

# Translines EXPRESS

May 15, 2019

## Traffic Safety



Give Cyclists  
**3 FEET**  
When Passing

**IT'S KANSAS LAW.**

**Two-wheel safety:** May is Bicycle and Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. With the arrival of warmer weather, here are some tips from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for drivers and cyclists:

- ♦ Cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities to the road as drivers.
- ♦ Treat cyclists as you would other drivers and be as aware of them in traffic as you are of vehicles.
- ♦ Drive defensively. Check your blind spots for cyclists and pay special attention at stop signs and crosswalks. Before making a right-hand turn, make sure a cyclist isn't approaching from the right rear of your vehicle. Look left, then right and left again. Remember to check behind you as well.
- ♦ For bicyclists, pass as you would vehicles – on the left and only when it's safe to move over into an adjacent lane. Kansas law requires motorists to give bicyclists three feet of space at all times.
- ♦ For motorcyclists, check out information from the KTA [here](#).

Remember to ditch the distractions and share the road.

**Have a safe and  
happy Memorial Day**

All state offices will be  
closed on Monday, May 27.

## KTA



*With the excessive amount of rain the week of May 6, a portion of KTA closed just north of the Oklahoma/Kansas border from mile markers 4 to 19 on I-35/KTA. The closure occurred the evening of May 7. Repairs took place once the water receded and it was back open to traffic in less than 48 hours from the time it closed. Watch how the work unfolded [here](#). Numerous other highways across the state were also flooded. See more photos in this edition.*

## Trivia!

### Defunct county names in Kansas

1. This county was named Irving County in 1860 and was defunct in 1864. Where was it, and who was it named after?
2. What defunct county was named after the American bison and where was it located?
3. This county name was changed in 1867 to Cloud County. What was the previous name?
4. Sequoyah County, named for the Cherokee Indian leader Sequoyah, was absorbed into this county in 1883.
5. Hunter County was one of the original 33 counties created by the first territorial legislature in 1855. Most of it is now included in what county?

Information from the Kansas Historical Society.

*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)*

## Retiree

The following employee will retire from KDOT on June 1.

### Headquarters

**Mark Hoppe**, Bureau Chief, Structures & Geotechnology

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. It was annexed into Butler County. The area covered parts of Butler, Cowley, Greenwood and Elk counties. It was named after author and poet Washington Irving.
2. Buffalo County, from 1873 to 1881. It now is parts of Gray, Lane and Finney counties.
3. Shirley County.
4. Finney County.
5. Most is in Cowley County, with parts in Sedgwick, Sumner, Butler, Elk, Chautauqua and Greenwood counties.

## District Four



**Crews with contractor Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc., pave the U.S. 169 northbound exit ramp onto Hawaii Road at Humboldt. U.S. 169 remains closed to traffic as work continues on the seven-mile pavement replacement project between Chanute and Iola. The official detour route is signed on K-39, U.S. 75 and U.S. 54. The construction cost is \$16.3 million. Aaron Frits' road squad and Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project.**



## Weather

**Storms across Kansas on May 6 caused a lot of damage. At right, on K-268 at mile marker 3 near Vassar, the wind blew this truck over. One-lane traffic had to be flagged for about four hours that night. Below, this tree was completely uprooted and fell over onto a truck about one block south of K-31 in Osage City.**



**At right, heavy rains caused flooding on May 6 on U.S. 160/183 near the Clark/Comanche county line, closing the highway east of Sitka.**



## District Six

**APAC-Kansas is close to completing a mill and overlay project on K-27 near Richfield in Morton County. At an estimated cost of \$2.4 million, the project is almost 24 miles long.**





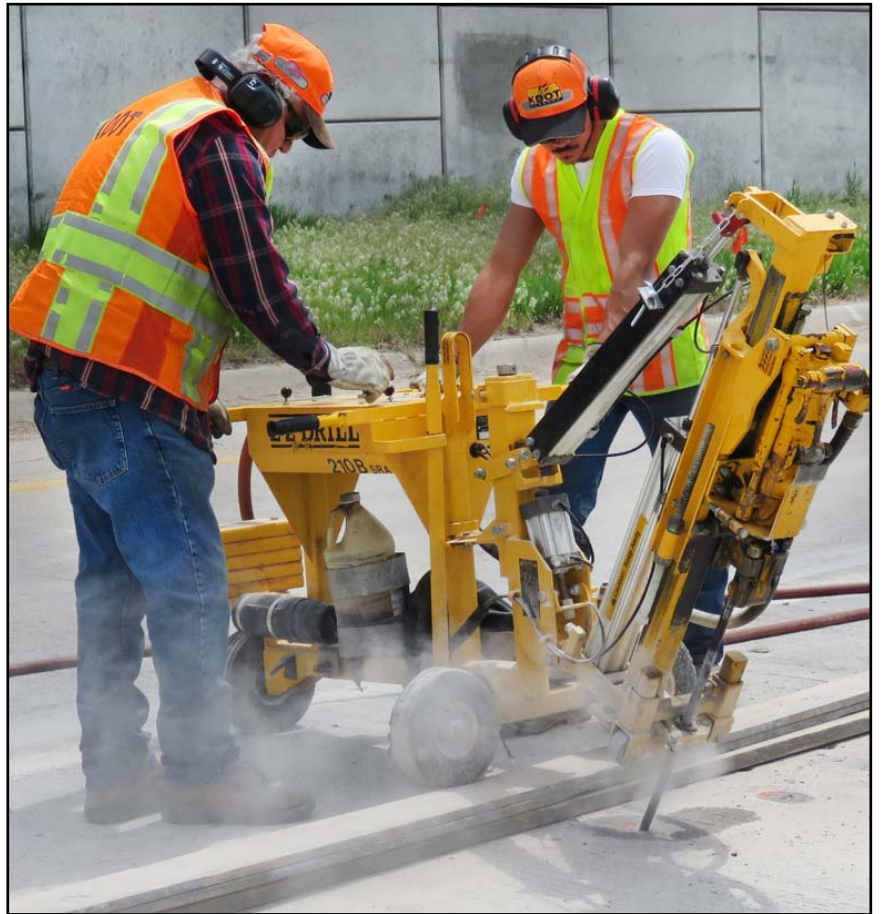
## Aviation

**Aviation award:** KDOT's Division of Aviation was named the second-place winner in the Operations & Safety Organization category of the XCELLENCE Awards by the Association for Unmanned Vehicles Systems International (AUVSI) for its UAS Safety Risk Management Program. Winners were announced at AUVSI's XPONENTIAL awards ceremony on April 30 in Chicago.

KDOT established an UAS safety risk management program to implement advanced UAS operations statewide for more than 25 industry partners as one of 10 national leaders of the UAS Integration Pilot Program. The program implements UAS Standard Operating Procedures, training and safety management system to promote aviation safety. KDOT's program has been reviewed by the FAA and will continue to be used to meet complex UAS operation safety standards to further national UAS integration.

"We are honored to be recognized alongside national industry leaders in aviation safety and look forward to driving industry growth with fellow Xcellence award winners and IPP team members; Kansas State University, GBA, Fortem Technologies and the rest of the Kansas UAS Joint Task Force," said Bob Brock, KDOT Director of Aviation.

## District Six



**District Six Equipment Operators Jesse Casanova and Ciro Chavez drill holes in the concrete slabs using the EZ Drill. This is the first step in stitching to repair a crack on one of the U.S. 50/83 bypass exit ramps in Garden City. The holes are drilled at a 45-degree angle on either side of the crack. Epoxy coated rebar is then driven into the concrete hole to reinforce or "stitch" the concrete together to preserve it longer.**

## District Four



**The surface recycle 'train' is off and running on southbound U.S. 59 in Anderson County. The entire 23-mile U.S. 59 preservation work, which includes a chip seal following the 1½-inch surface recycle, extends from the south junction of U.S. 169/59 south and east to the U.S. 59/54 junction in Allen County. Dustrol, Inc., of Towanda is the contractor. The tied Anderson and Allen county projects are \$1.7 million.**



## Flooding



***Flooding took place on May 5 on K-98 east of K-23 in southwest Kansas, as seen above. At right, debris and big tree limbs were left after the waters went down, with KDOT crews quickly working to clear the highway, as seen at top right.***



***At left, flooding affected K-177 between Strong City and Cottonwood Falls as well as K-4 in Saline County, seen above.***



## Infant at Work program

**KDOT's "Infant at Work" program milestone:** Bringing a child to work may not be the first thing that comes to mind when a new baby is born, but for KDOT employees, this is an option they have for the first 150 days of their child's life. KDOT began participating in the "Infant at Work" program in 2001. At that time, it was only a pilot project that was under evaluation to determine if it would be feasible to continue.

There are several steps and conditions parents must agree to before their child can come to work.

According to KDOT's policy, only parents or grandparents of the child may bring the infant to work. The infant must stay in their parent's work area for the workday. There must be at least two other KDOT employees who can volunteer to help take over in case the parent has a meeting.

To help support parents, there are sitting rooms available when babies need to be fed or soothed.

Kelly Broxterman, KDOT's Grant and Fiscal Coordinator, and her twin sons, Colton and Justin, were the first participants in the program. In an article from a 2001 issue of the agency's newsletter, *Translines*, Broxterman said that she thought the program was a positive experience and provided important information to help build the program.

To see a photo of the twins now, and for the rest of the story, go to the KDOT blog [here](#).



*This 2001 photo shows Kelly Broxterman with her sons, Justin, left, and Colton, the first participants in the Infant at Work program at KDOT.*

## District Six

***Bettis Asphalt & Construction of Topeka is completing a surface recycle and chip seal on K-25 in Stevens and Grant counties. The crew should complete the Stevens County portion of the recycle this week and will continue with Grant County at that time. The project is just more than 26 miles long and cost approximately \$2 million to complete.***





## District Four

*Louisburg Equipment Operator Senior Andrea Barnes (shown in both photos) developed CDL training materials that have been used throughout Area Two in District Four. Hearing of Barnes' accomplishments, Troy Whitworth Assistant Director of Operations, has been in discussions with her and is putting together a committee to develop statewide distribution for the materials.*



*In late April, Bret Mathias of KDOT Support Services (shown in both photos), and Whitworth, in the photo at left, visited the Louisburg shop to make a training video with Barnes.*

## Scenic

*Rick Looper, Highway Maintenance Supervisor at the Lamar Subarea Office, took this scenic photo from his home of a rainbow after one of the many thunderstorms that took place in early May.*





# Kansas Transportation

Tuesday, May 7

## KDOT workers have each other's back

By Ashley Tammen, District Two Public Affairs Manager  
Whether a KDOT employee has worked on the highway for one day or 40 years, work zone safety is a priority and a team effort.

Equipment Operators at KDOT say they are constantly looking over their shoulders watching for traffic and guarding their safety while working on the roads. Terry Shank, Equipment Operator Senior in Salina, explained how crucial it is that they pay attention to traffic and don't lose focus.

"When you flag, you take turns with other workers to prevent fatigue," said Rocky Lindgren, Equipment Operator Senior in Salina. "This prevents mental fatigue and loss of focus while on the job."

Do you ever approach a work zone and wonder why so many trucks are needed?

The trucks following a spray patch operation drive over the patches to pack in the loose gravel but that's only one of the reasons they are there — they also help keep workers safe.

"Trucks are there to alert traffic of a work zone and to make sure traffic gets over in time, so workers can remain safe," said Kort St. Clair, Highway Maintenance Supervisor in McPherson. "If the operators in the trucks notice something of concern they can warn their coworkers ahead of time."

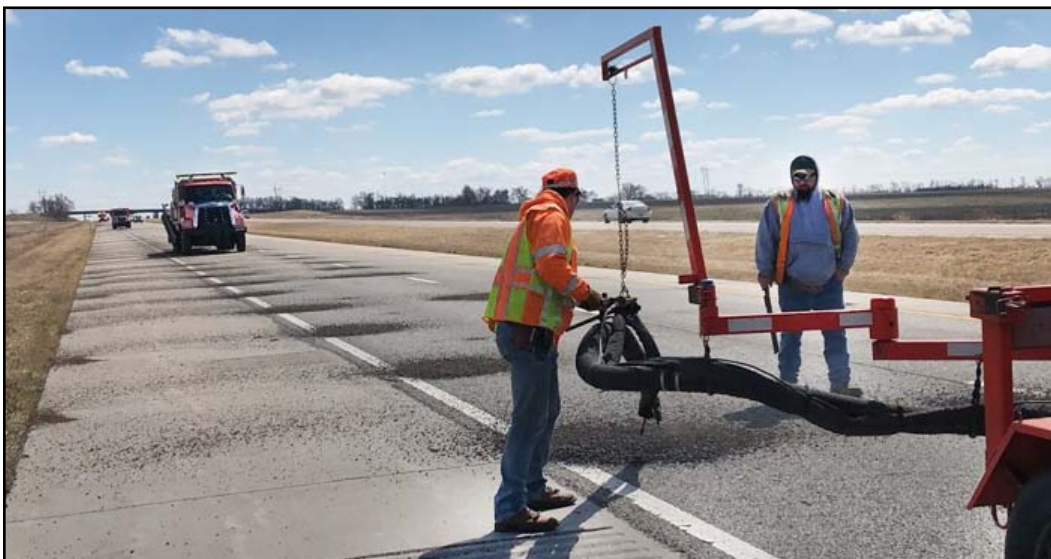


**Rocky Lindgren, Equipment Operator Senior from Salina, flags traffic in a work zone.**

"We look out for one another," said Tim Frederiksen, Equipment Operator in Salina. "We watch to make sure someone doesn't step too far over into the traffic while working and they do the same for us."

It is imperative that traffic move over to allow workers the room they need while working. KDOT workers want to go home safe and they want the same for their coworkers.

KDOT employees ask that all drivers put away distractions, slow down and pay attention while driving through work zones. One mistake could cost them their life. That phone call or text can wait.



**Crews in north central Kansas fill potholes using the spray patching technique.**

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