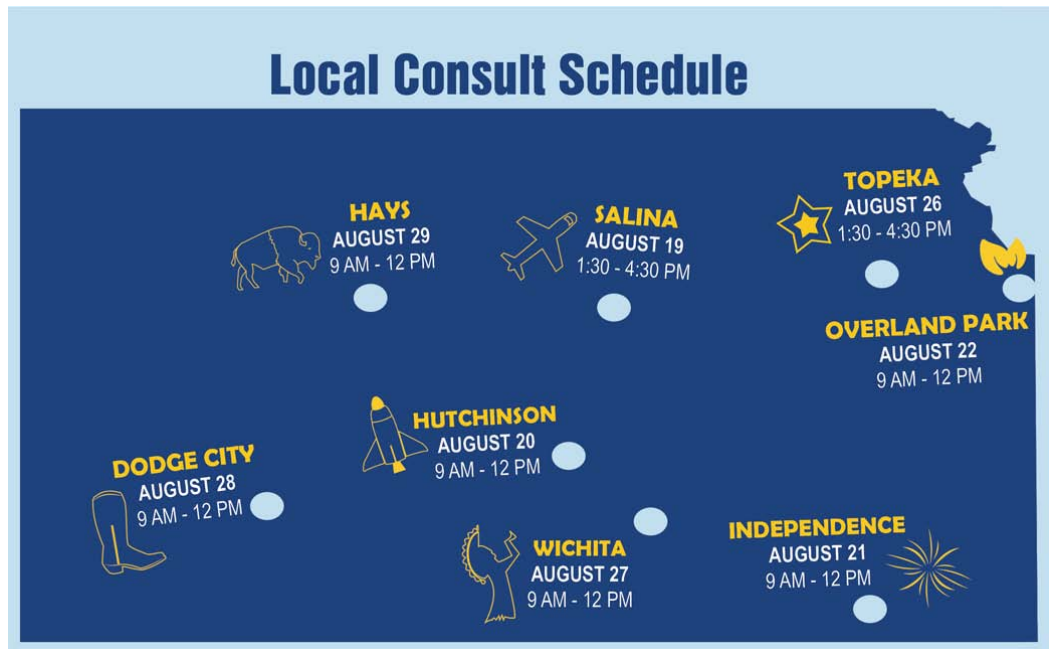
Local Consult meetings

Meetings begin next week:

The series of eight Local Consult meetings taking place across the state will begin next week.

"These meetings are an important opportunity for stakeholders to set the vision for the future of transportation in Kansas," said Secretary of Transportation Julie Lorenz. "This is a transformational time in transportation, and we need you to help chart our success into the future."

Please encourage citizens across the state to attend the Local Consult meeting in their region.



Local Consult Meeting Dates/ Locations

Monday, Aug. 19

◆ **SALINA** ◆

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Kansas Highway Patrol Academy
2025 East Iron

Tuesday, Aug. 20

◆ **HUTCHINSON** ◆

9 a.m. – Noon

Atrium Hotel & Conference Center
1400 North Lorraine St.

Wednesday, Aug. 21

◆ **INDEPENDENCE** ◆

9 a.m. – Noon

Independence Civic Center
410 N. Penn Ave.

Thursday, Aug. 22

◆ **OVERLAND PARK** ◆

9 a.m. – Noon

Matt Ross Community Center
8101 Marty Street

Monday, Aug. 26

◆ **TOPEKA** ◆

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Capital Plaza
1717 SW Topeka Blvd

Tuesday, Aug. 27

◆ **WICHITA** ◆

9 a.m. – Noon

Eugene Hughes Metroplex
5015 East 29th Street N

Wednesday, Aug. 28

◆ **DODGE CITY** ◆

9 a.m. – Noon

Dodge House Convention Center
2409 W. Wyatt Earp Blvd.

Thursday, Aug. 29

◆ **HAYS** ◆

9 a.m. – Noon

Fort Hays State Memorial Union
700 College Drive

Flooding in District Four



Above, KDOT crews from the Ottawa Subarea assisted with traffic control at the flooded intersection of K-68 and Main in early August. The intersection was closed for several days. The high water also damaged local businesses and homes in the area. At left, since late May, frequent storms have resulted in flooding and closures on numerous highways in southeast Kansas. Photos by Priscilla Petersen and Donna Schmit, District Four.



At right, in eastern Montgomery County, Bo Seller, Nicole Short and Clint Frederiksen (in motor grader) of the Independence Subarea placed sand on the shoulders of U.S. 160 at the Big Hill Creek drainage bridge during a dark and rainy Aug. 8. Accumulated drift at the bridge contributed to the flooding, and has been cleared.



KTA projects

KTA brief -

- ♦ The KTA has announced two bids approved and contracts awarded on two upcoming projects. One project will paint six bridges to protect the structural steel in Sumner County and the second includes various improvements near the Emporia service area. Learn more about these projects in the latest [news release](#).

In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of retiree Forrest Cowell of Topeka, who passed away on Aug. 4. Cowell worked for KDOT for 40 years. He retired from Road Design in 1988.

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

Kansas Transportation

Monday, Aug. 12

Motoring Mondays: Wellington glass museum is colorful, nostalgic

By Tim Potter, District Five

At the NDGA National Glass Museum in Wellington, visitors can witness more than every color and shape in antique/vintage glassware.

You might hear someone say something like, “My grandmother had those same drinking glasses!” When visitors see the old glass, it brings back memories, says Pam Meyer, president of the National Depression Glass Association (NDGA) and spokeswoman for the Wellington museum.

“It makes you smile” to hear visitors get nostalgic, Meyer says.

The museum -- at 117 S. Washington, in the heart of Wellington -- is accessible from I-35 and U.S. 160. And it’s free, although donations are accepted.

What can you see? Not only Depression glass from the 1930s but also glassware from the late 1800s and early 1900s to midcentury modern. The collection includes machine-made and hands-on glass. There’s an etched goblet that passed through 75 hands as it was produced. It’s all American-made.

There’s plenty of kitchenware. You can also check out molds and tools used to make glass. And there are antique fruit jars and glass insulators.

Museum hours:
 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Thursdays and
 Fridays and 10 a.m.
 to 2 p.m. Saturdays
 and by appointment.
 If visitors reach the
 museum outside
 those hours, they can
 call a number listed
 on the museum door,
 at a reasonable hour.

At right, a display of Depression-era fishbowls. At far right, a display of glass insulators.



The NDGA National Glass Museum in Wellington features American-made glassware from the late 1800s through mid-century modern. Photos courtesy of NDGA National Glass Museum.



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

Bridge dedication

By Tim Potter, District Five

Bridge dedication: A ceremony dedicating the Sgt. Kevin A. Gilbertson Memorial Bridge took place Aug. 3 on the southeast corner of the South Summit river bridge on U.S. 77 in Arkansas City -- honoring a U.S. Army soldier who died in the Iraq War.

KDOT will be placing northbound and southbound signs with Sgt. Gilbertson's name near the bridge.

Sgt. Gilbertson died in 2007 from wounds sustained during combat in Ramadi, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany. He was 24. His survivors included a wife, infant son and stepson.

Although Sgt. Gilbertson's hometown was Cedar Rapids, Iowa, his mother and step-father live in Kansas and travel near the bridge being named after him.

His mother, Keeley Frank, said of her son: "He was



Keeley Frank with one of the bridge signs with her son's name. The bridge is on the south side of Arkansas City. Sgt. Gilbertson died from wounds sustained in Iraq in 2007. Photo courtesy of Harlin Mitchell, District Five

awesome. He was a leader."

He joined the Army right out of high school and enlisted for another six years of service before he was fatally wounded during his second tour in Iraq, his mother noted. "He's our hero," she said.

Don't drink and drive

Kansas law enforcement warns - don't drink and drive: More than 150 law enforcement agencies from across the state will join forces in a concentrated effort detecting and removing impaired drivers beginning Aug. 14 and through the Labor Day weekend.

This year's campaign includes a No Refusal Weekend, Aug. 16-17, when all suspected impaired drivers who refuse breath testing may be subject to blood testing for alcohol and/or drugs.

"My hope is there are no impaired driving crashes or fatalities in the state of Kansas," said Kansas Highway Patrol Superintendent Herman Jones. "Make the right decision, don't get behind the wheel impaired. The impaired driver makes the choice to endanger themselves and everyone else on the road."

According to the National Safety Council, 40 percent of car fatalities occur in the summer months. The Labor

Day holiday brings increased traffic and unfortunately, a higher-than-normal number of deaths related to impaired drivers on the road. On average, impaired drivers cause about one-third of all traffic fatalities in Kansas. Across Kansas, impaired drivers injure or kill more than 2,200 people each year in car crashes.



"We want everyone's summer to end on a high note and not in a senseless death that is 100 percent preventable," said Chris Bortz, KDOT Traffic Safety Program Manager. "Law enforcement will be vigilant in their efforts to keep everyone safe, but everyone has a personal responsibility in this effort; not just law enforcement."

Impaired drivers can face jail time, suspension of their driving privileges, fines and other costs of up to \$10,000. In addition, the offender will be required to install and pay monthly services fees on an ignition interlock.

Poster Art Contest

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day - October 10, 2019

Traffic crashes are a leading cause of death in the U.S. "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day[®]" focuses on reducing traffic fatalities by encouraging motorists to take extra precautions.

Kansas kids ages 5 through 13 are invited to enter artwork showing their thoughts on "Put the Brakes on Fatalities." Regional winners in the three age categories will be chosen. Then, three statewide winners will be selected from the 18 regional winners!

Each statewide winner will receive:

- ◆ Kindle Fire Tablet with case, from the KTA;
- ◆ \$50 Amazon Gift Card, from Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas;
- ◆ Movie Passes, from AAA Kansas; and
- ◆ **\$200** for their school, booster club or class!!!

RULES:

◆ **Art MUST be on 8.5" x 11"** paper. Any materials can be used including paint, crayon, pencil, pastel, and collage. No computer-aided drawings.

◆ To be eligible, all entries must be postmarked by **September 20, 2019.**

◆ Winners' names/artwork will be sent to media and posted on the KDOT website.

↙ **Mail entries to** ↘
KS Traffic Safety Resource Office
2930 SW Wanamaker Dr., Suite 100
Topeka, KS 66614

Age Categories
5 to 7 years old
8 to 10 years old
11 to 13 years old

Each regional winner will receive a
BICYCLE
and
HELMET
from the KTA
and Safe Kids Kansas

More details -
www.ksdot.org

Each entry **MUST** have this information on the back;

First Name _____ Last Name _____
Age _____ Home Phone Number () _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
County _____
Parent's First/Last Name _____

One entry per child

Students can win more than once, just not two years in a row.

Sponsored by the Kansas DOT, KTA and other traffic safety organizations.