

TRANSLINES EXPRESS

Nov. 3, 2021

Kansas project wins ATA competition

Governor Laura Kelly announced on Oct. 29 that the Turner Diagonal interchange project on I-70 in Wyandotte County beat 11 states to win the People's Choice Award in the 2021 America's Transportation Awards competition.

The award comes with a \$10,000 cash prize. Pledges from KDOT transportation-industry partners will boost that amount to more than \$30,000. KDOT, in collaboration with the Kansas Board of Regents, will direct the funds towards transportation-related scholarships at Regents' universities.

"From day one, my administration has prioritized a strategic and innovative approach to delivering much-needed transportation projects that make our roads safer, spur economic growth and create jobs," Governor Kelly said. "Winning this prestigious award is proof that the entire country is taking notice of our successes."

KDOT Secretary Julie Lorenz accepted the award on behalf of Kansas and KDOT in San Diego at the annual meeting of AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials), one of the industry's most important gatherings of transportation, government and commercial organizations.

The ATA People's Choice award winner was determined through online votes from the public. The Turner Diagonal Project was among 12 state finalist projects selected from 80 nominations from 35 states. Finalist states included Arizona, Delaware, Florida, Indiana,



The Turner Diagonal project took top honors in the America's Transportation Award competition for the People's Choice Award. File photo

Kentucky, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Oregon, South Carolina and Utah.

The \$30.3 million Turner Diagonal project in Kansas City reconfigured the interchange on I-70, allowing the

release of nearly 50 acres of right-of-way and opened 300 acres of land for economic development and job creation. Using alternative delivery methods, the project was

completed ahead of schedule, opening in less than a year from ground-breaking.

"From the start, the Turner Diagonal project embodied so much of our new IKE transportation program, building on the foundational elements of partnerships, options, and problem solving," Secretary Lorenz said. "With this project, we have delivered with public sector principles and private sector urgency."

KDOT partners match prize money to generate \$30,000 in scholarships for Kansas students

Getting equipment ready for SNICE

By Tim Potter
District Five

It could be a while before District Five crews deal with significant ice or snow on highways.

But as of Oct. 15, District Five crews met KDOT's deadline to have equipment and supplies ready to roll so they can treat highways when needed.

That meant checking dump trucks to make sure lights and strobes were working, District Maintenance Superintendent Chris Collins noted. The preparation, Collins said, also involved hooking up plows and spreaders to make sure they were operating correctly and checking out loaders, brine tanks and pumps and making sure salt and brine supplies were adequate, and checking tires and antifreeze levels on the winter fleet.

Wichita Area Superintendent David Lechner asks his crews to carefully inspect vehicles that will be used to battle snow and ice. "I like to see them looking for some really deep issues involving the vehicles," Lechner said. Like a crack that might not be obvious until it fails when the vehicle is really needed.

District Shop Superintendent Brent Engelland has his own checklist: Inspecting brine tanks to make sure pumps are working – and rebuilding pumps if necessary -- calibrating settings on spreaders and brine tanks and sometimes shortening conveyor chain on a spreader. On dump trucks: making sure the computers work properly on the spreaders. "Everything's pretty well automated," Engelland noted.

As part of the equipment preparation, Mike Smith, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technician Senior, goes to all the subareas. Smith looks for leaking seals or gaskets or locked-up components on pumps and motors that operate brine tanks and brine makers. Sometimes, he switches in spares so there is no down time. The faulty equipment gets rebuilt at the District Shop, and then Smith reinstalls it.



Equipment preparation is a key part of treating highways. Photo by Tim Potter, District Five

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Joint partnership agreement signed for viaduct

By Kate Craft
District One

The 58-year-old Polk-Quincy Viaduct served as the backdrop on Oct. 13 when Governor Laura Kelly and Secretary Julie Lorenz joined with Topeka leaders to sign the official joint partnership agreement for the I-70 Polk-Quincy Project.

The agreement is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOA) that commits the partners to cooperatively expedite delivery of the project, and establishes the formal partnership between KDOT, City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Metropolitan Topeka Planning Organization, Topeka-Shawnee County Riverfront Authority, Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority and the Greater Topeka Partnership.

Governor Kelly announced in July that the project had been selected for construction as part of the IKE Transportation Program but improvements to the I-70



Governor Laura Kelly signs the agreement and celebrates with Secretary Julie Lorenz in regards to the Polk-Quincy Viaduct project. Photos by Steve Hale, Headquarters



corridor have been in the works for more than a decade. In August 2011, the Polk-Quincy Viaduct Study was completed and an overall improvement concept was developed. Though the project eventually stalled due to funding limitations, public support for a new viaduct, and declining conditions of the existing structure, continued.

“We’ve seen traffic volume increase, infrastructure deteriorate, and highway designs have changed,” said Secretary Lorenz. “Quite frankly, maintaining this bridge has gotten more and more expensive over time.”



Governor Kelly speaks at the event along with other officials. Photos by the Governor’s office.

Scheduled to be let in fall 2024, the Polk-Quincy Project will reconstruct I-70 from MacVicar Avenue to 6th Street, including replacement of the viaduct and removal of its notoriously sharp curve. The improvements will ease traffic congestion through downtown, enhance safety, foster economic development and create local jobs. The \$234 million project consists of \$214 million in state contribution and \$20 million in local funding.

Additional project information and future updates can be found at www.polkquincy.org.



U.S. 59 bridge now features a smooth ride

By Priscilla Petersen
District Four

The deck of the U.S. 59 bridge over the Neosho River had become one bumpy ride. In mid-October the ride became noticeably smoother after crews from Pittsburg, Altamont, Columbus and Erie coordinated to patch and then place a one-inch asphalt overlay on the bridge.

According to Pittsburg Crew Supervisor Joe Engle, "Hopefully delamination/spalling and overlay repairs will buy us some time till the bridge is replaced. Crews from Area Four all chipped in to help and did a very good job."

Engle said a high performance cold mix asphalt produced by Shilling Construction was used to patch the deck: "We used the loaded truck and rolled it in." The hot mix asphalt for the overlay was a surface mix on contract from Whitaker Aggregates in Mound City.

The easier drive across the bridge has not gone



In the photos above and below, KDOT crews patch and place an asphalt overlay on the U.S. 59 bridge over the Neosho River. Photos by Joe Engle, District Four

unappreciated as members of the traveling public have reached out to KDOT through Facebook to say thanks.



Workers train to keep Kansas moving this winter

By Ashley Perez
District Two

The temperatures are dropping, and soon white fluff and ice will cover the ground, so KDOT workers must know the best procedures to treat roads and keep Kansas moving when winter weather hits. On Oct. 26 and Oct. 27, KDOT workers in District Two from Area Two engaged in snow and ice training to teach new workers the ropes and refresh their skills. Workers split into small groups which rotated through different training sessions, while socially distancing and wearing masks when needed.

Snow and ice training sessions included the benefits of salt brine and how to:

- Properly make brine.
- Properly complete paperwork for SNICE events.
- Properly pump and dispense brine.
- Install chains, change blades and do walk-around checks.

On the second day of training in Concordia, Rolling Hills Rural Electric went over electrical dangers faced on the job and how to avoid injury.

“It was good to see what effects electricity has on the body and what to do if we are put in a situation where we’re in contact with a power line, such as how to get away,” said Doug Newquist, Area Superintendent in Mankato.

Rolling Hills Rural Electric recommends treating all downed power lines as if they are live. Newquist thanked Rolling Hills for providing this training and reminded KDOT workers to be careful and safe while performing SNICE duties this winter.

1. KDOT employees train on pumping and dispensing brine. 2. Employees also learned about making brine. 3. Rolling Hills Rural Electric provided training on how to avoid electrical dangers and injuries. Photos by Ashley Perez and Doug Newquist, District Two



Crews get creative when making repairs

By Lisa Mussman
District Three

KDOT crews spend a good amount of time mowing during the warmer months, but they are doing a lot more than just cutting grass as they're riding along the highways.

Mowing crews often are the first to spot potential hazards and problems that may not be easily seen from the road. This was the case earlier this summer along U.S. 36 in Smith County as crews came across a rapidly deteriorating embankment behind a damaged wingwall on a reinforced concrete box culvert approximately 5 miles east of Smith Center.

The crew made creative use of some old roadway signs to form a temporary containment wall to help keep the erosion from getting to the highway. KDOT awarded an emergency contract of \$137,000 to Reece Construction of Scandia to place sheet piling and re-grade the area that was previously retained by the wingwall. Work began in late October and took two weeks.

The Stockton subarea crew also discovered a similar issue while mowing along K-18 east of Plainville. The damage was not as severe, however, and KDOT maintenance crews were able to make the necessary repairs.



An old "Welcome to Kansas" sign shows resources can come from anywhere as crews used it to temporarily shore up the eroding embankment until the emergency repair job could be completed.

Crews from Reece Construction work on repairs to the embankment and damaged wing wall on U.S. 36 in Smith County. Photos by Chris Hrabe and Dan Moore, District Three



Wichita Metro using billboards to recruit employees

By Tracy Crockett
District Five

If you frequent the major interstates in the Wichita area, chances are you'll see a KDOT billboard.

The Wichita Metro is looking to fill more than 20 vacancies at several offices.

"Very few applicants have been coming in as a result of the normal routes for us such as newspapers, Facebook and internet," said Area Superintendent David Lechner.

So, a new approach is being tested as billboards were purchased to help attract new employees.

"We believe that getting billboard advertising for help wanted out adjacent to where the travelling public is driving will reach a much wider audience than our traditional efforts of just advertising online or in publications that we suspect don't get much viewing," said Metro Engineer Don Snyder.

Numerous digital billboards with rotating messages can be seen on some of the busiest roadways in Wichita. Each features basic information regarding the help



Billboards featuring jobs at KDOT can be seen along several highways in Wichita in hopes to attract new employees to KDOT. Photos by Don Snyder, District Five

wanted and pictures of employees doing everyday tasks such as mowing, patching or plowing snow.

While winter employees are needed, the team wanted to focus on attracting full-time, long-term employees.

"We wanted to show pictures of other work activities our employees perform and not just winter snow and ice operations. Outdoor advertising should get the attention of a much wider audience, and drivers who see the ads will be better able to relate to the work our crews do while they are out driving themselves," Snyder said.

For people interested in viewing the positions available at KDOT in the Wichita area as well as across the state, click [HERE](#).





Turner Logistics Center opens new building

By Kelly Kultala and Delaney Tholen
District One

Following the first phase of development adjacent to the Turner Diagonal and I-70 interchange in Kansas City, a ribbon cutting took place Oct. 28 for a building that adds 375,000 square feet of space to the Turner Logistics Center, including the warehouse that now houses the Amazon fulfillment center.

Speakers included Brent Miles, Northpoint Chief Marketing Officer, and officials from the Unified Government of Wyandotte County - Mayor David Alvey, Commissioner Melissa Bynum and Commissioner Jane Philbrook.

Miles, formerly of the Wyandotte Economic Development Council, pointed out that NorthPoint, the nation's largest privately held landlord company, does "not create jobs, we create opportunities for those jobs to be created" and described the Turner Logistics Center as "an economic engine."

The majority of the newly built facility has been pre-leased to a variety of tenants. Upon completion in 2025, the logistics park will feature more than 1 million square feet of usable indoor warehouse space.

Each speaker pointed out the value of collaboration among KDOT, KTA, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and NorthPoint, and the dynamic public private partnership created to develop the central transportation corridor.



Above, attendees gather in the new addition to the Turner Logistics Center. At left, KDOT Deputy Secretary Maggie Doll and KTA Director of Engineering David Jacobson. Photos by Kelly Kultala, District One

As a geographic lynchpin of development, the KDOT-led and national award-winning Turner Diagonal project was partially funded by a U.S. DOT grant.

"Wyandotte County will continue to invest, attract residents and businesses, grow the tax base and provide revenues for services our community needs," said Mayor Alvey.

KTA history

Last month, KTA celebrated its 65th anniversary and its role being a regional transportation solution, strengthening the economy and connecting travelers. Celebrate with KTA - click [HERE](#) to watch a video looking back over its rich history.



U.S. 281 opens

U.S. 281 in Russell County was reopened to through traffic on Oct. 21. The \$9.8 million T-WORKS project began in April 2020 and was phased across two construction seasons, with KDOT closing the road in March 2021. Work included construction of a 30-foot paved surface with three-foot turf shoulders on four miles of the highway from 15th Street in Russell to Land Road. Approximately two miles of the road was reconstructed on an offset alignment around a geological slide area that had caused significant road failures. In addition to the pavement work, a right-turn lane was also constructed in the northbound lane at Land Road. Photos by Dean Jay, District Three



Surveying honor

Right of Way Bureau Chief Bill Haverkamp (left) is presented the TL Daniel Award by David Lee, President of the Kansas Society of Land Surveyors at the group's annual meeting in Dodge City on Oct. 8. The award is given by the organization's Board of Directors and recognizes professional accomplishments and dedicated service to the surveying profession. Haverkamp was the Survey Coordinator for KDOT and retired in 2017 after 39 years of service. He returned to KDOT in June 2019 as Right of Way Bureau Chief.

K-156 project public meeting



District Six along with the PMC held a public meeting on Oct. 27 at the King Center in Jetmore to gather input on the K-156 Hodgeman County widening project. The project will rehabilitate and widen 15 miles of pavement from Hanston to 4 miles west of Jetmore. It will also add six-foot composite shoulders to this section of highway. About 60 residents attended the meeting and provided comments about the project. In the photo at left, KDOT Bureau Chief, Bill Haverkamp discusses right of way issues and impact with a Hodgeman County resident. At right, Ron Hall, District Six Engineer, and Jeffrey Drees with Lochner discuss the project with Lea Ann Seiler, Hodgeman County Economic Development Director. Photos by Lisa Knoll, District Six

State experts offer tips to prevent deer-vehicle crashes

The KHP, KDOT, KDWP and AAA Kansas offer helpful tips to help drivers potentially avoid collisions with deer, especially this time of year known as the “rut,” when deer-vehicle crashes are the most frequent. (For the full release, click [HERE](#).)

To avoid crashes, or worse, state experts offer these helpful tips:

- Be especially watchful at dawn and dusk, when deer are more active.
- If you see one deer, expect others, as deer seldom travel alone.
- Drive at a reduced speed and be vigilant near wooded areas, green spaces and near water sources.
- Be aware near deer crossing signs - these areas have had high numbers of vehicle/deer crashes in the past.
- Use bright lights when there is no oncoming traffic, and scan the road ahead for the reflective eyes of deer.
- Brake, but do not swerve to avoid hitting a deer – the



most serious crashes can occur when motorists veer and collide with another vehicle or run off the road.

- Always use seat belts and child safety seats.
- If a collision occurs, move the vehicle to the shoulder of the roadway, if possible, and call law enforcement - KHP dispatch at *47, the Kansas Turnpike at *582 and local law enforcement at 911.

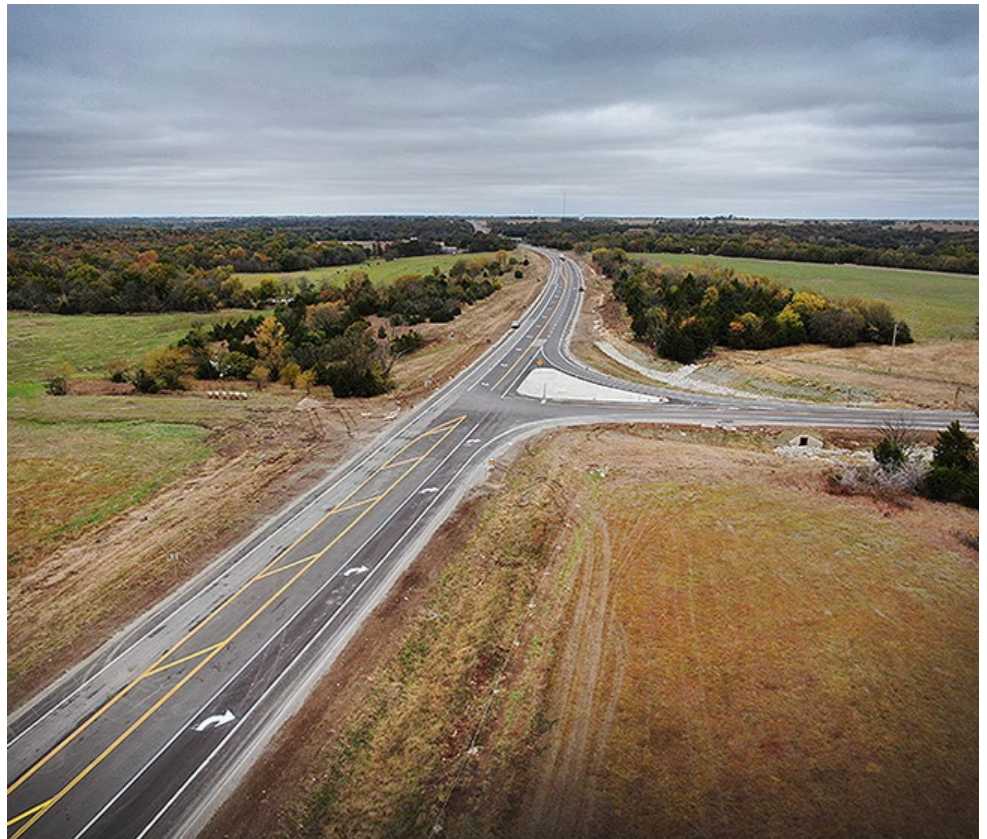
Trivia!

President – fun facts – Part One

1. What President is in the Wrestling Hall of Fame?
2. George Washington was not the first person to have their face on the \$1 bill. Who was it?
3. Which President installed a putting green at the White House and played more than 800 rounds while in office?
4. What President worked as a fashion model during college and appeared on the cover of Cosmopolitan?
5. What two Presidents died on the same day?
6. What President was a Major General in the U.S. Army and a hero of the Mexican-American War?
7. What President apprenticed as a tailor and made his own suits, even while serving as President?
8. What President had two pet alligators that were allowed in the White House?

Section of U.S. 169 opens to traffic

In late October, KDOT reopened 7½ miles of widened and improved U.S. 169 between Welda and Garnett. The highway section was closed for reconstruction/rehabilitation in the spring of 2020. The \$21 million T-WORKS project included shoulder widening and replacement of the pavement, and improved vertical alignment to provide more opportunities to pass slow-moving vehicles. Bettis Asphalt & Construction, Inc., of Topeka was the primary contractor. This drone photo shows reconstructed junction of U.S. 169 and U.S. 59. Greg Gonzales' road squad and Shawn Schwensen's bridge squad designed the project. Photo by Warren Ebberts, District Four



Trivia answers

1. President Abraham Lincoln. He had only one loss in about 300 contests.
2. Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of Treasury. The first \$1 bill was issued during the Civil War.
3. President Dwight Eisenhower.
4. President Gerald Ford.
5. On July 4, 1826, Presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both passed away.
6. President Zachary Taylor.
7. President Andrew Johnson.
8. President Herbert Hoover.

It is everyone's job to be a part of the team

By Troy Whitworth
Director of Safety

We have all probably said the phrase, "it's not my job," at some point in our lives. So, what does this mean exactly? Is the task really, "not my job," or is it that we haven't been trained on that particular job? Maybe the job was assigned to someone else, or it's something we don't want to do. In any case, thinking or saying, "it's not my job," can put others at risk.

I have worked with many people over the years and quite a few performed like they were just going through the motions. They were not putting conscious thought into their actions. They wait on someone to tell them exactly what to do, and they will do no more than that. So, why do employees disengage?

Many years ago, I had a Supervisor who worked for me. He would assign tasks to his crew in the morning expecting the crew to only do those assigned tasks, even if they came across an issue that was more critical. He didn't want the crew to make independent decisions and/or deviate from the plan without his approval.

The Supervisor explained to the crew to call him if they came across a problem, he would assign someone to take care of the issue. Now imagine what would happen

if you had a crew heading out to pick up trash, and they come across a stop sign that's down. Do you think they should be given the latitude to take care of this if they couldn't get in touch with the Supervisor? I do.

This Supervisor's approach to leadership diminished their decision-making abilities. It was ingrained in them that it was only the Supervisor's job to make decisions, not theirs. It also made them start saying, "it's not my job," to look for problems other than the specific tasks that were assigned to them. The crew eventually stopped notifying the Supervisor of issues they saw while out on the road because it was, "not my job."

So, when employees start saying, "not my job," it defines how their culture has shifted. They stop

seeing hazards as their responsibility to overcome. They stop looking for ways to improve and only look for ways to make it to the end of the day. And they probably didn't see themselves as part of a team.

We should empower people to grow and develop - not to become robots waiting for the day to end. We should

encourage our employees to be good decision makers and give them the opportunity to grow through their failures and successes. Because today, they may be a new employee, but tomorrow they may be one of our future leaders. For your family and mine.



Thank you for your service

Milestones

KDOT employees celebrating state service anniversaries in November.

30 years

Marvin Burch, Equipment Operator Specialist, Osborne

Patricia Gibson, Administrative Assistant, Topeka

Rex Kraus, Engineering Technician Specialist, Topeka

20 years

Stanley Nipple, Engineering Technician, Liberal

Antonio Pacaldo, Engineering Technician Senior, Wichita

Denise Petet, Multimedia Services Coordinator, Topeka

Brenda Reynoldson, State Auditor II, Topeka

Dewayne Roland, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Medicine Lodge

10 years

Joseph Bowen, Field Survey Project Manager, Topeka

Willard McDonald III, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Hill City

Dylan Shepherd, Applications Developer III, Topeka

Dwayne Thronesbery, Equipment Operator Specialist, Protection

Richard White, Equipment Operator Senior, Hiawatha

Retirees

The following employees will retire on Dec. 1.

District Five

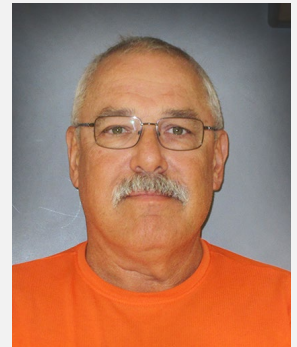
John Berndsen, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Winfield

District One

Steven Unruh, Engineering Technician, Topeka

In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT employee Larry Cushenbery, who passed away on Oct. 21. Cushenbery worked as an Equipment Operator at the Area Four office in Lindsborg since November 2017. He served in the Marine Corp for six years and had a history of several public service roles within his community. Cushenbery often played the bugle and assisted with memorials by performing tributes.



Larry Cushenbery

If you know of a KDOT retiree who is not receiving Translines, please have them email Kim.stich@ks.gov

If you know of a KDOT retiree who has passed away, please let her know.

Thanks for your help.

Kansas kids win contests, focus on traffic safety

Statewide contest winners have been announced as part of the safety effort Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day.

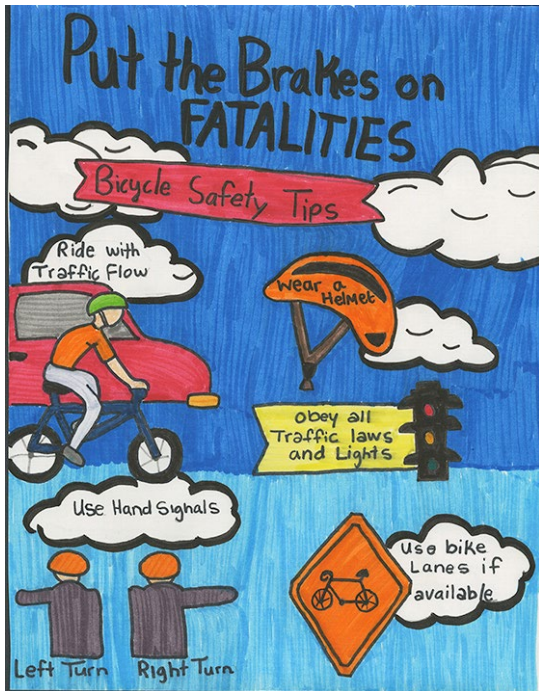
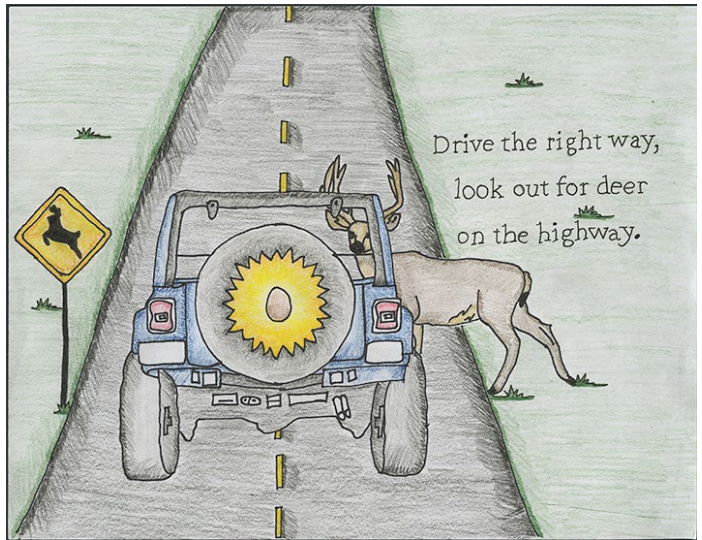
Poster contest – Annika Mick of Manhattan, Emma Kuhlman of Topeka and Raynee Eddy of Inman are the statewide winners. Each student was selected as a regional winner and will receive a bicycle donated by the KTA and a helmet donated by Safe Kids Kansas. A total of 638 Kansas kids ages 5 to 13 participated.

As statewide winners, they also receive a Kindle Fire tablet from the KTA, a \$50 gift card from the Fuel True/ Independent Energy and Convenience and movie passes from AAA Kansas. The student’s school, class or booster club will receive \$200. To see all the winners, click [HERE](#).

Video contest – Students from St. John – Hudson Tigers USD 350 won first place. They receive first choice of a GoPro, a DJI Stabilizer and a DJI Drone. Their school, class or booster club also will receive \$500.

Two groups of students from Eudora Schools captured second and third place in the video contest. Each will receive one of the remaining prizes listed above. There was a total of 33 entries from teens across the state. To see the winning videos, click [HERE](#).

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day is a nationwide effort to increase roadway safety and reduce all traffic fatalities.



Artwork: Top by Raynee Eddy, above by Emma Kuhlman and left by Annika Mick.



KDOT Employee Council Holiday Ornament Order Form

Year	Quantity	Cost	Total
2021		\$5	
2020		\$3	
2019		\$3	
2018		\$3	
2016		\$3	
2015		\$3	
Total enclosed			



Please Print -

Name: _____

Work address: _____

_____ (Retirees only - home address)

Best phone: _____

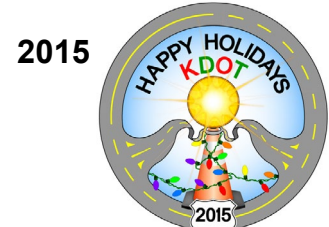
How to Order: HQ - email/call Jennifer to make arrangements.

Districts/Retirees - Mail form to - Jennifer Meyer, ESOB/6th Floor, 700 SW Harrison, Topeka, KS 66603

Make checks payable to
KDOT Employee Council

For more details,
contact Jennifer:
(785) 296-3661 or
Jennifer.Meyer@
ks.gov

Past Ornaments Available



GIVE THE GIFT OF KANSAS

\$55



Ad Astra

NEW

\$30



Bluestem

\$25



Konza

Did you know your gift purchases are a “gift” to those you purchase *from* as well as who you purchase *for*? Support Kansas producers, agribusinesses and food companies this holiday season by purchasing one of our holiday gift boxes.

Find our holiday gift boxes online at:

shop.fromthelandofkansas.com

Each box is filled with a variety of both sweet and savory goods, so there is something for everyone to love. Purchase your delectable selection of goods by December 10 to guarantee holiday delivery!



- **Prices do not include tax and shipping.
- **Shipping available to all 50 states.
- **If you are ordering a quantity of more than 10 gift boxes, please call 785-564-6759 to ensure your delivery can be fulfilled and delivered by December 25.