

# TRANSLINES EXPRESS

Oct. 6, 2021

## Heat straightens out damaged bridge over I-135

By Tracy Crockett  
District Five

The North 77th Street bridge over northbound I-135 near Wichita was recently repaired with a special technique using heat.

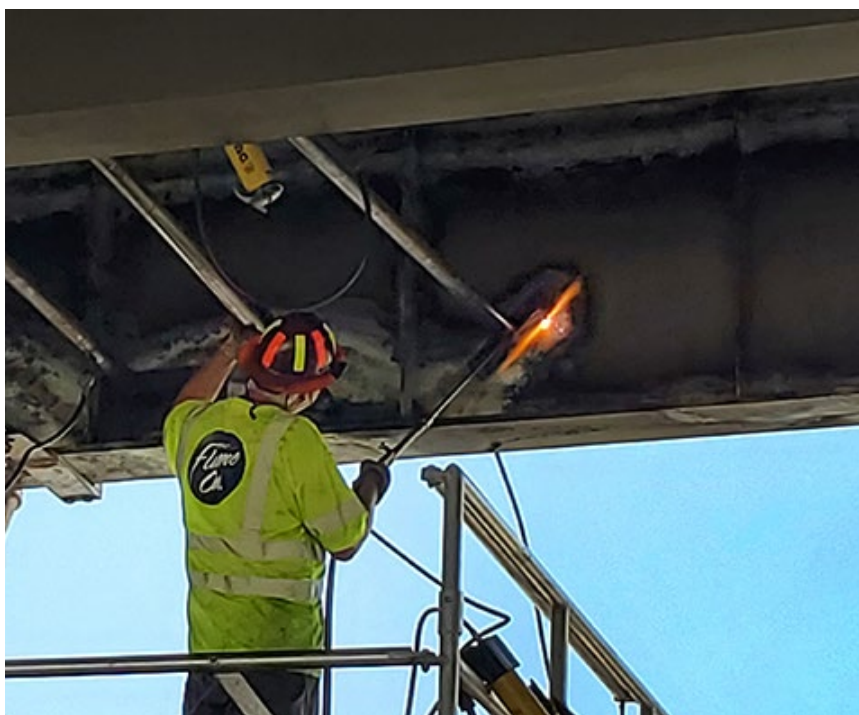
“The bridge was struck by an unknown over-height load, we believe sometime in July. We were not aware of the damage until one of the contractors we work with told us about it,” said Don Snyder, Wichita Metro Engineer.

The repairs were conducted by Flame On, Inc. of Monroe, Washington.

Flame On crews use a procedure called heat straightening, or flame straightening, where a limited amount of heat is applied in specific patterns in a repetitive cycle of heating and cooling to gradually straighten the material.

According to Flame On Inc. - “The art of heat straightening requires expertise and precision. Many factors need to be addressed in quick succession as heat is applied in controlled amounts to exact locations. It takes many years of continuous experience to master the skill of heat straightening.”

While heat straightening has been around for decades, the company says it has only recently been embraced by federal, state and local governments. The contractor heated up the damaged girder of the 77th Street Bridge,



*Heat is used to repair the North 77th Street bridge over northbound I-135. Photo by Tracy Crockett, District Five*

then slowly pushed and pulled it back into the correct orientation with jacks and come-a-longs. After that was complete and the steel was straightened, it was cleaned and repainted. The entire process was completed in seven days.

Vote [HERE](#) for Kansas to win the People's Choice award for the Turner Diagonal project - read more in this edition.



The annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day blog series is currently under way. Click [HERE](#) for all the stories and read more in this edition.



*Michelle Lever, Derek Wilson, Jeff Brown and Kerrie Brown await their first customer at Coffeyville. Photo by Priscilla Petersen, District Four*



## KDOT assisting vaccine mobile units

By Priscilla Petersen  
District Four

Unlike pre-autumn days of earlier years, the afternoon of Sept. 16 was sweltering even in the shady spots at the parking lot of the Dollar General Store at Coffeyville. It was there that three contractors with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kerrie Brown, Derek Wilson and Michelle Lever, opened a COVID-19 mobile vaccine trailer for the day. Joining them was the driver of the mobile unit, KDOT Equipment Operator Jeff Brown.

Governor Laura Kelly announced the statewide vaccine incentive program in early September. KDHE purchased seven 25-foot trailers and rented seven pickups. Volunteers from KDOT have been driving the trucks and trailers to participating Dollar General stores. They deploy the trailer awnings, check the oil and gas, start the generators and remain with the vaccine crews to ensure that power is available for the duration of the mobile clinic.

Jeff Brown works at the KDOT District Four Office. During September he drove a trailer from the Chanute office to stores throughout the region, setting up for business Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Every Wednesday, he explained, the trailers are taken back to Topeka and restocked.

Under the initiative, all newly vaccinated Kansans ages 12 and older are eligible to receive a \$50 gift card per vaccine dose. "It's a good opportunity for anyone who wants it," Brown said of the vaccine program. "Getting the shot's better than getting COVID."

In addition to Brown, District Four employees who volunteered to help with the program were Raymond McNeal, Dave Rosevelt, Doug Vogel and Marty Volz of Chanute and Eric Troth of the Pittsburg office.

### **TRANSLINES EXPRESS**

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## Vote daily to win People's Choice Award

# Turner Diagonal project named national finalist

KDOT's Turner Diagonal project in Wyandotte County has been named a Top 12 finalist in the 2021 America's Transportation Awards (ATA) competition.

The finalists – whittled down from 80 nominees from 35 state DOTs – now compete for the ATA Grand Prize and for the People's Choice Award. Both prizes come with a \$10,000 cash award, for a charity or transportation-related scholarship of the winners' choosing.

The ATA People's Choice award winner is selected through online voting. KDOT is encouraging people to show their support by voting once a day for the Turner Diagonal project [HERE](#). Voting is underway and continues until Oct. 25. Transportation industry experts will select the Grand Prize winner.

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 opening 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," said Secretary Julie Lorenz. "With this project, we have delivered with public sector principles and private sector urgency."



*The America's Transportation Award has selected the Turner Diagonal project as a national Top 12 finalist.*

The Turner Diagonal project made use of public funds from the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, KDOT and a USDOT Build grant, as well as private sector support. The Kansas Turnpike Authority donated right of way. Completing the project 20 months faster than traditional delivery months helped create 2,000

new jobs at Turner Logistics Park. Truck staging areas improved truck travel times in the area. Pedestrian paths and sidewalks provided a more sustainable, usable community asset.

The national ATA winners will be announced at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) annual meeting at the end of October.

**AMERICA'S**  
transportation awards

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Click [HERE](#) daily  
to vote for Turner  
Diagonal project

# Burtin named Inspector General for KDOT

Jill Burtin has been named the Inspector General for the Kansas Department of Transportation. She started in her new position in mid-September.

Burtin was a teacher for four years, then spent 18 years with Mize CPA, preparing financial statements and later on the technical tax team. She also served as a team leader in the accounting services department for many years. For the past two years, she worked at Keller and Owens in Overland Park doing bookkeeping, financial statement preparation and sales tax returns for clients.

KDOT's Office of Inspector General (OIG) focuses on auditing processes and procedures already in place that help protect taxpayer dollars. Both the internal auditors and the agency's contract auditors will now serve under Burtin so that all auditors will be part of the OIG.

"I am grateful and excited for the opportunity to lead the Office of the Inspector General. I hope that my



*Jill Burtin*

many years as a CPA in public accounting can bring a new perspective and fresh ideas to the role," Burtin said. "My goal is to bring new efficiencies to the office and help the OIG complete audits that are high quality and meaningful for both KDOT and the public."

Burtin is also working on the Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline to help make it more accessible to employees. The hotline will be available to the public in the future.

She and her husband, David, have seven nephews, six nieces and two great-nephews. They reside in Topeka.



*Neil Croxton, Regional Geologist in Salina, took this scenic photo in Lincoln County south of Sylvan.*



# Wagner's service to the public greatly appreciated

Good service is always appreciated. But Karla Hart, a contractor with Enterprise Products, was very impressed with the excellent customer service she received recently from Judy Wagner, Office Coordinator in District Two. She was so impressed, she wrote Governor Laura Kelly a note highlighting her gratitude.



Judy Wagner

*no other way to thank her for her extraordinary kindness. I know you hear all about state employees from people who do not seem to appreciate them. Just wanted you to know there is a person in Salina who represents you with exceptional skill and grace. No, we are not related and I had never met Judy before last week. She is just a kind person who does her job well.*

Karla Hart

Dear Governor Kelly,

Judy Wagner went above and beyond her duties last week. She was helpful and walked me through a new software system for KDOT. I was requesting a highway permit to do work for Enterprise Pipeline that involved Highway 36.

She invited me to her office and walked me through the procedure with more patience than you could ever imagine. She let me hug her when I left, I had

To show their appreciation, Secretary Julie Lorenz, Deputy Secretary/State Engineer Burt Morey and District Two Engineer Randy West called Wagner on Oct. 1 and thanked her for her efforts.

"Judy is an excellent person and a fantastic representative for KDOT," West said.

## Secretary Lorenz reappointed to TRB

Secretary Julie Lorenz has been reappointed to the Executive Committee of the Transportation Research Board (TRB).

As one of seven major divisions of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS), the TRB promotes innovation and progress in transportation through research and information exchange in an objective and interdisciplinary setting.

Lorenz was first asked to join the national board in July 2019, the same year she was appointed by Governor Kelly to lead the Kansas Department of Transportation. Her reappointment to the TRB Executive Committee is for a three-year term.

The TRB Executive Committee is composed of



Secretary Julie Lorenz

approximately 25 members appointed by the chair of the National Research Council. These members are selected to provide balanced representation of transportation modes, academic disciplines, private and public sectors, levels of government, geographical regions, and other relevant factors. The committee provides strategic direction and oversight for all of TRB's programs and activities.

The NAS, founded in 1863 and signed by President Abraham Lincoln, is a nonprofit, charitable scientific corporation organized and operated to serve public rather than private interests.

*Stay safe out there!*

## Work zone safety always a top priority for workers

*Public Affairs Manager Ashley Perez shares a personal account of a recent experience in a work zone.*

Safety is a top priority at KDOT, and we consistently remind motorists of the importance of safety. Yet some motorists still don't show concern for highway workers when driving through a work zone. Many of us witness this on a regular basis, and it hits close to home for us.

I witnessed this during a work zone visit on Thursday, Sept. 9, on U.S. 81, just south of Concordia. Workers from the Concordia Subarea were repairing roadway.

It was a nice, sunny day, and Equipment Operator Specialist Bruce Sicard was in charge of the crew. When I arrived, the crew was setting up all the proper traffic control. Once traffic control was in place, they began road work and had a member of their team keep an eye on traffic, yet there was still that one motorist who failed to slow down and was hauling a large load.

As a result, dirt flew off the truck -- pelting Equipment Operator Brentin Hake in the face as it sped by.

The good thing: Hake did not suffer injuries. But it left him shaken.

Sicard said he couldn't be more thankful that they always make sure that one worker is on lookout -- because things could have gone much worse had one not been there. The worker on lookout was Equipment Operator Josh Black. He was motioning traffic to get over and warned his co-workers to get out of the way as the big load zoomed toward the work zone.

So here's the reminder: We all need to continue to do our best looking out for each other in the work zone and help motorists understand the importance of work zone safety. Motorists need to know what it means to us.

Stay safe out there, everyone!

*In the three photos, employees from the Concordia Subarea work together to make repairs on U.S. 81. Photos by Ashley Perez, District Two*





Construction of the new Area Four Gage facility was completed recently. Photos by Kate Craft, District One

## Renovations complete at District One’s Gage facility

By Kate Craft  
District One

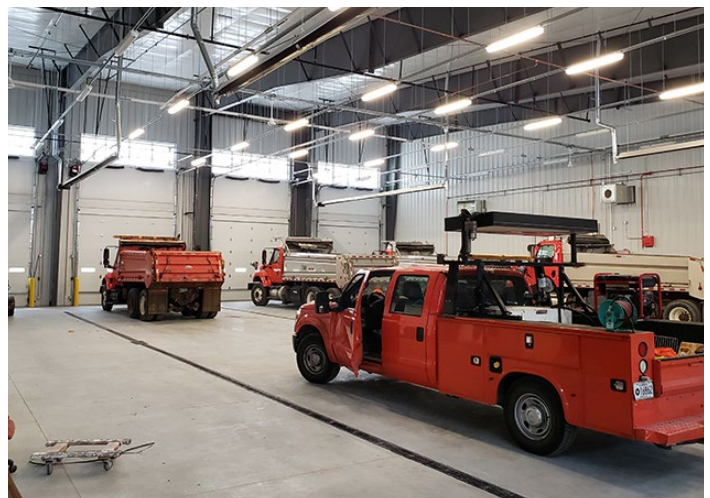
District One’s Area Four staff has been settling into the newly renovated Gage facility since construction was completed in August. Employees had been working out of rented trailers and the Eagle’s Nest building since the project began last October.

Originally built in the late 50s, the Gage location is currently home to about 24 employees and includes the Area Four staff, construction office, mechanics’ shop and a Subarea shop. Renovations included demolishing and rebuilding part of the structure, relocating the fuel pumps and remodeling some existing office space.

In addition to the exterior facelift and more interior space, Gage received a new conference room with improved IT capabilities, a smaller meeting room and new restrooms. The attached Subarea shop is now a double-depth drive-through, with space for up to eight trucks with plows attached. The former shop was drive-in/back-out only and wasn’t large enough to fit the current tandem axle trucks without a plow attached. Employees are also enjoying a new addition to the Gage building - a designated breakroom.



Above, the former Gage Area office complex. Below, the new Gage Subarea shop.



The mechanics’ shop was added in 1985 and was not affected by the renovations. KDOT contracted The MCP Group of Topeka for the project.

## District Six activities



The Garden Subarea received a new 20,000-gallon brine tank on Sept. 24. The new tank will boost the Subarea's brine capacity to 50,000 gallons and allow it to provide brine to other crews as needed this winter.



1. Garden City Subarea Supervisor Hector Terrones attaches the crane cables to the tank using the bucket truck. 2. Terrones stands approximately 5,000 gallons tall next to the 20,000-gallon tank. 3. The tank is placed on the concrete deck with the two brine tanks. All photos by Lisa Knoll.



The Jetmore and Ness City Subarea crews patch a large pothole on K-156 west of Jetmore recently. 1. LeRoy Keith and Michael Parker wait as Shannon Moore places asphalt on the patch. 2. Keith and Moore clean up asphalt as Larry Kjellberg prepares to smooth the asphalt out with the motor grader. 3. Kjellberg works the asphalt using the motor grader while the crews clean up loose asphalt behind the motor grader.



# Shared stories help put the brakes on fatalities

Fourteen people across Kansas and Missouri are sharing stories in the annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day safety blog series. The series runs through Oct. 11.

“My beautiful daughter, Danielle, made a decision that not only took her life, but flipped life upside down for her entire family and so many friends,” said Jacque Tierce in her safety blog. “She was texting on Snapchat while driving down the highway at 65 mph, didn’t see a semi in front of her that slowed to make a turn and slammed into the back of it without braking.”

Danielle died in May 2018 - she was texting while driving. “Sometimes you just have to breathe through the pain. A pain that will be there for the rest of your life,” Jacque said.



*Danielle Tierce*

Four Kansas Highway Patrol troopers also are sharing stories. When a person dies in a vehicle crash, they are the ones who notify the next of kin.

Technical Trooper Tod Hileman recalled responding to a double fatality involving teenagers. Part of the process is to make sure victims are correctly identified. During that process, he noticed the teenage girl driving the car was the same age as his daughter and had the same hair and eye color.

“I just kind of had a flash that it was my daughter lying there,” Hileman said. “So that really hit me.”

To read all of the safety blogs in this series, click [HERE](#).



*Technical Trooper  
Tod Hileman*

## Final stages of U.S. 281 project underway



The U.S. 281 modernization project in Russell County is moving into its final stages. APAC is wrapping up paving operations, and Sporer Land Development is continuing on the grading operation. Remaining work includes pavement marking installation, rumble strips, signage and permanent seeding. This is one of the final T-WORKS projects and is expected to be reopened to through traffic in late October, weather permitting. Greg Gonzales’ road squad and Paul Kulseth’s bridge squad designed the project. Photos by Dean Jay, District Three



The photo above from Google Earth shows a stretch of U.S. 160/U.S. 183 to be improved in the pilot project in Comanche County. The photo at right shows the results of a similar clear-zone widening job on K-2 in Barber County. Photo by Scott Mullen, District Five



# Pilot project addresses clear zone along highway

By Tim Potter  
District Five

A pilot highway safety project – which involves widening the so-called clear zone on either side of a highway -- is under design in District Five.

The project, now in the survey stage, is on U.S. 160/U.S. 183 in Comanche County. The project covers a little over a 5-mile stretch, from the K-1/U.S. 160/U.S. 183 junction north to Fourth Street in Coldwater.

The basic scope is to widen shoulders, do grading, extend culverts and replace drainage pipes.

The idea, District Engineer Brent Terstriep said, is to extend the clear zone – defined in engineering terms as the unobstructed, relatively flat area beyond the edge of the road where vehicles have a better chance of recovering if they go off the road. After further evaluation, these types of improvements could eventually be applied to other routes around the state with narrower clear zones, Terstriep said.

The pilot project is part of a new KDOT effort called the Clear Zone Safety Improvement Program. This program was created to provide funding to extend clear zones on rural highways. (For more information about the program, please contact Chris Herrick, Director of Planning and Development.)

The U.S. 160/U.S. 183 stretch in the pilot project – with highway based on a 1926 design – has a 30-foot right of way on either side of the center line. Under the pilot project, it could be widened to 60 feet on either side, said Pratt Area Engineer Scott Mullen. That would allow creating what Mullen calls a “true shoulder,” flattening the slope and moving drainage structures and fences further out – giving vehicles an increased ability to recover without hitting fixed objects. The newer culvert design moves obstructions further away from the travel way, Mullen said.

What’s next? After the survey work and design is completed, right of way would have to be purchased, and contract letting could occur in February of 2024, with construction later that year, Mullen said.

# Trivia!

## Transportation tidbits from the 1920s

1. What were the dominant modes of reliable mass transportation for vacationers in the 1920s?
2. When was the first commercial air passenger service across the Atlantic and what was the airship's name?
3. What year did the U.S. pass the 10 million mark of automobiles?
4. By the end of this year, all states had a gas tax of two to five cents to raise money for building roads.
5. When did the first functional diesel locomotive start operations?
6. Robert Goddard was a leader in spaceflight. What did he successfully launch on March 16, 1926?
7. When did Charles Lindbergh fly nonstop from New York City to Paris in a single-engine airplane, the Spirit of St. Louis?

# Partners thanked for efforts

By Kelly Kultala  
District One

Secretary Julie Lorenz and Kansas Turnpike Authority CEO Steve Hewitt thanked a crowd of about 50 stakeholders at the westbound I-70 truck parking area in Kansas City on Sept. 29. Attendees were involved in the construction of the new Turner Diagonal Interchange. Remarks were presented from Hewitt, Lorenz and Unified Government Mayor David Alvey, and lunch was served. 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 opening 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 groundbreaking.



Above, from left to right, KTA Director of Engineering David Jacobson, Secretary Julie Lorenz, Deputy Secretary/State Transportation Engineer Burt Morey and District One Engineer Leroy Koehn attended the event thanking participating partners. Above left, Secretary Lorenz spoke to attendees. Photos by Kelly Kultala, District One

# Trivia answers

1. Trains and ocean liners.
2. October 1928. The German airship Graf Zeppelin traveled with 20 passengers and 43 crew members.
3. 1921.
4. 1929.
5. 1924, in Germany.
6. The world's first liquid-fueled rocket.
7. In May 1927.

# Air Tour lands at several locations around Kansas

By Delaney Tholen  
District One

Three days of stops at local airports across the state were featured as part of this year's Fly Kansas Air Tour.

To conclude Day 1, pilots from around the state landed in Lawrence.

Planes on the stopover ranged in style, age and airspeed, with many built in Kansas, including several classic Cessna and Beechcraft models.

As the airport and adjacent facilities continue to grow, the airport has been recently granted a name change and is now officially recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as the Lawrence Regional Airport, formerly Lawrence Municipal Airport. Airport Manager Scott Wagner was excited to see the annual Air Tour event return to Lawrence. It had been a tour stop in the early 1930s, but had not been on the flight schedule since the Air Tour was brought back in 2008.

"I'm proud of all the folks that worked together to make it happen and was happy to welcome Kansas pilots to our airport," Wagner said.

One enthusiastic pilot told Wagner he was one year younger than his plane - a 1946 Luscombe - the most recent of several similar planes he has owned. The aluminum and stainless-steel monoplane with cherry-



*Above and below, attendees check out the various planes at the Fly Kansas Air Tour event in Clay Center. Photos by Randy West, District Two*



*A total of 24 aircraft were on display at the aviation event in Lawrence. The tour made a total of nine stops throughout Kansas during this year's tour. Photos by Delaney Tholen, District One*



red accents was a fan favorite with adults and kids. Wagner described it as a "taildragger," because of its landing gear and placement of its third wheel. Another unique plane Wagner noted was a 1972 Nanchang CJ-6, which had a stepstool at its side, so spectators could climb up and look inside the training plane's cockpit.

In addition to the many classic planes, the 24 aircraft that made the Lawrence stopover included several experimental aircraft and a small open-air helicopter.

The Fly Kansas Air Tour is hosted by the Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education (KCAE) and the KDOT Division of Aviation. The event originated in 1928 and was reorganized in 2008 honoring Kansas as the "Air Capital of the World," promoting aviation education and the aviation industry.

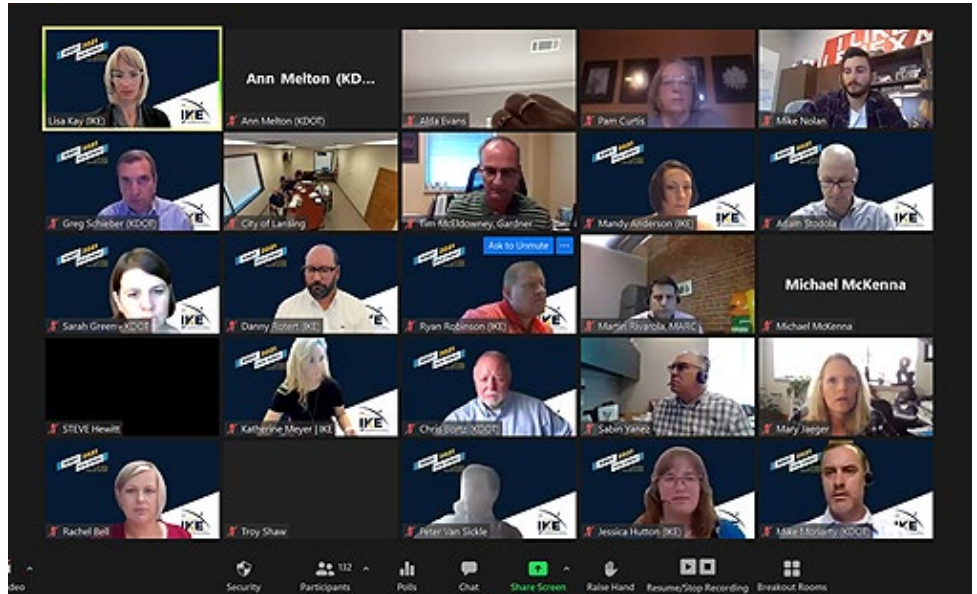


# KDOT wraps up 2021 regional Local Consult meetings

For the past month, KDOT has hosted eight public Local Consult meetings as part of the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program (IKE) project selection process – one in each of the six KDOT districts and two metro areas. The last one takes place today with participants in northwest Kansas.

Out of an abundance of caution and to comply with current state guidance related to COVID-19, all meetings took place virtually on Zoom. The meetings included a presentation from Secretary Julie Lorenz and breakout groups to encourage conversations with the public and stakeholders to hear more about transportation priorities and concerns. For the first time, KDOT also hosted an on-demand online Local Consult option in addition to the live Zoom meetings.

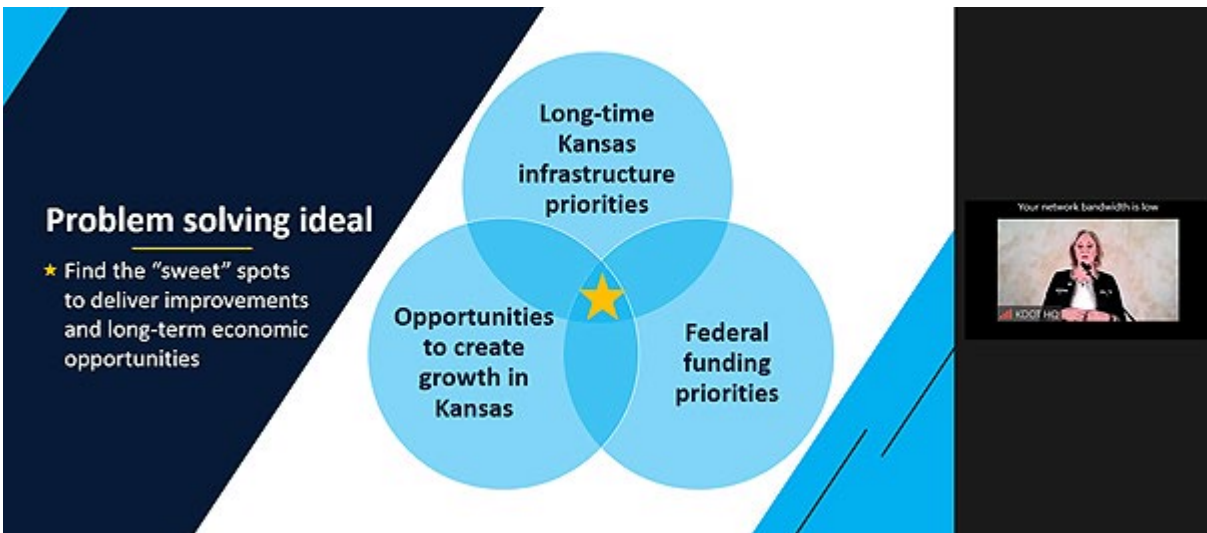
“Kansans are the reason we go out for Local Consult,” said Sarah Green, a KDOT community engagement manager. “This is one of the best tools we have to listen to Kansans’ priorities for transportation in their region, and to ask them to think critically about projects that



Above, people across the state participated in KDOT’s Local Consult meetings on Zoom, which included a presentation by Secretary Julie Lorenz, below.

meet today’s needs, as well as being smart investments to address future opportunities and challenges.”

Local Consult takes place every two years. It is required by the IKE Program legislation to gather local input that informs scores for IKE expansion and modernization projects chosen for the IKE Development Pipeline.



# Think ahead when backing a vehicle

By Mark Johnson  
Safety Coordinator

Plainly put, backing a vehicle correctly and safely can be difficult. Years ago, the first assistance in this process was adding mirrors on a vehicle. Now, we have rear view cameras that are standard on any new vehicles. Sensors have been added to vehicles to tell the driver that they are getting too close to something and need to adjust the backing pattern. Now, television commercials are showing a vehicle parking itself.

None of these tools have replaced the fact that the driver must practice how to use the equipment properly. Drivers still must learn how to set all the mirrors. Then, the operator needs to learn how to judge distance from the reflection shown in the mirror. Again, this takes time and practice. Cameras are great but create some challenges as well. Basically, backing is a developed skill and even with the technologies available, we still need to practice.

Part of the equation involves the person behind the wheel. Not all drivers are equal. As many of us have learned, not all drivers have the abilities needed to back up a car, pickup, truck or truck and trailer. So, it's very helpful to develop patience and good judgment for distances. You also need to be aware of your surroundings - walk around the vehicle and assess any nearby obstacles. Be comfortable with your vehicle and all its safety features.

When only 1% of our driving is related to backing, accident rates will be high if we don't spend time developing that skill. While today's technology on vehicles makes the backing task easier, you need to learn how to use it effectively and with caution.

It's also helpful to ask someone to be a spotter whenever possible to give you an extra set of eyes to help with the operation. Asking for help is never a weakness in your skills, it's good to be conscientious and avoid an accident with a vehicle or a piece of equipment.



I can attest to the fact that backing a vehicle up to a trailer without a spotter is a challenge. I could only guess how many times I've had to get out to check on distance, alignment, or the height of a hitch before I could finally drop the pin into the receiver. Then when you finally get your vehicle parked just where you want it, it rolls forward. Not to

mention what other obstacles that you must negotiate to hook up the equipment. But I promise, this exercise in hooking up to a piece of equipment gave me the practice I needed to become proficient at backing – it takes practice, practice, practice.

The simple rules are usually the best for me. So, remember when backing, take your time, get out and walk around your vehicle to locate any obstacles, be familiar with your vehicle and get a spotter when you need one. For your family and mine.

# Thank you for your service

## Milestones

KDOT employees celebrating state service anniversaries in October.

### 40 years

**Dale Hershberger**, Professional Civil Engineer II, Clay Center

**Larry Kjellberg**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Ness City

### 30 years

**James Beesley**, Engineering Technician Senior, Garden City

**Craig Bryson**, Equipment Mechanic Specialist, Carthage, Mo.

### 20 years

**Connie Anguish**, Engineering Technician Specialist, Topeka

**Lori Jones**, Data Warehouse Supervisor, Topeka

**Brian Link**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Gardner

### 10 years

**Mark Bowser**, Equipment Operator Senior, Clay Center

**Kevin Conrad**, Equipment Mechanic Specialist, Winfield

**Larry Michael**, Equipment Operator Senior, Tescott

## Retirees

The following employees will retire from KDOT on Nov. 1.

### Headquarters

**Carla Anderson**, Professional Civil Engineer II, Traffic Engineering

### District One

**Jackie Hopkins**, Equipment Operator Senior, Kansas City

### District Two

**Flint Warta**, Equipment Operator Senior, Ellsworth

### District Three

**Marvin Burch**, Equipment Operator Specialist, Osborne

### District Five

**Randall Hancock**, Engineering Technician Senior, Wichita

The following employees retired from KDOT on Oct. 1.

### Headquarters

**Susan Hageman**, Staff Development Specialist I, Human Resources

## In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT employee Robert "Bob" O'Dea, who passed away in Scott City on Sept. 14. He started at KDOT in Scott City as an Equipment Operator Trainee in 2013. He was promoted to Equipment Operator in 2014, and then to his current position, Equipment Operator Specialist, in 2017.



*Robert O'Dea*

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Mark Dennis Reddy, 67, Topeka, passed away on Aug. 19 in Topeka. Reddy started at KDOT in 1989 and was an Applications Developer III. He retired after 30 years of service in 2019.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Ron Flaherty, who passed away on Aug. 19 in Frankfort, Kentucky. Flaherty started in 1966 and worked in the Bureau of Design's Survey section. He was an Engineering Technician Specialist, retiring in 1998.

# KTA briefs

## Ramps connecting to KTA have new process

A big milestone was met in east Wichita with new northbound ramps connecting eastbound Kellogg to northbound I-35/ KTA.

If you travel in this area, here's what you need to know. Customers who typically use a tollbooth will not get a ticket upon entry.

When exiting the Kansas Turnpike, simply let your toll collector know where you entered, or press the help button on the self-pay machine. If you have a K-TAG or other compatible transponder, you're good to go.



*Above, new northbound ramps connecting eastbound Kellogg to northbound I-35/KTA. Below, construction continues on the KTA bridge at mile marker 171. Photos provided by KTA*

## Bridge project offers mentoring opportunities

Progress continues on the bridge rehabilitation on I-335/KTA at MM 171 just south of Topeka. KTA Engineer Shannon Moore oversees the project and has used this bridge and previous construction projects to help mentor two first-year KDOT engineers in the field.

"I think they've been really happy with the chance to get out on some projects, see some construction and be there when we had to work through some issues," said Moore in a recent KTA podcast.

