

Translines EXPRESS

March 6, 2019

Snow storm



Above, Equipment Operator Dannie Kearn Jr. works to clear U.S. 81 southbound in Cloud County during the blizzard that hit part of Kansas on Feb. 23. More photos from this storm are included in this edition. At right, snow covered most of the state the night of March 2. A KanDrive image shows a KDOT truck clearing snow early on March 3 at the K-99/U.S. 400 junction near Severy.



State Transportation Engineer

Morey named STE: Burt Morey has been named KDOT's Deputy Secretary and State Transportation Engineer.

Morey graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and has worked in the transportation industry for 27 years, including various local governments and the private sector in



Burt Morey

bridge design, construction engineering and contract administration.

He served as the KDOT Metro Engineer in Johnson County from 2007 to 2012. In 2012, Morey was selected to be the Project Director for the Johnson County Gateway, KDOT's first design build and largest project at the time. From November 2015 until his recent appointment, he served as the City Engineer of Overland Park. Morey and his wife Jan live in rural Leavenworth County, they have two adult children.

Trivia!

Governor's residence

1. What years did the Erasmus Bennett house at 8th Street and Buchanan in Topeka serve as the governor's residence?
2. Frank and Madge MacLennan built the home that became Cedar Crest in 1928 and upon their deaths, offered it to the state for use as the governor's residence. How much did it cost to build? How many acres are around the house?

3. Who was the last governor to reside at the Bennett house and the first governor to reside in Cedar Crest?
4. What year was Cedar Crest listed in the National Register of Historic Places?
5. What other distinction does this governor's residence have?

From the Kansas Historical Society

Partnering Award



Work on the I-235 project in Wichita received top honors for partnering efforts.

Partnering efforts: Projects across the state were honored as part of the 2019 Kansas Contractors Association/KDOT Partnering program. The statewide award went to the I-235 project in District Five, also known as the Red Project, that was worked on together by Dondlinger and Sons Construction Co., and the Wichita West construction office. The \$105 million project involved at least 16 sub-contractors, several suppliers and several KDOT offices.

"When issues arose, KDOT, the design team and

the contractors all reacted quickly with common sense and in the best interest of the project to get them resolved," said Matt Inlow, Dondlinger's Project Manager. "The fact that a project of this magnitude was completed with unobstructed traffic flow, eight months ahead of schedule, speaks volumes for the teamwork and common sense that was used during construction."

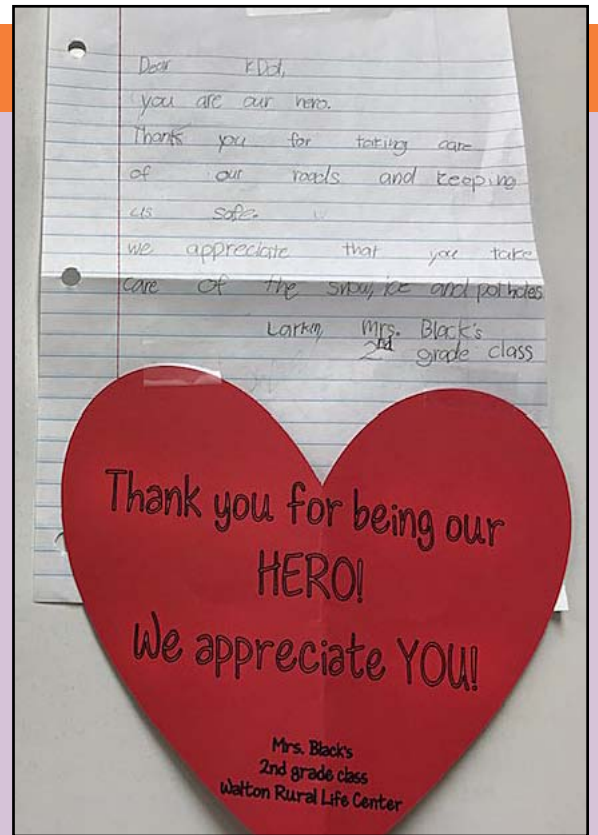
To see a list of projects that were honored in each District for partnering efforts, click [here](#).

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. From 1901 to 1962.
2. It cost \$60,000 to build and sits on 244 acres.
3. Gov. John Anderson, who moved in 1962.
4. 1982.
5. It is the smallest at around 6,000-square feet but resides on the largest plot of land.

District Five

Members of Mrs. Black's second-grade class at the Walton Rural Life School recently sent this heart and letter (right) to the crews at the Newton Subarea thanking them for keeping roads cleared. Below are Newton Subarea crew members. Highway Maintenance Supervisor Bobby Jones (pictured in red) wrote back and visited with them at school.



In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT employee Jerry Runnebaum who passed away on Feb. 19 in Wichita. Runnebaum was an Engineering Technician Senior, serving as the Wichita Metro Office Utility Coordinator. He began working at KDOT as a project inspector in August 2009 at the Wichita West office, and transferred to the Utility Coordinator position at the Hillside office in April 2017.



**Jerry
Runnebaum**

Condolences to friends and family of retiree Bruce Miller who passed away on Feb. 13 in Horton. Miller started KDOT in 1967 and worked for 42 years as an Engineering Technician Specialist in the Horton office.

Condolences to friends and family of retiree Stella (Vargas) Florez who passed away on Feb. 20 in Topeka. She worked in the Bureau of Materials and Research, headquarters office. She retired from KDOT after 43 years, retiring in 1994.

Condolences to friends and family of retiree Harry Clifford Brown Jr. who passed away on Feb. 24 in Hebron, Neb. Brown worked for KDOT for 43 years in Belleville where he served as an Engineering Technician Senior. He retired in 1999.

Retirees

The following employees will retire from KDOT on April 1.

Headquarters

Karrie Gibson, Senior Administrative Assistant, Right of Way

Rebecca Rochelle, Administrative Specialist, Transportation Planning

Louis Thompson, Management Analyst I, Construction & Materials

District One

James Clary Jr., Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Troy

Thomas Morrell, Engineering Technician Specialist, Olathe

District Two

Donald Duryea, Equipment Shop Supervisor, Salina

George Luna, Equipment Operator Specialist, Marion

Mark Meier, Equipment Operator Specialist, Clay Center

District Four

Russell Drake, Engineering Technician Senior, Garnett

District Five

Shawn Emerson, Administrative Specialist, Winfield

District Six

Brian Beard, Equipment Mechanic Specialist, Syracuse

Paving Awards

Statewide winners: Two KDOT projects were selected as winners by the MO/KS Chapter of the American Concrete Pavement Association on Feb. 26 at the 29th annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo.

KDOT's I-435 reconstruction in Johnson County won the top award in the Divided Highways (urban) category. The second winning project was in the Urban Arterials and Collectors category - it was a joint effort with the City of Topeka on the SW Huntoon Street reconstruction.



The SW Huntoon Street project in Topeka was one of two projects honored by the MO/KS Chapter of the ACPA.

Distict Five

Roundabout: Work is expected to begin this spring on construction of a single-lane roundabout at the U.S. 50/U.S. 281 junction in Stafford County. KDOT let the project recently. Area One Engineer Scott Mullen said safety was a factor in deciding to build a roundabout instead of an interchange.

"The roundabout prevents T-bone accidents, which can still happen at an interchange," he said, also noting that a roundabout is about half the cost of an interchange.

Roundabouts also are more efficient than interchanges as they keep traffic moving. Turning vehicles don't have to stop.

The junction will remain open during the project.



Area Engineer Scott Mullen stands at the U.S. 50/U.S. 281 junction where a roundabout will be built. Stephen Bass' road squad designed the project.

25th Annual

KDOT Transportation Safety Conference

April 2 & 3, 2019

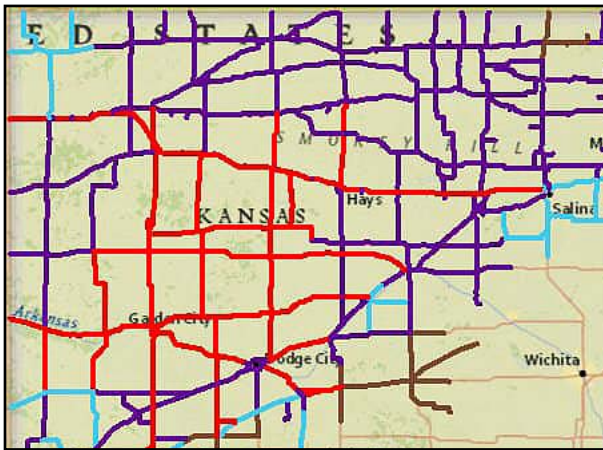
Hyatt Regency Wichita | Wichita, KS



Register now - <http://kupce.ku.edu/transportation-safety>

Snow Storm

Blizzard conditions hit most of southwest, northwest and north central Kansas on Feb. 23. Up to 10 inches of snow fell in Haskell County, with other areas receiving anywhere from three to seven inches of snow. Winds of up to 50 mph hit several areas as well, causing white outs. I-70 from Salina to Colorado and numerous highways were closed either due to conditions or wrecks.



Clint Suzie Lidstrom You guys do an amazing job. Thank you!

Love · Reply · Message · 22h

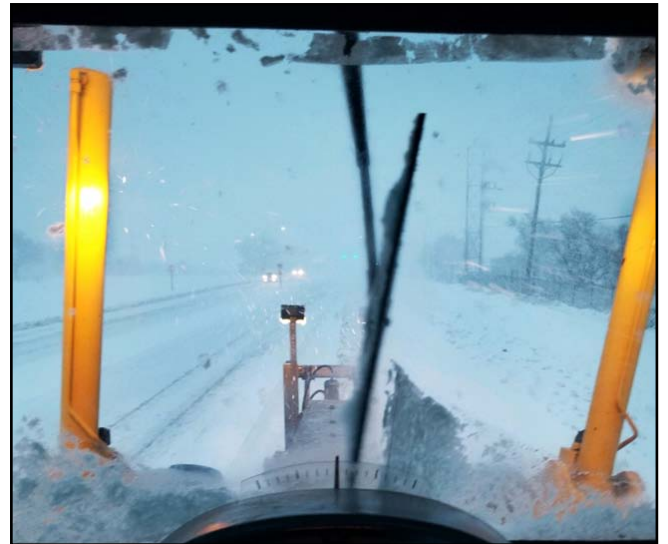


Mandy Knight Thank you all for the hard work & sacrifice s you make to keep our roads clean

Love · Reply · Message · 22h

La Jeana Smith Thank you for all you do for us!

Love · Reply · Message · 22h



Top right: KDOT crews clear U.S. 81 south of Concordia. **Upper left:** A view of the KanDrive map from about 2:45 p.m. shows many closed or snow-covered highways. **Above:** A tow plow clears I-70 in Ellis County. **Upper right:** Just a few of the many positive comments from the public posted on KDOT's social media. **Middle right:** Garden City Supervisor Hector Terrones takes a photo while stopped of the conditions along the U.S. 50/83 bypass in Garden City. **Right:** Engineering Technician Richard Coghill takes a photo of the white-out conditions on U.S. 83 north of Sublette while riding with his son, Equipment Operator Logan Coghill.



Kansas Transportation

Thursday, Feb. 28

KDOT internships offer valuable work experiences

Transitioning from the classroom to the workforce can be difficult for some students. While they have the knowledge and instruction to do a job, the workforce requires initiative, responsibility and problem solving that they may not have been able to practice in the classroom. But Garden City native Lorenzo Hernandez doesn't expect that to be an issue when he graduates from Northwest Kansas Technical College in May. Hernandez served as a Mechanic Intern at the Garden City district shop last summer, and he returned over Christmas break to get a little more experience before returning to school for his final semester.

According to Hernandez, his time as intern was especially beneficial in helping him take what he learned in college and applying it in the shop.

"At college, we review in the classroom and go to the lab to diagnose and work on a problem, but we have to wait for the instructor to do things," Hernandez said. "Here, they tell me what to do and I have a mentor to help me, but I really learned how things work in a shop."

KDOT's Equipment Mechanic Internship program began in 2015 and is designed to help students enrolled in agricultural, diesel and heavy equipment technical programs across the state be better prepared to compete for permanent positions with KDOT.

Interns are expected to perform normal mechanic duties based on their knowledge and capabilities and are paired with a mentor who is responsible for helping train and supervise them during their internship.

"The program benefits students by helping them get the hands-on experience they need, but also benefits KDOT by helping the agency recruit, train and hire individuals who can contribute to a productive, skilled and diverse work environment," said Jeff Tice, KDOT Assistant Equipment Manager in Topeka.



Lorenzo Hernandez served as a Mechanic Intern at the Garden City district shop last summer.

Tice serves as the point of contact for interested schools and instructors and coordinates with each KDOT District to place students.

Hernandez says he has enjoyed his time at KDOT, especially working with the guys in the shop and says he would do it again.

"You get to see and experience so much here from brand new pick-ups, to tractors, mowers and forklifts," Hernandez said.

If you know a student that might be interested in an internship at KDOT, contact Jeff Tice at 785-296-5942 or jeff.tice@ks.gov.

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

District Five



Pratt Engineering Technician Jennifer Lee sent in these photos of Pratt Equipment Operator Steven Walters helping a trucker who rolled his truck during a recent winter storm near Belpre. Walters called the sheriff and waited with the victim until responders could arrive.



District Two



Drifting snow was a problem after last weekend's storm that hit most of the state. Above, Highway Maintenance Supervisor David Casper stopped to take a photo of K-28 just west of the Cloud/Jewell county line.

National Work Zone Awareness Week

Gov. Laura Kelly signed a proclamation on March 1 for National Work Zone Awareness Week, which is April 8-12. Participating in the ceremony were Kim Stich, KDOT; Andrew Dean, KHP; Gerald O'Flaherty, KDOT; Nathan



Anstey, KTA; Rick Backlund, Federal Highway Administration; Dominic Bourne, KDOT; Jamie Lane, Kansas Contractors Association; Jeanne Miller, KDOT; and Adam Winters, KHP.

District Three

A portion of K-25 will be closed to traffic as a bridge replacement project takes place this construction season near Russell Springs.



Bridge replacement: Work has started on a bridge project on K-25 in Logan County. KDOT is replacing the bridge spanning the Smoky Hill River located approximately half a mile south of Russell Springs. A portion of K-25 near Russell Springs will be closed for the duration of the project, which is expected to be

completed by mid-October, weather permitting. L&M Contractors of Great Bend is the primary contractor for the project with a total contract cost of \$1.6 million. Steve King's road squad and Shawn Schwensen's bridge squad designed the project.

KTA

Multiple projects along the Kansas Turnpike are expected to begin or resume on March 11, weather permitting. Learn which projects in our latest news release [here](#) and see all 2019 Turnpike projects in the latest video [here](#).



KTA Design Contest

The deadline for the KTA's fourth annual design contest as part of National Work Zone Awareness Week activities is March 31.

This contest is open to students across the state in grades 8-12 to create a design about work zone safety. The winning submission will be featured in VYPE Magazine and the winner will receive a \$200 gift certificate.

Full rules and more details are online at www.ksturnpike.com/contests.

Designcontest

KTA



District Five

U.S. 166 project website: With the help of Area Three Acting Construction Engineer Robin Gregory and Area Three Engineer AJ Wilson, District Five Public Affairs Manager Deb Gruver created a public website about a bridge replacement project on U.S. 166 over the Arkansas River in Arkansas City. Gruver is updating the website, www.us166bridge.org, with weekly progress reports from Gregory, and Wilson has supplied drone video and a photo album. The \$6,368,390 project is well ahead of schedule. The website works well for the public but has as few hiccups on KDOT computers. If you get an error message the first time you open the website, try refreshing.



Transit Day

At left, KDOT Director of Planning and Development Chris Herrick speaks at the annual Transit Day event at the Capitol on Feb. 27.

Numerous people also stopped by booths for information. At right, Karl Fundenberger, Director of Bicycle Operations for Topeka Metro (center), talks with people interested in the bicycle program. The event was hosted by KDOT and the Kansas Public Transit Association.

