

# TRANSLINES EXPRESS

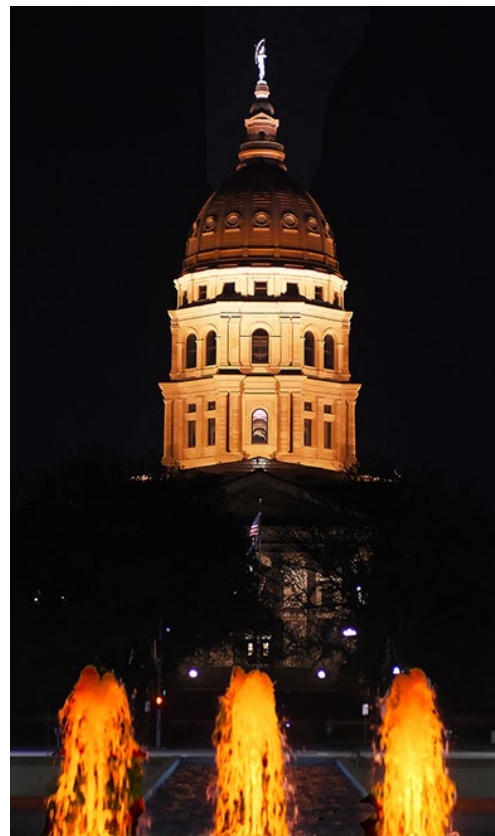
May 5, 2021

## National Work Zone Awareness Week



### Go Orange

*Some of the people and locations across Kansas that participated in National Work Zone Awareness Week included the KDOT Beloit Subarea (left), Governor's Mansion (middle left), District One office (bottom left) and the Judicial Center south of the Capitol.*



*See more photos and articles on work zone safety throughout this edition.*

# Fatality crash causes quick response, teamwork effort

By Ashley Perez  
District Two

March 30 is a date that many KDOT construction workers in District Two will not forget - Mission Construction Company employee Gabriel Rupp was struck and killed on U.S. 36 in Jewell County. While it was difficult for KDOT employees to be at the crash site, they worked together to keep everyone safe and informed throughout this tragic event.

KDOT Project Manager Jerry Richecky was inspecting traffic control and traveling to the west end of the project when he came upon the crash scene. Emergency personnel were already on site. Communication and teamwork became critical in the situation as Richecky quickly called Jeff Noland, his Supervisor.

Noland called Jean Istas, Construction Engineer for Area Two in Belleville. Noland quickly left the office to head to the project while Istas then notified District Construction and Materials Engineer Shad Lohman, who notified KDOT leaders and kept them updated throughout the day with information provided to him.

When Noland arrived at the crash site, traffic was stopped from both directions and Jewell County emergency personnel were on scene. Kansas Highway Patrol then arrived with several officers and took the lead. With the scene under control by the KHP, Noland quickly went to check on the well-being of Richecky and other highway workers.

"I could not have asked for better teamwork," Noland said. "Once word got out of the crash, KDOT maintenance crew members quickly jumped in to help.

"Doug Newquist, Area Maintenance Superintendent, was on location, organizing Subarea crews to set up traffic control for a flagging operation. They wanted to get the traveling public safely through the area while also keeping emergency personnel safe."

The Subarea workers included Brentin Hake, Erik Duenas and J.D. Joyner Sr. from Concordia; Sam Flinn, David Bixler and Rodney Howard from Mankato; Gavin Tracy, Cody Deneault, Josh Mazur, Richard Krotz, and Kade Cooper from Belleville.

"I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and being a loyal KDOT team player during this heartbreaking event," Noland said.

## **TRANSLINES EXPRESS**

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**Transportation Secretary**  
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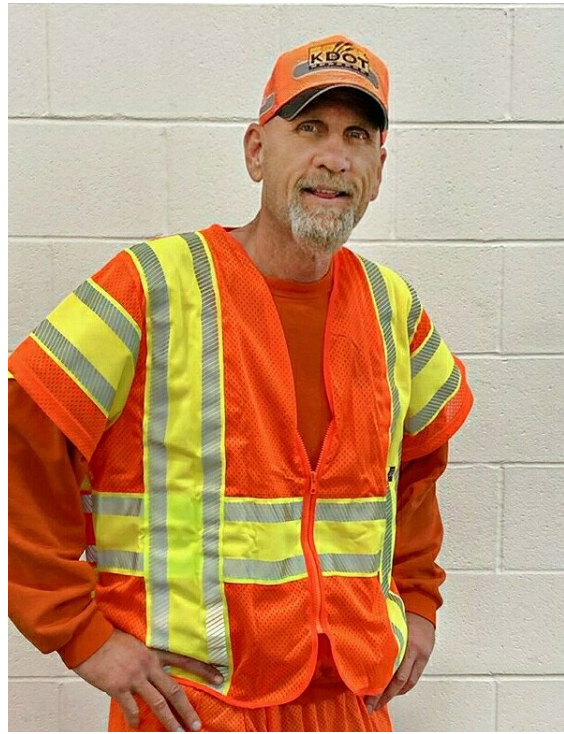
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*KDOT Equipment Operator Daniel Zuniga Jr., who was nearly struck in a work zone near Liberal. Photo by Roger Martinez, District Six*



*Wichita Highway Maintenance Supervisor Ted Coleman reminds his crew every day to look out for each other while working. Photo by David Brandt, District Five*

# Close calls in work zones put lives at risk

By Tim Potter  
District Five

KDOT reminded motorists to drive safely during National Work Zone Awareness Week, which was April 26-30. Two KDOT employees shared accounts of close calls in roadway work zones:

## **“It was pretty intense.”**

The crash happened one afternoon this past July. A KDOT crew on U.S. 83 outside Liberal had set out signs alerting northbound motorists to be ready to stop for road work.

But one pickup truck driver didn't pay attention.

On a highway with a 65-mph speed limit, he somehow missed all the work-zone warning signs. He somehow didn't see the flatbed truck halted in his lane in front.

That day, Equipment Operator Daniel Zuniga Jr. had the job of signaling the traffic to stop. He got the flatbed truck to stop while he stood on the shoulder and held a STOP paddle for approaching motorists to see. Zuniga then started to walk from the shoulder past the front of the idling flatbed truck to position himself at the centerline so other vehicles could better see him.

As he recalls, no tires or brakes squealed before he heard a huge crash, the instant the pickup rammed the back of the stopped flatbed truck. The impact shoved the flatbed truck forward - to about 5 feet from Zuniga.

As the smashed flatbed truck catapulted toward him, Zuniga froze. He leaned away. It played out “like a movie,” he said. An older man kicked the passenger door of the flatbed truck open and gasped for air. The driver of the pickup that crashed into the flatbed “came

*Continued on next page*

## Close calls in work zones

*Continued from previous page*

out hollering,” cussing, his arm and wrist mangled.

“It was pretty intense,” Zuniga recalled. He remembers feeling shaky. “At that time, I was in shock -- the fact that had happened and it was so close to hitting me. I was still in the path of it.”

So every time he sets up in a highway work zone, he remembers how close it came. When he flags down cars now, he said, “I’m really alert.”

He and his co-workers notice driver after driver passing them in work zones, phones out, distracted.

### **“He’s coming right for you!”**

It was the afternoon of New Year’s Eve, about 20 years ago. KDOT employee Ted Coleman was an Equipment Operator at the time, and was on a crack seal job on northbound I-235 near Kellogg. To direct traffic away from the work zone, the crew had set up cones along a half-mile-or-so stretch.

Coleman had to get under the crack seal machine, set

on a trailer, to unplug a pipe.

While under the machine, his legs stuck out in the closed lane.

Then he heard someone yell: “Ted, watch out! He’s coming right for you!”

Instead of staying in the open lane, a car sent traffic cones flying in every direction along its path. Coleman had just enough time to glance toward the oncoming threat, not enough warning to slide out from under the trailer. All he could do was tuck his legs in under the trailer and brace for impact.

The car veered in time to miss the trailer by 2 feet. His legs could have been run over if he had not retracted them.

Coleman felt angry. The driver knocked over about 75 cones. Someone reported the incident, and Coleman heard that the driver was arrested later, suspected of DUI after a crash at another location.

Now, when Coleman, Wichita East Subarea Supervisor, briefs his crew every morning, he reminds them that in a work zone, “You guys have to have the buddy system; you guys have to watch out for each other out in the field.”

## U.S. 183 resurfacing



*Venture Corporation is nearing completion on a \$1.7 million resurfacing project along U.S. 183 in Rooks County. The project began in late March and consisted of a one-inch mill and two-inch overlay on approximately 8.5 miles of the highway north of Stockton. Photo by Haley Dougherty, District Three*

# Safety blog series shares eye-opening stories

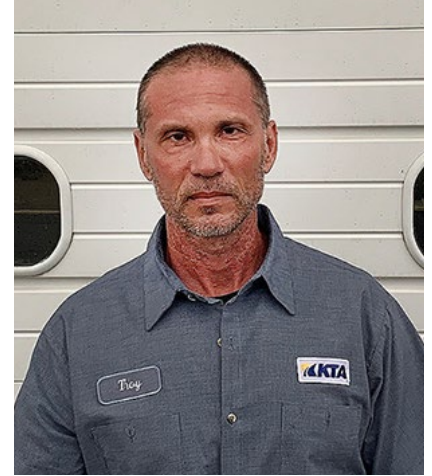
KDOT's annual work zone safety blog series featured four highway workers from across the state and a contractor. They shared closed calls and other information, which helps to show what highway workers face every day and why work zone safety is so important. Following are excerpts from their blogs. Links to each of their stories are below.

Story [link](#) - "A car that was not supposed to be there raced by and the mirror of his car hit my vest as it went by me. My vest slapped my side and left a nice welt, which later turned into a bruise."

*Doug Vogel, District Four Superintendent*



*Doug Vogel*



*Troy Dunnaway*

Story [link](#) - "Suddenly, the driver of the white truck struck my side mirror and completely destroyed it. It all happened in a matter of seconds."

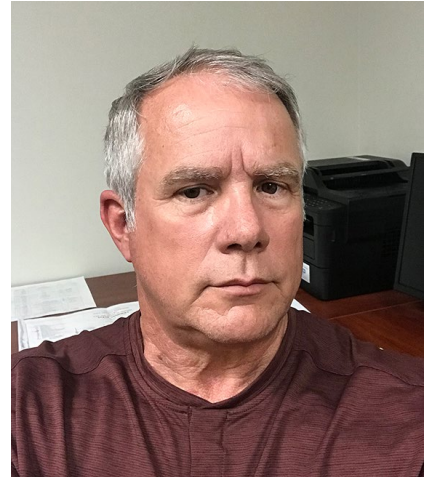
*Troy Dunnaway, KTA Structures Foreman*



*Tim Micek*

Story [link](#) - "I looked up and a motorhome WHOOSHED by, running over the cone. It was still in the driving lane and the driver failed to move over."

*Tim Micek, Goodland Subarea Supervisor*



*Paul Thomas*

Story [link](#) - "As I was running to safety, I turned to look, only to see a driver had failed to slow down for whatever reason, and due to other traffic was forced to crash through the cones headed for the work zone we were working in."

*Paul Thomas, District Five Safety Specialist*

Story [link](#) - "We need another teammate for success on our roadways and reduce the number of accidents and near misses – the traveling public."

*Tim Gerhardt, President of Koss Construction Co.*



*Tim Gerhardt*

# Go Orange



KDOT employees across the state participated in the work zone safety effort. 1. Dighton Subarea. 2. Scott City. 3. Great Bend Subarea. 4. Materials and Research Center. 5. Wichita West Subarea. 6. Pratt Subarea. 7. District Two office.

# Traffic control plan critical for safety

By Troy Whitworth  
Division of Safety Director

Hundreds of KDOT employees spend part or all their days in highway work zones. A few of their many duties are to fill potholes, repair guardrail and other structures, place stripes, provide traffic control, mow right-of-way, remove litter, assist law enforcement, replace traffic signs and mudjack pavement.

Most of these activities involve our field maintenance employees setting up and taking down work zones. Most days, things go as planned, but there are times a vehicle ends up veering through a work zone. That is why the traffic control plan for work zones is so important. There is a lot of thought that goes into setting up a work zone and many things to account for. Some of the first things to consider are -

- Speed of traffic
- Single lane or multi-lane roadway
- Any side roads, entrances or ramps
- Hills, curves or blind spots



- Placement of roadwork signs

Situational awareness is always critical for our employees while working on the highway, but especially when signs are being placed and picked up as traffic is likely to be moving at posted speeds. KDOT employees set up work zones to provide safety for workers and motorists, so it's important the traveling public does their part as well.

Motorists, please look out for the bright orange signs and the flashing lights. Pay attention to the signs and follow the instruction that they convey. Slow down as you approach the work zone and give the vehicle in front of you some room. Follow the instructions of the flagger or the arrow board directing your movement. It is vital for everyone's safety in a work zone to stay alert.

So, the next time you travel through a work zone, be on the lookout for the highway workers who have done their best to create a safer environment for themselves and the travelling public. Their office really is the work zone they are working in. Help us keep the workers and the motorists safe, for your family and mine.

## Check to make sure vacation leave is not lost

Employees who follow Executive Order 04-13 must use excess vacation leave by Saturday, June 12 (or a preceding work day, such as Friday, June 11). The hours accrued during the May 30 to June 12 pay period are not affected.

Up to 40 hours of vacation leave over the allowed maximum can be converted to sick leave at the end of the fiscal year for employees who are unable to take the

excess vacation leave. Any hours over that will be lost.

The table outlines the accumulation limits based on length of service. For more information, contact your Personnel office for assistance.

Length of Service	Maximum Accumulation
Less than 5 years	144
5 to 10 years	176
10 to 15 years	208
15 years and over	240

# Trivia!

## Olympic fun facts

1. From 1912 to 1948, The Olympic Games held competitions in these categories.
2. What year did the Olympic Torch Relay begin?
3. What colors are included in the Olympic Rings?
4. Name the four people who have won gold medals during the summer and winter Olympics.
5. Who is the youngest person to compete in the Olympics? Who is the youngest person to win a gold medal?
6. When did the first winter Olympics take place?
7. What sports are no longer a part of the Olympics?

# Riverfront Stadium, not the one in Cincinnati

By Tom Hein  
District Five

Signs directing drivers to a new baseball stadium were recently installed on U.S. 54 in anticipation of the May 11 opening day for the Wichita Wind Surge, the new AA affiliate of the Minnesota Twins.

The Wind Surge are part of the 10-team Double-A Central minor league with teams from Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. Other team names include the Missions, Naturals, Hooks, Rockhounds and best (worst?) of all, the Amarillo Sod Poodles.

Contributing to this expedited sign project were Darrell Gwaltney in permanent signing, Don Snyder and David Lechner in Wichita, Debra Gillespie at Kansas



Wichita Area crew members place the sign for the new baseball stadium in Wichita. Photo by Dan Acridge, District Five

Correctional Industries and the Wichita Area Crew - Dan Acridge, Jorge Alvarado, Chris Good, Clint Hernandez, Jim Koerner, Tim Kyle, Paul Lapping and Sam Wilmore.

## Trivia answers

1. Fine arts. Medals were given for literature, architecture, sculpture, painting and music.
2. 1936.
3. Blue, green, yellow, black and red.
4. Eddie Eagan (United States), Jacob Tullin Thams (Norway), Christa Luding-Rothenburger (East Germany) and Clara Hughes (Canada).
5. Dimitrios Loundras, who competed in the 1896 Athens Olympics at the age of 10. Springboard diver Marjorie Gestring won a gold medal at age 13.
6. In 1924 in Chamonix, France.
7. Since the first modern Olympic Games in 1896, croquet, cricket, Jeu de Paume, pelota, polo, roque, rackets, tug-of-war, lacrosse, baseball, softball, and motor boating have been removed from the summer Olympics. The winter Olympics no longer include military patrol (a precursor to the biathlon), Men's Special Figures (figure skating) and alpinism.



# Damaged bridge repaired, part of K-39 opens

By Priscilla Petersen  
District Four

In mid-January, a truck traveling on a haul road beneath the highway struck a bridge column, resulting in the immediate closure of K-39 between U.S. 75 and U.S. 169. B & B Bridge Company was awarded the emergency repair contract of \$204,494. Demolition started on the damaged column March 1. Other project activity involved placing new footing, column and new roadway pavement. KDOT reopened K-39 to traffic west of Chanute on April 12.

The completion of the K-39 emergency repair was greeted with relief by many local residents, since U.S. 169 is currently closed between 35th Street and K-39 (Cherry Street) at Chanute.

The closure is part of a larger U.S. 169 reconstruction project in Neosho and Allen counties. The project area starts about three miles north of K-47 and continues north to end 1.7 miles north of Neosho-Allen county line. KDOT awarded Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc., the \$32.6 million construction contract.

Work on this project began in March, with U.S. 169 traffic placed on a detour using K-47, U.S. 59 and K-39 east of Chanute. During the second phase of the project, the detour will be signed on U.S. 54, U.S. 75 and K-39 west of Chanute.



*B & B Bridge constructed a new bridge column under K-39 as an emergency repair. Photo provided*



*The K-39 bridge column is located on a haul road underneath the highway. The bridge is shown shortly before it was reopened to traffic. Photo by Priscilla Petersen*

## KUDOS from the Kansas Highway Patrol

To Jeff Stewart, District Three Engineer -

With the end of polar vortex sub-zero temperatures, I wanted to express my appreciation once again for the KDOT crews and leadership in northwest Kansas.

We have been engaged in several critical road events this winter and we can always count on KDOT to have the KHP's back. Specifically, we are grateful for KDOT's response to assist in the multiple vehicle collisions and traffic events that we have experienced this season.

This last extreme cold spell and snow has caused us some grief in other parts of Kansas. Recently, in a 24-hour period, we had five KHP vehicles struck in eastern Kansas. With 27 years of partnering with KDOT in NW Kansas, I understand some of the challenges KDOT faces. I understand the ineffectiveness of salt-based products in subzero temperatures. We

are thankful for the other "tools" in your belt that you have been utilizing to keep us and the motorists safe on the highways.

We can only speculate on the KHP, EMS, firemen and public lives and injuries we have mitigated from the use of sand /gravel-based products you have dispersed on the roadways and at our accident scenes. I am not sure the public realizes how important these products are to the emergency workers' lives who are themselves, trying to save lives.

So Jeff, on behalf of the 50+ Troopers working alongside KDOT in Troop D, thank you and all of NW Kansas KDOT for using all the "tools" on your belts to keep us safe.

Sincerely,  
Captain Travis Phillips  
Troop D/KHP



## Cleaning up

*District Six crews are busy cleaning up and cleaning out. Pictured at right, Jesus Casanova, Equipment Operator on the Garden City Subarea Crew, cleans culverts on U.S. 83 north of Garden City. Photo by Lisa Knoll, District Six*



# Wittman honored with national award from NHTSA

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced that Karen Wittman was selected as one of the winners of the 2021 NHTSA Public Service awards. The awards were presented by U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg at the annual Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities on April 27.

Wittman currently serves as Deputy District Attorney for the Wyandotte County District Attorney's Office. For nearly 40 years, Wittman has been a champion of traffic safety education, enforcement, prosecution and adjudication.

To further the state's efforts to reduce impaired driving, KDOT engaged a Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor in the late 2000s. Wittman was the first person to serve in this role. Wittman continues

to serve the state of Kansas as an active participant on the emphasis area team focused on impaired driving.

"Wittman's efforts have been invaluable tools to engage and train law enforcement, prosecutors and other safety advocates on the importance of an evidence-based traffic stop, through investigation and the tools and challenges of prosecuting an impaired driver," said Chris Herrick, Planning and Development Director.

"Karen's passion for traffic safety stems from a long understanding that traffic safety affects everyone in a community," said Vanessa Spartan, Transportation Safety Bureau Chief. "Her comprehensive and engaging approach to traffic safety has been critical in creating safer roads across Kansas."



Karen Wittman

## Ongoing training



The Marion and Council Grove Subarea offices engaged in safe backing and tow rope training recently at the Marion Subarea. Workers practiced backing around cone configurations and learned the importance of using spotters while backing. Photo by Michael Schneider, District Two

# Why nets are used on bridges: to protect birds

By Tim Potter  
District Five

On March 12, workers installed nets along the bottom of the K-11 bridge over Goose Creek in Reno County.

Why? Because migratory birds like Cliff Swallows and Barn Swallows build nests under bridges, and the nets prevent them from moving in.

The K-11 bridge is being replaced, and the net placement is part of steps KDOT takes to protect birds and their nests and eggs, said Chris Eichman, an Environmental Program Administrator with KDOT.

The steps, Eichman explained, are some of the measures KDOT takes to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The law means no construction, cleaning, painting or demolition can occur -- if it will disturb active nests that are present from April 1 to July 15 -- "or until the birds have fledged and left the structure," Eichman said.

Any inactive nests must be removed before April 1, he said, "to help discourage new nesting and to make it easier to monitor if new nesting is occurring." Nets or plastic sheeting can be used. In some cases, nets or sheeting don't have to be installed if adequate monitoring occurs.

The K-11 workers removed any inactive nests the first day of the bridge project on March 8, before the deadline, said Jennifer Lee. She is a KDOT Engineering Technician from the Pratt office and one of the inspectors for the bridge project. King Construction Co. Inc., of Hesston, is the prime contractor for the \$1,460,469 project. It is expected to be completed around mid-December.

Under the federal law, after removing inactive nests, workers also must check daily for establishment of new nests, Eichman said. If new migratory nesting is found after work begins, the project must immediately stop, and the engineer must be notified.



*In the photos above and below, workers installed nets under the K-11 bridge over Goose Creek in Reno County on March 12. Photos by Jennifer Lee*

Violators can be prosecuted.

Bridge nets are one example of ways KDOT protects the environment. Another, Eichman said, is where a bridge project "will take place in a stream that is state-designated critical habitat for a fish species." In that case, he said, "We will create a special provision that will prohibit work in the 'wetted' stream channel during the spawning season of the specific fish species."

KDOT also conducts habitat surveys to help determine how a project might affect threatened and endangered species.



# WICHway's 24/7 coverage improves operations

By Tracy Crockett  
District Five

Another SNICE season is behind us, and this year went more smoothly for many field staff due to KDOT expanding operations of the WICHway Traffic Management Center (TMC).

With the new coverage, TMC provides active traffic management for most of the state, while KC Scout monitors the Kansas City area.

Dynamic message signs (DMS), cameras, traffic sensors and traffic websites are piped into the TMC and monitored 24 hours a day. TMC operators use new software to enter messages on DMS, and can update KDOT's new road condition reporting software. They can also communicate with Kansas Highway Patrol and other agencies during a roadway incident.

TMC operators also help monitor the upgraded KanDrive website. Live video has proven to be popular, and TMC operators actively manage camera views so road conditions can be quickly evaluated, said Tom Hein, TMC Manager.

"With round-the-clock staffing of the WICHway TMC, help in sharing information with the public is just a phone call away," Hein said. "A crash, lane or road closure, weather event or any event for that matter, gets reported and updated as it happens."

The Topeka Metro uses WICHway primarily for easy message posting to local DMS boards. "This is especially helpful when responding to incidents with a road closure. We don't have to be tied to our computers to put in a message. We just call and it's taken care of for us," said Steve Baalman, Topeka Metro Engineer. "This frees up the maintenance or area engineer from posting messages."

The new system is beneficial in emergency situations. "I receive many phone calls for various incidents that require me to get on my computer to either place messages on DMS boards or post road conditions on KanDrive," said KDOT Emergency Manager Jim Frye. "Now, one call to the TMC gets the job done. It's been



*The WICHway Traffic Management Center now provides service 24 hours a day for the traveling public across Kansas. Photo provided*

such a relief and is a much more efficient process."

District Six Maintenance Engineer Joe Finley said some of the stress this winter was reduced by calling TMC.

"I think it relieves a little bit of the workload and they can get to it a little quicker sometimes than everybody else can. It's just nice to have a 24-hour service. Instead of having to wake someone out of bed all the time have them take care of it," said Finley. "I appreciate them being able to do this. It's been great."

The Wichita TMC is located in the Sedgwick County Public Safety Center as part of 911 operations. A video wall displays images from roadside cameras that help track crashes and other incidents more effectively.

Sedgwick County 911 operators provide an operator during weekday hours. Operations engineers from TranSystems are under contract to help support operations by providing operators who complete the 24-hour statewide coverage.

The TMC is available 24/7 by calling 1-833-620-0338 or by email at [KDOTWichitaTMC@transystems.com](mailto:KDOTWichitaTMC@transystems.com).

# Maintenance efforts ramping up across Kansas



By Ashley Perez  
District Two

Road construction and maintenance projects are ramping up across Kansas as warmer weather rolls in.

On April 29, the Beloit, Belleville, Mankato and Concordia subarea crews worked together to rock shoulders north of Beloit on K-14, on U.S. 24 near Asherville and south of Beloit on K-14.

In addition to traffic control, shoulder rocking takes multiple vehicles - trucks to haul rock - as well as:

- Push grader pulls the shoulder machine to place rock on the shoulders.
- Tractor pulling a roller packs down the newly placed rock on the shoulders.
- Striking motor grader, also known as the striker, smooths the shoulder rock.
- Street brooms to clean any loose gravel from the roadway.
- Truck which pulls an attenuator to provide protection to workers from traveling motorists.

The team effort allowed this project to be finished in one day.



1. Roger Simoneau operates the shoulder machine. 2. Wayne Knapp works on the tractor roller. 3. Bruce Sicard leads other vehicles on the striker. 4. The street broom follows to clean up loose material. 5. To provide work zone safety for all, Jeff Bogart flags traffic around the work zone. Photos by Ashley Perez



# Employees find out about new vehicle technology

By Tom Hein  
District Five

Not tomorrow... but someday. Sometimes, not very often in a lifetime, cutting edge technology comes knocking at your door. On a normal Tuesday in late April, about 25 KDOT employees gathered in the Eisenhower State Office Building parking lot – masked, socially-distanced and curious – to see the latest and greatest in connected vehicle technology.



*Employees from VSI Labs demonstrate new technology in automated vehicle products. Photo by Tom Hein, District Five*

Two tech-loaded vehicles from VSI Labs, a research company that analyzes and tests active safety and automated driving tools, arrived mid-day from a Monday visit with the Iowa DOT. Their road trip began in Minneapolis and would eventually bottom out in Austin before venturing a slightly different route back to Minnesota.

The array of technologies included:

- A mountable roof pod that evaluates the performance of autonomous vehicle and driver assistance systems;
- A camera system that provides continuous clarity in all environmental lighting and reflection conditions;
- Software for measuring surface friction and other road profile information;

- Servers that deliver high-performance computing, data storage and cyber protection for seamless, real-time communications and networking;
- A thermal infrared system with RGB data fusion integrated into emergency braking and other automated vehicle functions;
- A precision software that creates uniquely reliable and affordable mapping.

VSI Labs has examined thousands of automated vehicle products. The latest innovations previewed in Topeka are not yet common technologies on new vehicles today – but many will be. And sooner than one might imagine.

## Input sought on KDOT's Long Range Transportation Plan

KDOT is asking Kansans to provide comments on the draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The plan provides a 25-year statewide vision for the future of transportation in Kansas. Comments can be made until May 18 by clicking [here](#).

The draft plan inventories the state's transportation system that includes highways, transit, rail, air and

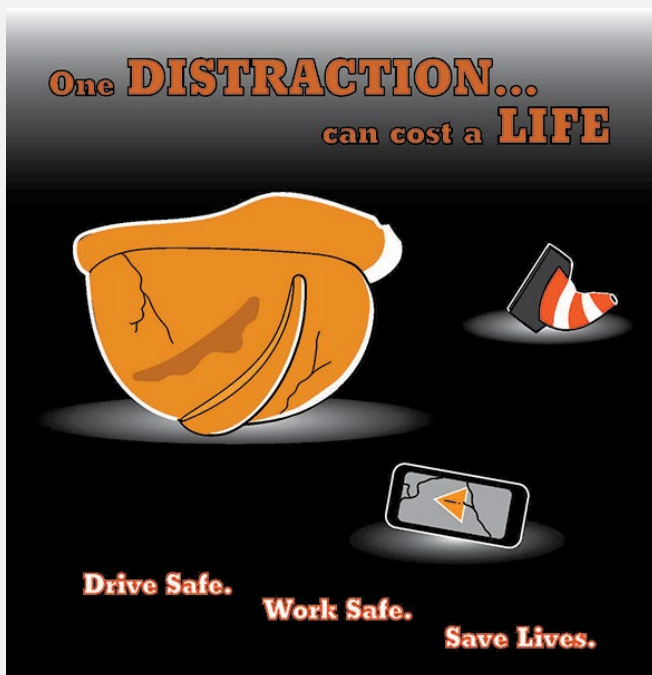
active transportation elements. It also identifies issues that will influence the system over the next 25 years.

The LRTP also outlines ways KDOT and its partners can support prosperity and quality of life for all Kansans by making travel safer, preserving the system, creating a more responsive project pipeline, delivering programs more effectively, designing practical improvements, leveraging KDOT's partnerships with stakeholders, preparing for the future of tech-enabled infrastructure, continuing commitments to multimodal programs and supporting economic development and job growth

## U.S. 169 construction



The U.S. 169 driving surface comes to an abrupt end at the 35th Street interchange at Chanute. A project to reconstruct U.S. 169 in Neosho and Allen counties began in March. (Photo by Priscilla Petersen, District Four)



## KTA briefs

- ◆ Sophia Glanville of Chase County Junior Senior High School was the winner of the KTA's sixth annual design contest for National Work Zone Awareness Week.

"Sophia did a great job of presenting the importance of staying focused while in a work zone for her design," said Rachel Bell, KTA's Director of Business Services & Customer Relations. "Distractions affect drivers of all ages, so finding ways to creatively instill safe driving habits is important to us."

Glanville's artwork is at left. Other finalists' designs are available to view on Flickr [here](#).

- ◆ A two-year pavement surfacing project on I-35/KTA from mile marker 26.8 to 50.8 began in April. Interchanges located within the stretch are included in the paving project. More information on the project is available on KTA's website [here](#).



## Thank you for your service

### Milestones

KDOT employees celebrating state service anniversaries in May.

#### 30 years of service

**Joe Engle**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Liberal

**Mark Maddux**, Field Data Engineer, Carbondale

**Kriston Norton**, IKE Manager, Lawrence

#### 20 years of service

**Daniel Crosland**, Management Analyst II, Topeka

**Linda Guillen**, Engineering Technician, Wichita

**Dean Hess**, Engineering Technician, Wichita

**Gregory Schieber**, Director of Project Delivery, Topeka

#### 10 years of service

**Christopher Eichman**, Environmental Program Administrator, Topeka

**Andrew Markley**, Engineering Technician, Goodland

### Retirees

The following employees retired from KDOT on May 1.

#### District One

**Robert Baker**, Equipment Operator  
Topeka/Gage

#### District Four

**Michael Smith**, Equipment Operator  
Louisburg

The following employee will retire on June 1.

#### District Six

**George Schulte**, Equipment Operator  
Specialist, Dodge City

### In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Nels Just, who passed away on April 5 in Auburn. Just worked at KDOT for more than 34 years in the Bureau of Bridge Design. He started in 1971 and retired in 2006 as an Engineering Technician Senior.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Roy Draper, who passed away on April 6 in Atwood. Draper started in 1958 and spent 45 years with the agency before retiring in 2003 as an Engineering Technician Specialist in the Atwood construction office.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree William J. "Bill" Muckenthaler, who passed away on April 19 in Topeka. Muckenthaler served in the Bureau of Right of Way for more than 32 years. He retired as an Engineering Technician Specialist in 1995.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Gregory Doyle, who passed away on April 22 in Topeka. Doyle started at KDOT in 1970. He worked for more than 41 years in the Bureau of Transportation Planning, retiring in 2011 as an Engineering Technician Specialist.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Bob Trosper, who passed away Nov. 30 in Garden City. Trosper began as a Utility Worker in the Garden City Subarea in 2004. He retired as an Engineering Technician in the Garden City Construction Office in 2014.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Mike Ayala, who passed away on Dec. 27 in Garden City. Ayala joined KDOT in 1990 as an Equipment Operator Trainee. He retired as an Equipment Operator in 2014.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree David Scott, who passed away on Feb. 26 in Hays. He joined KDOT in 1995 in the Ness City Subarea. He retired as an Equipment Operator Senior in 2008.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Steve Zimmerman, who passed away on March 8 in Fort Dodge. He joined KDOT in 1995 in Sublette. He retired as an Equipment Operator Senior in 2010 from the Dodge City Area Crew.