

# Translines EXPRESS

Sept. 11, 2019

## Example of Excellence



*Congratulations to members of the I-435 Concrete Patching Team for being selected as the Example of Excellence for the second quarter of 2019. The team was honored by Secretary Julie Lorenz and others at a ceremony on Sept. 6 in Olathe. The team worked together as immediate repairs were needed on I-435 from 87th Street to Midland Drive. By performing this full-depth concrete pavement patching project in-house, it saved substantial time and money. Pictured left to right, front row; Scott Wilhite, Ed Specht, Bill McCoy, Chris Perkins, Todd Moore, middle row; Dominic Harrington, Dave McDonald, Kade Heuertz, Jeff Ebers, Dylan Anderson, J.J. Konrade, Paul Abney, back row; Cody Turkin, Loren McMillan, J.R. Luth, Brian Link, Keith Snyder, Julie Lorenz, Burt Morey, Kevin Kellerman, Drake Jennings, Joe Gardner, Dave Tipton and Don Marah. Not pictured are Jason Dlugopolski, James Thomas, Ricky Abrams, Clayton Lord, Greg Handley, Mike Hays and Lowell Orender. Photo by Bret Mathias*

## U.S. 50



*The Dodge City Subarea crew spent the last several weeks completing overlays on U.S. 50 northeast of Dodge City. KDOT employees Ethan Soeken and Daren Wright spread and smooth the asphalt at the U.S. 283/U.S. 50 junction in preparation for George Schulte to smooth it with the motor grader. Willie Phelps, Highway Maintenance Supervisor in Dodge City, said the overlay should smooth out the ruts until next year when much of the area is scheduled for a mill and overlay. Photo by Lisa Knoll, District Six*

## Trivia!

### “Wizard of Oz” - part one

1. The “Wizard of Oz” was released 80 years ago, in 1939. It was nominated for Best Picture Oscar in 1940. Did it win?
2. When the Tin Man cried, it wasn't machine oil streaming down his face. What was it?
3. Who was originally cast to play the Scarecrow?
4. What kind of a dog was Toto?
5. Outdoor scenery - What were the snowflakes made of? How many fake flowers made up the poppy field?

## U.S. 166



Work continues on the SKOL overpass on U.S. 166 in Montgomery County.  
Photos by Priscilla Petersen, District Four



By Priscilla Petersen, District Four

**Overpass replacement:** Grading continues during early phases of the project to replace the South Kansas & Oklahoma (SKOL) overpass on U.S. 166 in Montgomery County. The 60-year-old bridge is west of the U.S. 166/U.S. 75 west junction. The new overpass will be constructed on an alternate highway alignment approximately 35 feet north of the existing structure.

The pavement in the driving lanes has deteriorated, creating many patching jobs for KDOT maintenance crews in recent years. Traffic is now restricted to one lane at the work zone.

KDOT expects to open the new bridge next summer. B & B Bridge Company of St. Paul is the primary contractor on the \$3.4 million project. Shawn Schwensen's bridge squad and Ben Ware's road squad designed the project.

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. No, the award went to “Gone with the Wind.”
2. Chocolate syrup.
3. Buddy Ebsen. He swapped roles with Ray Bolger to play the Tin Man, but when filming began, he had a severe allergic reaction to the aluminum dust in the make-up and had to leave the production.
4. Toto was a five-year-old female Cairn terrier named Terry. Her name was permanently changed to Toto.
5. The snowflakes were made of asbestos. 40,000 flowers.



## From the Secretary

A note from Secretary  
Julie Lorenz -

### Moving FORWARD:

I couldn't be more pleased with the first round of our Local Consult meetings held across the state in August, with more than 1,100 Kansans attending the eight meetings. The KDOT team – from headquarters and in each district – did a fantastic job of listening to input and facilitating discussions. Through the scenario planning discussions, Kansans stepped up to the challenge of talking about the future with enthusiasm and broad-ranging views.

However, we also heard tough stories, especially from first responders. And we had the honor of having the youngest participant attend the Dodge City meeting – a 3-year-old who shared pictures of highways in need of preservation work and shoulders. These Kansans remind us of the serious task we have ahead when thinking



Secretary Julie Lorenz speaks to attendees at the Local Consult meeting in Hays.

3. **Act now.** There is a strong sense of urgency among local consult participants that we must move forward with a new program soon to capture new opportunities and confront challenges.



Julie Lorenz

Here are links to the blogs from each meeting -

[North Central – Salina](#)

[South Central -- Hutchinson](#)

[Southeast – Independence](#)

[Kansas City Metro – Overland Park](#)

[Northeast – Topeka](#)

[Wichita Metro – Wichita](#)

[Southwest – Dodge City](#)

[Northwest – Hays](#)



about the future. We found that no matter where we were in the state, three themes emerged:

1. **Improve health.** Transportation investments can contribute to better health outcomes for people, our economy and our highway system.
2. **Invest strategically.** Given that funding will always be limited, we must make sure our investments are strategic. Through the T-WORKS process, we learned the value of regional collaboration and that must continue in the future.

These local consult meetings will inform the State's next Long Range Transportation Plan, the planning document that guides investments from 2020 to 2045. That document also shapes the State's next 10-year transportation program, known as FORWARD. For a full wrap-up of all things Local Consult and to learn more about FORWARD, please click [here](#). I'll continue to provide updates as we head toward the next round of local consult and we develop approaches for the new program.

At KDOT, we're rebuilding our infrastructure, strengthening our KDOT culture and looking to the future. Keep up the great work and stay safe!

As we talk about the future of transportation, I also want to focus on the goals of our agency. Please take a few minutes to watch this video at <https://vimeo.com/359142129> in which I talk about our overarching goals which can be summed up in a simple, easy to remember phrase - Be Safe.

Please remember, links in this newsletter work in the attached PDF.

## Safety First

By Mallory Goeke,  
Headquarters

### Safety slogan logo released:

“Safety First - For your family and mine,” is the new safety slogan at KDOT. With the help of the newly-formed Statewide Safety Committee and the Executive Staff, the slogan by Bonnie Hirsh, Administrative Specialist in Dodge City, was selected this summer.

A new slogan needs a new logo and the Statewide Safety Committee worked with internal staff to create the logo which will be used in a variety of ways to help share the important message of safety. The logo was conceptualized by Chief Geologist Kyle Halverson and designed by Communications Specialist Mallory Goeke.

Catherine Patrick, Special Assistant to the Secretary, said that KDOT hopes to achieve a safer workplace; ultimately with the goal of zero injuries and fatalities.

“We want it to remind us of the importance of safety in all the work we do at KDOT,” Patrick said. “We want the message to encourage employees to stop and think about doing things safely - not only for themselves, but for their families and our family - as we perform all the various types of work at KDOT.”

Halverson said that the concept for the logo came from a series of ideas that the new safety committee had come up with.

“As an agency that covers the entire state, we need to look at safety, not only as a personal obligation, but as



an agency obligation,” Halverson said. “So that outline of the state represents that obligation to me. The road is obvious, but I think it means more - the road to a safer workplace and the goal to achieve zero accidents and zero fatalities is a long road, but with the proper education and awareness we can get there.”

Patrick said that the highway was a universal symbol that represented the work KDOT does in designing, building and maintaining infrastructure and the relationship that ties everyone together - not only within KDOT, but with the traveling public.

“When the logo was presented to the Statewide Safety Committee, we all just knew this logo is the one,” Patrick said.

There are many plans to utilize the logo moving forward that will help spread this important message, “Safety First - For your family and mine.”

## Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day contests

**Last call:** Poster entries must be postmarked by Friday, Sept. 20. All Kansas students ages 5-13 can participate.

Video entries must be posted by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 29. All Kansas students in 8th to 12th grades can participate.

**KDOT, KTA and KHP family members are eligible to participate.**

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





## Battling snow and ice

By Kelly Kultala, District One

**'Beeting' snow and ice:** With winter on the horizon, KDOT Area offices are preparing to battle ice and snow. And a deep red vegetable that can be used as table sugar as well as cattle feed is helping in that effort.

In 2015, KDOT District Three started experimenting with using beet juice as an additive to salt brine.

"Beet 55 Liquid Organic Accelerator is derived from sugar beet molasses, providing a sustainable, renewable and environmentally safe alternative to salt," said Jim Frye, KDOT Field Maintenance Manager/Emergency Coordinator.

Since then, KDOT has introduced beet juice in 20 locations across the state to mix with salt brine on the highways when temperatures typically drop below 15 degrees.

Frye also noted a couple of observations from using this environmentally-safe mixture, which is reddish-brown in color and some say smells like a Tootsie roll.

"Adding beet juice to salt brine changes the way ice crystals form when freezing is occurring. As the liquid is starting to freeze it will slow the process down and keep it as a slush longer, allowing crews more response time to clear the highways before it becomes a solid," he said.

One of the biggest problems with spreading salt or spraying salt brine is that it will bounce off the road or traffic will knock it off from the tires or wind, Frye said.



*Crew members at the Wellington Area Office move a 10,000-gallon salt brine tank to another KDOT facility. Photo by Cavan Schmeidler, District Five*

When beet juice is added it has a sticky texture and will hold the salt or salt crystals together on the highway, allowing more time for the crews to get the road plowed.

So in addition to the healthy benefits of beet juice - lowering blood pressure, slowing dementia and cancer prevention - it also helps with keeping Kansas highways clearer in the winter.

## Testing materials

District Six Engineer Technician Jim Beesley conducts an air void analyzer (AVA) test on concrete from the U.S. 50/83/400 Garden City Bypass project. AVA tests measure the air void spacing factor in concrete, which determines the concrete's resistance to damage during freezing temperatures. According to Josh Lesser, District Six Lab Chief, the more evenly air is dispersed in the concrete the better the concrete will withstand freezing temperatures.



*At left, Jim Beesley brushes the inside of the test cylinder to remove air bubbles before the test. In the middle, Beesley adds the analysis liquid (usually four parts glycerol to one part distilled water). At right, Beesley inserts a tube of fresh concrete paste into the base of the test cylinder. The blue analysis liquid pushes the air voids out of the concrete in the same shape and size that they exist in the concrete, allowing the technicians to determine if the voids are evenly spaced in the concrete. Photos by Lisa Knoll, District Six*



## District Five striping

By Tim Potter, District Five

### 5 insights into the work of KDOT road-striping crew:

**Kansas highways are striped with paint to help guide motorists and to aid in preventing collisions. A look at how those lines get painted, from a recent ride in the Pratt area with the KDOT District Five road-striping crew:**

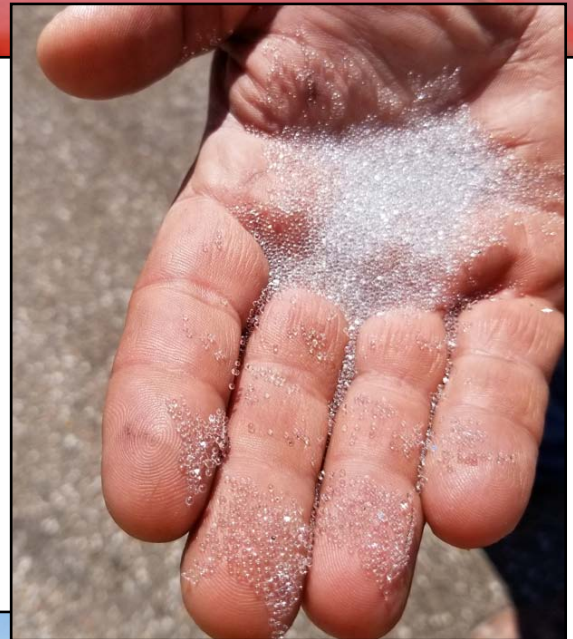
**Insight No. 1:** Safety is a priority. The paint truck leading a convoy of three crew trucks rolls only at about 8 mph when spraying paint. The crew positions the trucks to work in concert and help shield one another from faster-moving motorists. The trucks use lights and message boards.

**Insight No. 2:** When the paint gets sprayed down, it is embedded with tiny glass beads. The beads give the paint its reflective quality.

**Insight No. 3:** The striping takes skill and coordination. Painters on the back of the lead truck use steering wheels and other visual aids to put paint and beads down over existing lines. It takes skill to be able start and stop the paint at the right instant, in the right configuration. Painters also use control boards and paint guns. The crew communicates by radio.

**Insight No. 4:** Sometimes, motorists mess up the fresh paint. Normally, it takes about 10 minutes for the paint to dry enough for it not to be tracked.

**Insight No. 5:** The painting goes on from around late April often into November and December. The paint can't be applied if it's wet, too cold or too windy. Because of heavy traffic on some highways, the crew works at night with lights to illuminate their work.



**Top right,** a work truck, far left, passes the KDOT paint crew convoy near Pratt. **Middle right,** a sample of the reflective glass beads that are embedded in road stripe paint so traffic lines can be seen by motorists. **Bottom left,** KDOT's Allen Palmatier Sr. periodically checks to make sure the new painted lines are the correct width. **Below right,** the safety attenuator on the back of the paint truck would absorb the impact if there was a crash. Photos by Tim Potter, District Five



# Kansas State Fair

Lots was happening at the KDOT booth during the first weekend of the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson.



**Top left**, Independence Superintendent Marcus Leck and his family stop by the booth. **Top right**, Hutchinson Equipment Mechanic Shane Thompson asks a trivia question. **Middle left**, Hutchinson Senior Administrative Assistant Abbie Wisdom-Williams chats with people at the booth. **Middle right**, a former poster contest winner stops by. **At left**, retired Winfield Area Engineer Allan Grunder visits the booth. **Above**, Wizard of Oz characters are next to the booth. Photos by Kim Stich, Headquarters



# Kansas Transportation

Monday, Sept. 2

## Elk City State Park

By Priscilla Petersen

Elk City State Park is a hiker's delight. This park on the eastern shores of the beautiful Elk City Reservoir adjoins 12,000 acres of wildlife habitat. Its network of hiking trails is nationally recognized.

Hikers can take an easy but scenic trek through woodlands on the Post Oak Trail or make their way along limestone bluffs and through rocky passages on the Table Mound Hiking Trail.

The 15-mile Elk River Hiking Trail takes a winding course, starting at the Elk City dam and ending at the Elk River Bridge south of the town of Elk City. There's also the four-mile Eagle Rock Mountain Bike Trail for the cycling crowd.

The park, lake and wildlife area are located five miles northwest of Independence and one mile north of U.S. 160.

The lake is a regional favorite for water sports and fishing. Elk City State Park also has a swimming beach, campsites and playgrounds.



*Lots of great trails and scenery can be found at Elk City State Park.*



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



## District Crew tests polymer concrete

By Tim Potter, District Five

### **District Crew tests polymer concrete:**

The District Five Bridge Crew recently tested a polymer concrete patching material.

An advantage of the polymer concrete is that it gains strength faster without shrinkage and adheres better than other materials and allows a roadway or bridge to reopen sooner.

The crew used the polymer concrete in three spots on the deck of a K-61 bridge on the southeast side of Hutchinson over a BNSF railroad, said District Bridge Crew Supervisor Darren Bailey. The polymer concrete could be used as an option to polyester concrete.

The bridge crew also tested equipment used to mix the polymer concrete, Bailey said.

*Shane McConnell, Equipment Operator Senior, uses a heat gun with assistance from Mitch Jenkins, Equipment Operator Specialist. The District Five Bridge Crew recently tested a polymer concrete for patching on a K-61 bridge. Photo by Chris Collins, District Five*



## K-23

Crews from the Dighton Subarea completed a cold mix overlay and seal on K-23 in Dighton during the last two weeks. Following the overlay, crews sealed the area to extend the life of the overlay, which was needed due to the heavy trucks in the area. Photos by Lisa Knoll and Jim Armknecht, District Six





# 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

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**

More details -  
[www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org)

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

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