

# TRANSLINES EXPRESS

Dec. 11, 2019

## EXAMPLE OF EXCELLENCE



Members of the K-4 Donmyer Road Flood Repair Team who were able to briefly attend the Nov. 22 ceremony include, first row, from left to right, Brad Anderson, Rockford Lindgren, Iver Tokoi, Jonathan Wehling, Derek Buss, Kevin Tiernan; second row, Shawn Coberly, James Adee, Mike Martinitz, Larry Thompson, Burt Morey, Randy West, Brandon Bechard and Brett Kuntz. Photo by Support Services

## Employees fix washed out highway

Congratulations to members of the K-4 Donmyer Road Flood Repair Team for being selected as the Example of Excellence for the third quarter of 2019. The team was scheduled to be honored at a ceremony in Abilene on Nov. 22, but Mother Nature stepped in - a winter storm came through and only allowed a few of the team members to attend.

The ceremony will be rescheduled at a later date, but

their accomplishments are still being recognized at this time.

Heavy rains washed out large pieces of the road and shoulders of K-4 near Gypsum on July 3-4. With employees gone for the holiday, Superintendent Brad Anderson assembled a team with people from several locations to make repairs, stripe it and get it open as quickly as possible.

*Welcome to the new Translines! All the same information will be provided, it will just have a new look.*

## From the Secretary



### It's time for KDOT to move FORWARD

At this time of year, it's good to slow down for a minute, reflect on what's gone well and what the new year might hold.

This year, I'm thankful to have the opportunity to return to KDOT and join you in helping Kansans get where they want and need to go – safely and efficiently. I'm thankful that the Governor and legislature approved pay increases and that more money remains in the highway fund. I'm thankful that T-WORKS projects will be delivered, the deterioration of our highways is being addressed – and I'm most thankful for the you – KDOT employees who choose to serve your fellow citizens.

As we close out this decade and prepare for 2020, I know that **it's time to move FORWARD.**

It's time to set a new vision for Kansas transportation. This summer and fall, thousands of Kansans participated in KDOT's local consult meetings and together we've crafted that vision, based on a modern transportation system, which moves people, freight and information.

Stakeholders said:

- **It's time to close the bank of KDOT.** The transfers from the state highway fund have hurt Kansas in the short and long-term. And, FORWARD must have reliable and stable funding to succeed.
- Given the unprecedented changes upon us, FORWARD must be flexible and responsive to meet shifting needs. To achieve this, we propose a rolling program approach where major highway modernization and expansion projects are selected every two years, rather than once every decade like previous programs.
- Communities need more resources to make transportation improvements, which is why we have launched new programs such as Cost Share, Local Bridge and Strategic Safety to create even more resources for communities to make transportation improvements on an annual basis.

It's not enough to offer more resources – we must deliver them better too.

Through FORWARD, KDOT will help communities solve more problems by utilizing all our resources rather than being limited by our own internal silos.

Communities will send us their transportation problems – and we combine resources to tailor solutions to best meet their need. We will provide more holistic transportation solutions, implement practical improvements and reduce administrative work for communities.

There's more thinking and discussion needed to determine how exactly we can implement these changes and I'll use this column to keep you informed as the process evolves. And please participate in our Ask Me Anything session if you have questions about FORWARD or anything else. Submit your questions via email to: [AskSecLorenz@ks.gov](mailto:AskSecLorenz@ks.gov).

For now, I wish you a safe and happy holiday season. I hope you have a chance to enjoy time with your family or friends -- and get ready. We have lots of good work in front of us to build safer, healthier and livelier communities.

It's an exciting time to be at KDOT. Let's work together and make Kansas go FORWARD.

## TRANSLINES EXPRESS

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# Stacks retires from KDOT

After nearly 30 years of state service, KDOT Director of Administration Bob Stacks is retiring.

Stacks started as a Governor's Fellow under Gov. John Carlin in 1980, working in various agencies (including KDOT) before working at the Governor's office. He worked with former Secretary Deb Miller at the time, who he said helped him develop better journalistic skills.

"She could take two paragraphs I wrote and turn it into two sentences and still say the same thing," he said.

After time at the Department of Labor, he spent several years in the private sector before returning to KDOT in 2003 as Director of Administration and later as Chief of



*Bob Stacks*

Support Services.

He enjoyed going to KDOT offices across the state to learn about the agency's accomplishments and challenges. While traveling with former employees Warren Sick and Dean Testa, they would point out shoo-fly detours and upcoming project locations along the way.

"I learned a lot while riding in the car to meetings with Sick, Testa and later on, Jerry Younger," Stacks said.

He's filled with both excitement and trepidation for retirement. He plans to take some time to see if he wants to work part-time or volunteer as, "there's only so much golf and tennis to fill your time."

Stacks is looking forward to spending time with his wife, Carol, with whom he will be celebrating a 50th anniversary in just a couple years, and also his two children and grandson.

## Thank you for your service to KDOT

The following employees will retire in January.

### Headquarters

**Randall Billinger**, Professional Geologist Senior, Research

**Robert Foye Jr.**, Engineering Technician, Transportation Planning

**Robert Herman**, Land Surveyor I, Bureau of Right of Way

**Mark Reddy**, Applications Developer III, Information Technology

**Abbas Rezayazdi**, Professional Civil Engineer II, Construction & Materials

**Robert Stacks**, Director, Administration

### District One

**Donald Kern**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Oskaloosa

**Vernie Koker**, General Maintenance and Repair Technician, Topeka

**Bruce Reynolds**, Engineering Technician, Bonner Springs

### District Two

**Michael Alkire**, Engineering Technician Senior, Belleville

**Thomas Wendell**, Equipment Operator Senior, Beloit

### District Three

**Kevin Lacy**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Norton

### District Five

**Bradley Halseth**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Great Bend

**Michael Kinzel**, Equipment Operator Specialist, Great Bend

**Raymond McIntosh**, Engineering Technician, Pratt

**John Stewart**, Equipment Mechanic Supervisor, Hutchinson

## In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of retiree Bob Clark, who passed away on Nov. 14 in Topeka. Clark worked as an Engineering Technician for KDOT for 42 years. He retired in 1995.





A tractor mower is pulled out with a motor grader and a tow rope. Photo provided

## Safety Alert - learn from log chain incident

Safety Alerts are designed to share information about an incident so others can learn ways to improve, which is an important part of Secretary Julie Lorenz' Be Safe initiative. The people involved are not identified.

**Safety Alert - log chain incident:** In September, an Equipment Operator went to mow where cattails were growing in a wet area on KDOT right-of-way.

The equipment operator noticed he had started sinking because of standing water and the weight of the mower. Once the equipment operator realized he was not going to be able to get out on his own, he contacted his supervisor.

The Supervisor could not help, so he asked a second Equipment Operator to assist.

The second equipment operator suggested getting the approved tow rope. The mower operator said if he could just get a little pull with the truck, he would be able to drive out. They opted to use a chain instead of getting the approved rope to try and pull the mower out.

The mower operator decided to lean all the way to the left of the cab down low, knowing that the chain breaking was a real possibility. As fate would have it, the

chain did break. The mower operator suddenly heard breaking glass. After he gathered himself, he realized that both the front and rear window of the tractor cab had been shattered. He also realized after looking around there was a hook with two chain links from the chain they had hooked up, lying on the floor of the cab.

They notified the supervisor of the situation and a motor grader with the correct tow rope was brought out and pulled the tractor mower out. Both operators had attended the **required Tow Rope training** just within the last couple years, and they will be attending this training again.



It's important to keep in mind that KDOT employees are responsible for the safety of themselves and those around them to include the public. This was a very unfortunate ordeal in which the circumstances could have been much more severe.

All employees should follow the training they have received to improve safety in their work environment. In addition, if an action is witnessed that could be a potential safety hazard, they should stop that action, take the appropriate safety precautions or call a Supervisor.

# KDOT reads the roads in a ‘Star Wars van’



*KDOT's "Star Wars van" travels on highways across the state gathering data for the pavement management system. Photo by Support Services*

By Tim Potter, District Five

Some people call it “the Star Wars van.”

**What, why:** It’s called the Star Wars van because the vehicle -- and all the equipment it carries -- is so technologically advanced. It’s “the fact that it fires lasers and does some fancy things,” says Rick Miller, Pavement Management Engineer for KDOT.

The van plays a crucial role in helping KDOT decide how to preserve and improve roadways.

**How:** Using lasers, cameras and computers, the van systematically travels the state’s highways each year recording images of the pavement surface. The data provides precise measurements for roughness, cracking and rutting.

The data goes to a pavement management system. It considers the pavement’s traffic, age, construction and past maintenance. So, as Miller says, it helps determine “the right thing to do, at the right time, at the right cost.”

**Background:** The current van, purchased in 2012, will be replaced in 2020.

**Checking out the “Star Wars van:”** Bolted to the back bumper is bar with a laser on either end pointing down to the wheel path. Lasers above are mounted to brackets that stick out from the back of the van. As the van moves over a highway, the lasers take images of the road surface, and computers lace the images together. The lower lasers measure the pavement roughness/smoothness. Two lasers above measure the height of the pavement, which can be used to compute rutting, cracking and texture. Cameras up front are correlated with lasers in the back. The lasers help provide the depth and width of every crack on the road.

**The van is a workhorse:** It’s a white 2012 Ford E350 passenger van.

One day this past summer, it showed about 211,000 miles -- on a second engine that replaced the first one.

**Nature’s impact:** The van can’t operate in the rain because the lasers would reflect back.

**Many miles:** The van travels every mile of state-maintained highway each year. It’s about 12,500 miles, including both sides of some roadways.



# Trivia!

## Brady Bunch – 50th anniversary

1. Who was originally cast to play Mike Brady?
2. This woman turned down the role of Carol Brady. And this woman was close to being cast before Florence Henderson was chosen.
3. Two kids had to color their hair for their roles – who

were they?

4. The Brady family had a cat for the pilot episode. What was his name?
5. How many seasons did the show air?
6. Who joined the cast in the last season?
7. Who did not appear in the final episode?



*District One employees Bob Brown, Mike Montgomery, Jake Sawatzky, James Curtis and Kent Bahr checked out the historic building and also visited the Senate chambers. Photos by Mark Karolevitz, District One*



*District One Engineer Leroy Koehn gave employees the option of touring the Capitol during a planned power outage at the main office on Nov. 21.*

## Trivia answers

1. Gene Hackman.
2. Shirley Jones turned down the role. Joyce Bulifant.
3. Cindy and Bobby – Susan Olsen (lighter) and Mike Lookinland (darker).
4. Fluffy.

5. Five.
6. Actor Robbie Rist as Oliver, the cousin.
7. Robert Reed (Mike). He and the producer had an argument and he was written out of the episode.

# New employee snow and ice training

By Kelly Kultala, District One

Before KDOT puts a new driver behind the wheel of a snow plow or loader, employees are required to complete a three-day snow and ice training, followed by additional training back at their home offices.

The training occurs in the fall and includes two days in the classroom and one day of hands-on learning, which includes how to clean a truck, torch safety training, loader training and snowplow driver training.

Brian Hoke, Highway Maintenance Supervisor at the Overland Park Subarea, was the training supervisor and said, "Training is very important because the people that are attending are new hires with less than one year of experience and have never done snow and ice removal. The trainers have many years of experience and enjoy meeting all of the new hires and sharing their experience and information."

In the classroom, trainees go over proper decision making/plowing procedures, tire chain installation and truck walk arounds to make sure that everything is working properly. They review different types of chemicals and salt brine used to melt the snow and learn how to apply them.

In addition, new employees attend the winter safety class where the District Safety Specialist discusses



*Employees at the Oakland Subarea learn about proper equipment maintenance while participating in snow and ice training. Photos by Kelly Kultala, District One*

safety precautions of extreme weather conditions, what to wear and how to prepare for working long hours. They also go over the truck and attachments with a mechanic and learn about common break downs and preventative measures. The mechanic also goes over proper clean up procedures with the equipment after the snow and ice event is over.



*A training method borrowed from District Four involves trainees driving a snow plow on a course and pushing a bowling ball into a goal, which requires depth perception and hand/eye coordination.*



# Section of Kellogg Avenue opens in east Wichita

By Tom Hein, District Five

At a ribbon cutting ceremony on Nov. 21, representatives from the City of Wichita, KTA and KDOT opened to traffic a new two-mile section of U.S. 54/400 freeway from Eastern Street to the junction with K-96.

“During the past three years, the City of Wichita, KDOT and the Turnpike Authority have partnered to greatly improve mobility in east Wichita,” said Secretary Julie Lorenz. “We are grateful that we could pool funds, resources and expertise to make this project move forward for area drivers, local businesses, freight movers and all travelers passing through the Wichita region.”

“We also appreciate the efforts of our contractor, Wildcat Construction, as they orchestrate the work of many subcontractors to move the project to the milestone that we celebrate today.”

The two-mile section of freeway that opened is actually the combination of two adjacent U.S. 54/400 projects, one centering on the Webb Road intersection and one at Greenwich Road. The KTA touches both ends of the project with their mile marker 50 toll plaza on the west near Webb Road and the east end of the project where new ramps connecting the Kellogg freeway and the Turnpike will be constructed.

The Webb Road area, started in 2015, will wrap up this spring. It starts on the west at the end of the current freeway (Eastern Street) and ends just west of the Greenwich Road intersection.

The Greenwich Road piece started later and finishes in late 2021. It picks up west of Greenwich and continues east over Zelta Street to a new access for the KTA and ends at the K-96/U.S. 54/400 junction.



*Attendees gather on a stretch of Kellogg freeway to celebrate its opening on Nov. 21 in Wichita.*

**“During the past three years, the City of Wichita, KDOT and the Turnpike Authority have partnered to greatly improve mobility in east Wichita.”**

**Secretary Lorenz**



*Law enforcement leads officials and other motorists as they drive on the newly-opened stretch of freeway. Photos by Tom Hein, District Five*





# U.S. 166 bridge work progresses

By Priscilla Petersen, District Four

Work to replace a U.S. 166 railroad overpass in Montgomery County began last July. The bridge spans the South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad (SKOL) tracks at the west junction of U.S. 166 and U.S. 75.

The new overpass is being constructed on an alternate alignment approximately 35 feet north of the existing structure.

“We are setting the precast beams onto the piers and abutments,” according to KDOT Project Manager Geryd Erbele. “Then we can start to form up for pouring the deck.”

One-lane traffic is being carried through the work zone on the existing overpass. B & B Bridge Company of St. Paul is the primary contractor on the \$3.4 million project, which is expected to be finished by summer 2020. Ben Ware’s road squad and Shawn Schwensen’s bridge squad designed the project.



*Construction continues on the new South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad overpass at the U.S. 166/U.S. 75 junction.*



*The existing overpass is on the left, south of the new bridge.*



*A large bull snake slithered into the bridge project at one point, proving the need to always wear sturdy footwear and watch where you’re walking. Photos by Geryd Erbele, District Four*



# Improvements throughout District Six



Landon Baier, Equipment Operator from the District Six Bridge Crew, welds metal plates in place on the U.S. 83 bridge south of Garden City.



Kyle Hughes, Equipment Operator at the Ashland Subarea, repairs the expansion joint on the U.S. 160 bridge over Little Sandy Creek in Clark County.

**All photos by Lisa Knoll, District Six**



Stoppel Dirt, LLC of Sublette recently completed a grading and dirt work project on U.S. 160 in Clark County.



At a cost of \$95,000, the project replaced a section of guardrail and increased recovery zone for vehicles traveling in the area.

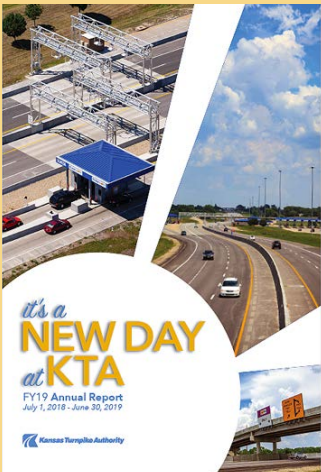


# Scenic



Neil Croxton, KDOT Professional Geologist in Salina, photographed this old shed with lots of antique signs located along U.S. 36 west of the town of Washington in Washington County.

## KTA briefs



Two bids have been approved and contracts awarded on two upcoming Kansas Turnpike projects. Both projects are scheduled to begin in March with work completing in November, weather permitting. Learn more about the projects in the news release [here](#).

KTA's most recent annual report, which can be seen [here](#), shows KTA's net position increased by \$45.5M and long-term debt decreased by \$27.7M.

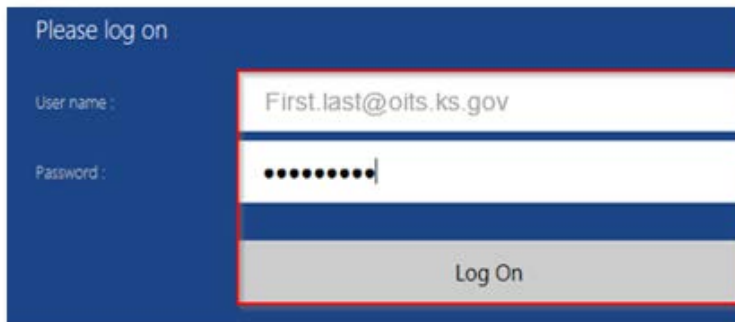
Additionally, a recent economic impact study that can be read [here](#) reveals KTA contributes over \$230M to the economy. Read the latest news release for more information [here](#).

Be sure to use your **Discretionary Day for 2019**. For eligible state employees whose last work day of a week is Friday, the final day to use the 2019 D-Day is Friday, Dec. 27.

# Self-Service Portal - Quick Start Guide

## STEP 1

**Log into the portal at:**  
[ksgov.service-now.com](http://ksgov.service-now.com).



For more details on this process and many other topics involving the Office of Information Technology Services & Systems go to the KDOT Intranet page [here](#).

## STEP 2

**Click the links to contact us.**



[How can we assist you?](#)

Your IT gateway. Report issues and submit requests.

Items

 [Contact the Technology Services Center](#)

Submit a form to report an incident or make a request.

## STEP 3

**Fill in the form and Submit.**

**Submit**

Or call us 24/7 at  
**785-296-4999** or  
**833-765-2001** for  
**urgent issues!**



# KDOT Employee Council Holiday Ornament Order Form

Year	Quantity	Cost	Total
<b>2019</b>		<b>\$5</b>	
2018		\$3	
2016		\$3	
2015		\$3	
2013		\$3	
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 -

Kristie Eakes,  
ESOB - 14th Floor,  
700 SW Harrison,  
Topeka, KS 66603

Make checks  
payable to KDOT  
Employee Council

For more details, call  
Kristie at (785) 296-3501

## ---Past Ornaments Still Available---

2018



2016



2015



2013

