

TRANSLINES EXPRESS

April 6, 2022

Work zone speeding: what troopers see, hear

By Tim Potter
District Five

Ever found yourself driving in a highway work zone and noticing that others seem oblivious to the reduced posted speed limit?

Why do people speed in work zones – despite the life-and-death risks – and even when they can face higher fines? What excuses do they give?

“They’re late to work is the number one excuse I get,” said KHP Lt. Cory Beard, who works in the Kansas City metro area. Other excuses Beard hears: They didn’t see the lower-speed signs. Their GPS program on their phone didn’t tell them the speed was lowered because of the work zone.

How fast do they go in work zones? “I stopped a couple of 90s last year on K-10,” early one morning while using speed-detection equipment, Beard said. Although the posted speed limit had been reduced to 55 mph or so, Beard recalled, “They knew exactly what they were doing” when going around 90. “Some people just flat out don’t obey the speed limit sign.”

One morning last year, in the middle of a busy bridge construction zone on K-10 at DeSoto, Beard spotted a Ford F-250 truck zipping along at 80. After he stopped the driver and approached him, the man was “very argumentative,” Beard recalled. The man contended that the GPS program on his phone said there wasn’t a reduced speed limit. When Beard offered to escort the man back through the work zone so the man could see the signs with the lower speed limit, the man declined. Beard issued him a ticket.

Technical Trooper Tiffany (Bush) Baylark, who also works in the Kansas City metro area, said work zone speeders often tell her they didn’t see construction occurring – “nothing going on” — so they didn’t think they had to slow down, or so they say.



*Technical Trooper
Tiffany Baylark*



Lt. Cory Beard



*Technical Trooper
Chad Crittenden*



*Technical Trooper
Michael Racy*

Baylark explained to them that even though it appeared that work wasn’t underway, a work zone often means that driving lanes have been shifted, sometimes moving two-way traffic closer together, sometimes adjusting traffic partly onto a shoulder, where tires roll on different types of pavement. Overall, the traffic flow is altered and

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Go Orange

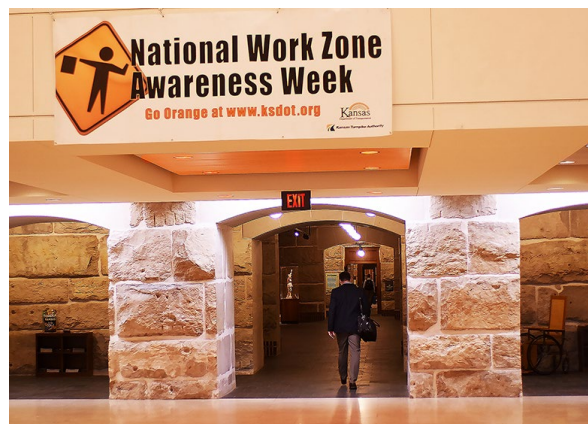
National Work Zone Awareness Week is April 11-15. KDOT participates in this safety campaign to help increase work zone awareness and safety for workers all year long.

Emails will direct people to articles by KDOT employees Scott Gofourth, Chris Collins and Tony Phillips; KTA employee Clint Shepard and Bob Fry from Clarkson Construction - all compelling stories. Videos and other information will be featured each day - make sure to check it out.

Go Orange Day in Kansas is Wednesday, April 13. Please wear orange to show support for highway workers. Other work zone safety links are on KDOT's Go Orange page [here](#).



Photos from last year's campaign - above, the lights in front of the Judicial Center and below, the Visitor's Center at the Capitol. At left, District Three paint and bridge crew members took a Go Orange photo in March.



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Posted speed limit reductions in work zones are often ignored or not followed, which increases the possibility of more crashes that also are more severe.

Work zone speeding: what troopers see, hear

Continued on page 3

constricted, so there is “no room for error,” and it makes sense to slow down, she tells them.

Technical Trooper Chad Crittenden, who works in the Wichita area, said he often hears this: “Well, there was nobody working in the construction zone.” And this: “I just didn’t see the signs.” Which tells him, he said, “People are just not paying attention.”

Example: When he is checking the speed of vehicles, visible in his patrol car, passing speeders will wave at him while driving 15 to 20 mph over the limit. “They don’t even process that they’re in a construction zone.”

Construction workers in a work zone are particularly vulnerable, he said, because they have to work close to the traffic while concentrating on a task, like cutting concrete. “They’re basically relying on the motoring public to not be drunk, drowsy and distracted as they drive through.”

Technical Trooper Michael Racy, who covers the southwestern part of the state, said: “The feedback I get from drivers (caught speeding in work zones), most of them will just say, ‘I’m keeping up with the flow of traffic.’ And the other excuse I hear a lot is, ‘I didn’t know I was in a construction zone.’”

Yet, Racy said, KDOT has plenty of signs out posting the lower speed limit. “Everybody knows there’s a construction zone” – or should.

Baylark summed up why it’s important to not speed in construction zones.

“It’s dangerous for yourself, others around you and the workers. It’s not worth the risk of injuries” or even the traffic delay caused by a crash. “When you speed, you increase your chances of being involved in a crash. It kind of defeats your purpose of going fast, especially in a construction zone.”

Fuller selected as KDOT Chief of Maintenance

Robert Fuller has been named the new Bureau Chief of Maintenance for KDOT. He succeeds Jaci Vogel, who retired last month.

Fuller worked for an engineering firm before coming to KDOT in 1999. He started in the Bureau of Transportation Planning in the Geometrics and Data Unit. Two years later, he went to the Materials and Research Center in the Geotechnical Unit to conduct foundation investigations. In 2007, he was promoted to Administrator of the Maintenance Quality Assurance Program (MQA) in the Bureau of Construction and Maintenance.

“When I started here, I didn’t expect to make KDOT a career,” Fuller said. “But it wasn’t long before I realized it was a good job with good opportunities.”

In 2013, Maintenance became a separate bureau with Clay Adams as Chief. Three years later, Fuller took over



Robert Fuller

KDOT’s Capital Improvement Program, where he served until now.

This program oversees KDOT-owned buildings and is responsible for the planning of building expansions, new buildings and overall repairs. “I’ve been proud in our ability to replace Subarea buildings – that has been a real benefit to field employees,” Fuller said.

Fuller and his wife, Anya, live in Lawrence. They are active in the National Federation of the Blind, and he serves as treasurer for the Kansas affiliate. His son, Luther, works for the Library of Congress proofreading Braille music.

Median crossovers not an option for public

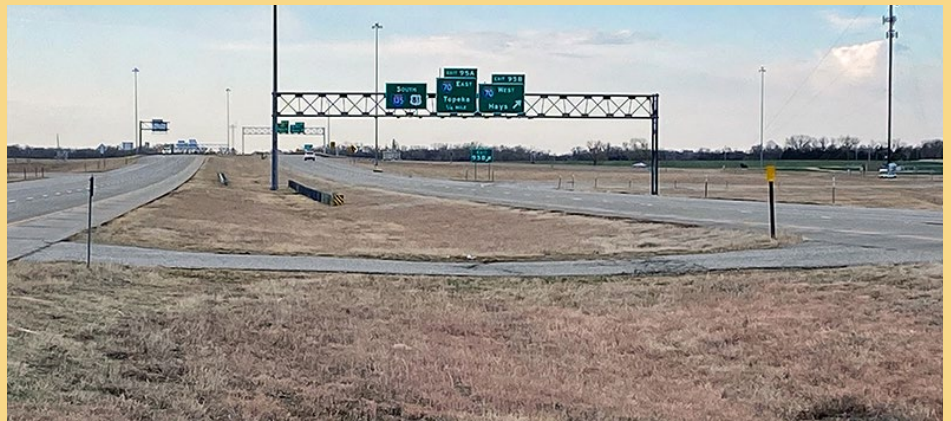
By Ashley Perez
District Two

Oh, no! You’re driving along the highway and all of a sudden you realize you missed the exit. You look up ahead and see a crossover in the median where you think you can turn around and go back to the exit that you missed. Wrong.

Before you go any further, it’s important to note that only KDOT workers and authorized first responders may use these crossovers.

The crossovers are constructed for highway maintenance personnel and law enforcement/emergency responders to be able to turn around along the highway as part of their job. These are not for use by the traveling public. So although it may seem convenient to use these, it is actually illegal.

Trooper Benjamin Gardner with the Kansas Highway



Median crossovers are for KDOT maintenance personnel and law enforcement/emergency responders, but are illegal for use by the public. Photo by Ashley Perez, District Two

Patrol said he works accidents all the time due to motorists illegally using these crossovers. Motorists expect other vehicles to enter or exit the interstate only at ramps, not from crossovers.

“A motorist that crosses over these areas illegally could be ticketed a fine of more than \$100,” Gardner said.

Employee spotlight: Joan Smith, Emporia Construction Office

What's your job title?

Construction Office Coordinator in Emporia.

What sort of duties do you have at work?

Administering the projects paperwork from start to finish, which includes - preconstruction conferences, contractor payrolls, 1010s (contractor payments to subcontractors), material reports and final paperwork, with everything else in between.

What's the most exciting part of your job?

Completing a successful construction season and working with a great group of people.

What's something you're proud of?

My family – my husband Randy and I have two grown daughters Elizabeth and Kimberly. Also, my 35 years of service working for KDOT.

What's your favorite food?

Fried chicken, salmon and chicken fried steak are my favorites.

What's your favorite movie?

I like watching all types of movies, have many favorites.

What is your favorite song?

Too many to mention, but I like songs by George Strait, Blake Shelton, Keith Urban and Def Leppard, to name a few.

Do you have any hidden talents or hobbies?

I like working in my flower and vegetable gardens, walking around antique shops, cross stitch, embroidery and reading.

Do you have any pets?

Hagrid, a 4-month-old Great Pyrenes.

Are you a sports fan? Who are your favorite teams?

I like all sports and support all the area teams, KU, K-State, ESU, Kansas City Chiefs and Kansas City Royals.

Are you a morning person or a night owl?

More of a night owl.

Are you a coffee, tea or pop person?

Dr Pepper



KDOT employee Joan Smith at her desk in Emporia. Photo by Mandy Haney, District One

What's something you find challenging about your work?

Keeping up with checking the contractor payrolls and the 1010's for the Emporia and Gage Construction Office projects. Between the two offices, this construction season, we will have 45 to 50 projects.

What's your favorite season?

Spring, it's when everything gets a new start.

What three items would you take with you to a deserted island?

My husband Randy (because he would take care of me), a knife and a bow with arrows.

GETTING TO KNOW

OUR KDOT CO-WORKERS

Featuring an employee each month from different offices throughout KDOT.



On the left, the radar shows a location depicted by the blue circle with plenty of red to the north. On the right is the actual storm, and it was about to produce a brief tornado. Image courtesy of Bryce Kintigh

Keep informed to be prepared for severe weather

By Tracy Statton
District Five

Severe weather is synonymous with Kansas. While many people are used to it, it's a good time of year to review safety protocols.

The National Weather Service says tornadoes can occur at any time of day or night and at any time of the year. Although tornadoes are most common in the Central Plains and the southeastern United States, they have been reported in all 50 states. Tornado season in Kansas runs from March to June.

Many KDOT employees work outside, and District Five Safety Specialist Paul Thomas says supervisors keep informed so they can schedule work that generally keeps crews out of any potential severe weather. "If they had something scheduled, most the time they can reschedule for another time," Thomas said. But there is always a risk of something popping up.

Chance Hayes, Warning Coordination Meteorologist

with the National Weather Service, says checking the forecast regularly and staying informed is key.

"Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay informed about hazardous weather watches and warnings," said Hayes. There are even mobile weather radios that can be kept in a glove box. Hayes also suggests making sure you have weather alerts on your phone based on your current location. Most local media weather apps provide this service.

If you're on the roadways during severe weather, it's best to find a safe spot to pull over.

"Being in a vehicle during a tornado is not safe. The best course of action is to drive to the closest shelter. If you are unable to make it to a safe shelter, either get down in your car and cover your head or abandon your car and seek shelter in a low-lying area such as a ditch or ravine," Hayes said.

Hayes adds, in many cases, the best resource a person may have is their eyes and ears. If it looks bad or sounds bad, it probably is, and it's best to seek shelter indoors immediately.

Trivia!

Baseball Hall of Fame

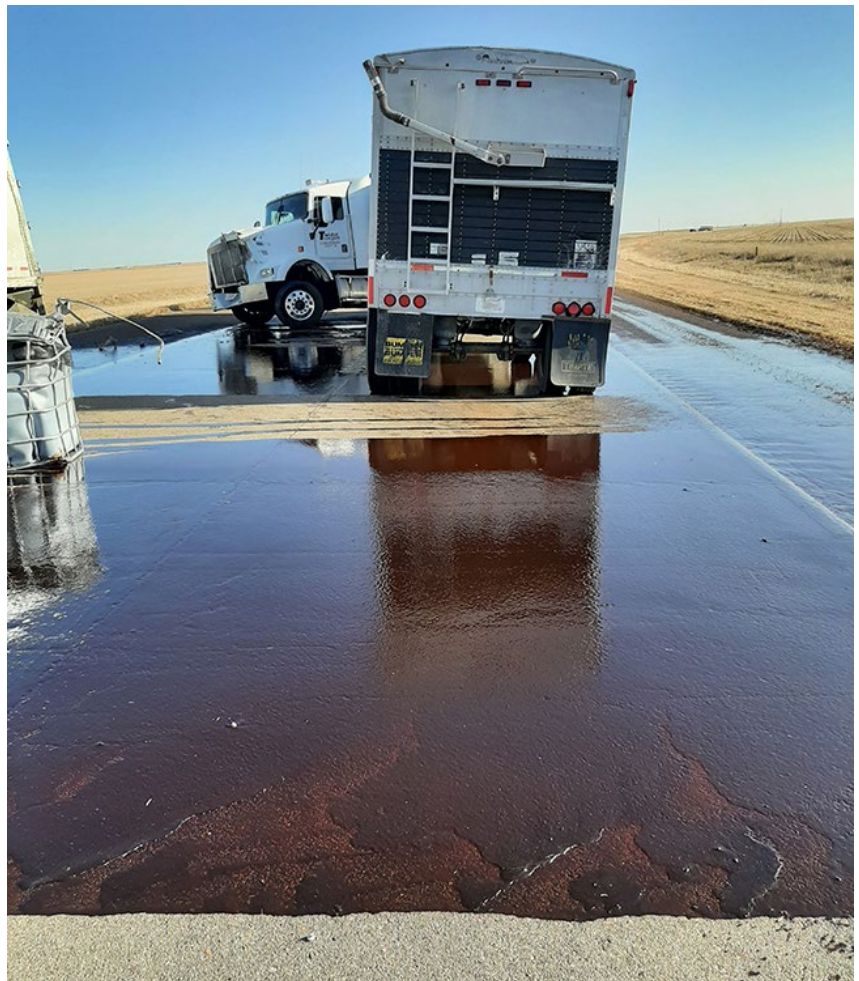
1. Who established the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum?
2. Name the first five baseball players to be elected.
3. Who is the only woman who has been inducted?
4. Who is credited with inventing baseball?

5. When were these players inducted - Hank Aaron, Joe DiMaggio, George Brett and Sandy Koufax?
6. Who are the two people considered permanently ineligible from being inducted into the Hall of Fame?
7. What year were commemorative coins issued to benefit the Hall of Fame?

Trivia answers

1. Stephen Carlton Clark, an heir to the Singer Sewing Machine fortune.
2. The first five men elected were Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson and Walter Johnson, chosen in 1936; roughly 20 more were selected before the entire group was inducted at the Hall's 1939 opening.
3. Effa Manley. She co-owned the Newark Eagles baseball franchise in the Negro leagues with her husband Abe Manley from 1935 to 1948. She also served as the team's business manager and fulfilled many of her husband's duties as treasurer of the Negro National League.
4. Abner Doubleday – a decorated Union Army officer who fired the first shot in defense of Fort Sumter at the start of the Civil War and later served at the Battle of Gettysburg – invented baseball in 1839 in Cooperstown.
5. Hank Aaron, 1982. Joe DiMaggio, 1955. George Brett, 1999. Sandy Koufax, 1972.
6. Pete Rose and Shoeless Joe Jackson.
7. 2014.

A sticky situation



Garden City and Scott City Subarea crew members responded on March 7 to U.S. 83 about 14 miles north of Garden City where two trucks crashed. One truck was hauling molasses that spilled onto the highway and right of way. KDOT employees closed the highway and assisted in cleanup efforts. U.S. 83 opened about 10 p.m., seven hours after the crash. Photo by Hector Terrones, District Six

DBE program gives businesses opportunity to succeed

By Kate Craft
District One

Acronyms are a form of basic communication at KDOT, such as ROW, FAA, SOM, HMA, EO, ET and many more. It's likely you've heard "DBE" before, and maybe you already know what the acronym stands for. But what is a DBE, and why is it important to KDOT?

A Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) is a certified small, for-profit business that is at least 51% owned and controlled by a socially and economically disadvantaged individual(s). This means the majority owner(s) has a personal net worth less than \$1.32 million and is: Black, Hispanic, Native American, Asian-Pacific American, Subcontinent-Asian American or a woman. Certified firms are part of the DBE Program, a federally mandated program administered by the U.S. DOT and carried out by state transportation agencies under the rules of 49 CFR Part 26.

For a business to become certified, KDOT's Office of Civil Rights Compliance (OCR) staff reviews documents, completes an on-site interview with the owner and makes its recommendation for certification. Doria Watson, Civil Rights Administrator, makes the final review and decision. Certified firms are then listed on the Directory of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, on KDOT's website.

Currently, there are 539 certified DBEs - 299 are Kansas-based - and their services range from highway construction to janitorial services, graphic designers and more. The Kansas Department of Commerce processes and maintains certifications for non-highway construction firms, but all DBE decisions are made by KDOT.

Certification is beneficial in several ways. Kansas



Contractors at a DBE mixer on U.S. 69 Express chat about the project.

firms are eligible for DBE Supportive Services, which provides access to trainings, consulting, workshops and networking events. KDOT contracts with Motsinger CPA Tax & Accounting in Lawrence to deliver these services.

For most construction firms, DBE goals are the main incentive. Many KDOT projects, primarily those with federal funds, have a DBE goal that bidders are required to meet by utilizing certified firms as subcontractors. Goals vary by projects, but are determined by KDOT's OCR and Bureau of Construction and Materials.

So why is the DBE Program important? First, it ensures federal funding to KDOT. Per 49 CFR 26.21 (c): "You are not eligible to receive DOT financial assistance unless DOT has approved your DBE program..." Also, the DBE Program levels the playing field for small, minority-owned businesses and gives them the opportunity to succeed.

"Inclusion is not a program, but a mindset that we have because it is the right thing to do," Watson said.

See OCR's website [here](#) for more information about the DBE Program.

Don't be afraid to ask for assistance

By Troy Whitworth
Director of Safety

I recently went to a seminar that focused on depression, mental health and more specifically, suicide prevention. One of the interesting things I learned was a twist on something you may have heard me say in the past - "We need to focus on getting everyone home safe at the end of their shift." The twist is, it's also important to focus on - "getting people back to work safe from home."

We already know what it means to get people home safe at the end of their shift. So, what does it mean to get people back to work safe from home? Each of us has stress in our lives.

Sometimes it can be overwhelming. Some may find themselves in a depressed state and may believe there is no hope on the horizon. These are the folks we need to get back to work safe from home.

In 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported 44,834 deaths by suicide.

It also reported the construction industry has the second highest rate of suicide at 45.3 per 100,000 workers. In my career at KDOT, I have heard about several fellow employees who died by suicide. KDOT is not immune to this issue. The pandemic has added another twist to our already complex lives. Now we have isolation and being cut off from our friends and families that can cause additional stresses and lead to anxiety and a higher potential for depression.

Through the pandemic, we have encouraged leaders to

reach out to their employees who were required to work from home and check on how they are doing. We need to be looking at this effort beyond COVID-19. Whether you are a supervisor or a co-worker, it is important to take notice of variations in the normal behavior of the folks you work with. What's going on under the hardhat or the safety vest.

Some suicidal warning signs to look for:

- Threats or comments about killing themselves
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live
- Social withdrawal from friends, family or co-workers
- Dramatic mood swings
- Impulsive, reckless behavior



- Aggressive behavior
- Increased use of alcohol and/or drugs
- Sleeping too much or too little

KDOT employees have access to the [Employee Assistance Program](#) (EAP). The EAP is a special service provided to all state employees and their dependents at no charge. The EAP

provides information, counseling, guidance and referrals from licensed professionals who understand the stresses we experience in our daily lives.

The [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) is another resource that can help in a time of crisis. 1-800-273-8255

Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741741

Don't be afraid to ask for assistance. We want you safe at work and at home. For your family and mine.



K-383 work underway

Work is picking up on the K-383 modernization project in Phillips County. KDOT closed the 6-mile portion east of Long Island to the U.S. 183 junction to travelers last month so on-road work could begin. Crews from Dustrol Inc. have recently started milling off the existing pavement in preparation for the new, wider roadway. Additionally, Adams Construction and Klaver Construction crews are also working on uncovering and extending several box structures to accommodate the expansion. Stephen Bass' road squad designed the project. Photos by Dan Moore, District Three.



Check to make sure vacation leave is not lost

Employees who follow Executive Order 04-13 must use excess vacation leave by Saturday, June 11 (or a preceding work day, such as Friday, June 10). The hours accrued during the May 29 to June 11 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



New U.S. 54 overpass to open

The new Union Pacific Railroad overpass on U.S. 54 at Moran will soon open to traffic. The contractor, A.M. Cohron & Son, placed concrete on the deck of the overpass in early March. Jeff Sims' road squad and Shawn Schensen's bridge squad designed the project. Photo by Rowdy Glaser and Warren Ebberts, District Four

East Wichita freeway projects bring home awards

By Tom Hein
District Five

Two East Kellogg projects in Wichita are attracting attention – and awards – from state and national organizations.

In February, the Kansas chapter of the American Public Works Association recognized the East

Kellogg Expansion and Improvements – Webb and Greenwich as Project of the Year in the more than \$75 million category. The local chapter has entered the project in the national award competition as well.

In March, two engineering firms that worked on the project, WSP USA Inc. and TranSystems, earned a National Recognition Award for exemplary engineering achievement at the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) 55th annual Engineering Excellence Awards.



Bridge lighting is a feature on the U.S. 54 portion that received awards.

The 2 miles of new U.S. 54/400 freeway reduce congestion, increase capacity, enhance safety features, and improve travel reliability on the primary east-west highway through the city plus provide easy access to and from the Kansas Turnpike with new ramps featuring electronic tolling.

Partners on the project included City of Wichita, KTA, KDOT, TranSystems, WSP, prime contractor Wildcat Construction and a number of subcontractors.



Signs part of fire damage along K-128

By Ashley Perez
District Two

A grass fire north of Burr Oak started the afternoon of March 29. The wind caused the fire in Jewell County to take off, and several fire departments battled it overnight.

The fire burned about 5 miles along K-128, damaging several sign posts and signs along the route.

KDOT employees worked together to replace sign posts, which were burned, so that the signs could be replaced quickly for the traveling public. Randy Shadduck, Area Two Superintendent, appreciated the teamwork effort.

Photos at left show fire damage along K-128 and KDOT crews responding to replace burned signs. Photos by Randy Shadduck, District Two

KTA briefs

Two contracts have been awarded on upcoming KTA projects, including a bridge removal near Andover and a bridge and pavement repair near Topeka. For full details, read the news release [here](#).

More orange cones will be on the Kansas Turnpike as the construction season has begun. Keep up to date with KTA's various roadway projects [here](#) to see a list of ongoing projects and a monthly construction update. Additionally, an overview of all 2022 projects can be found in KTA's latest video [here](#).





Highlighting careers at KDOT
 District Four staff members engaged with young people about job opportunities in late March at a career fair at Independence High School. At left, Sheila Brown, District Human Resource Professional, talked with students about opportunities at KDOT. Above, Independence Subarea Supervisor Mike Doyle and Independence Equipment Operator Devin Conner met with students at the vehicle and equipment displays in the parking lot. Photos by Priscilla Petersen, District Four

Kansas transportation safety awards announced

KDOT selected seven people across Kansas as recipients of the People Saving People Award and the Hero Award for their efforts to improve traffic safety at the 27th Annual Transportation Safety Conference in Topeka on April 6.

- People Saving People Award winners were -
- Captain Matt Vogt, Valley Center Police Department, for his ongoing service with the Kansas Operation Lifesaver railroad safety organization.
 - Deputy Chip More, Linn County Sheriff's Office – for his efforts serving as the Pleasanton Junior/Senior High School Safety Resource Officer.

Shawn Steward, AAA Kansas / AAA South Dakota – for his support for law enforcement agencies to help reduce fatalities across the state.

The Hero Award was given to Eudora Police Officers Lt. Tom Willis, Detective Michael Rubow and Officer Austin Kost, and Kansas Highway Patrol Capt. Dennis Shoemaker. While trying to change a flat tire, a man was suddenly pinned under a trailer along K-10 in Douglas County. Together, the four officers lifted the trailer and moved the man to safety. Three officers rendered first aid while the fourth comforted the man's wife. Their rapid responses saved the man's life.

I-435 fully closed for weekend in Kansas City

By Delaney Tholen
District One

Motorists experienced significant detours in Johnson County March 18-20 as drivers had to use alternate routes because I-435 was closed from Shawnee Mission Parkway to K-10 for bridge deck demolition on Renner Road over I-435.

For demolition to occur, a segment of northbound and southbound I-435, spanning nearly 5 miles, and eight nearby ramps were fully closed to traffic.

Area traffic had minor delays during the closures, which is good news as an average of 77,000 vehicles a day use these sections of I-435. The public and media received notifications several days in advance on the closures, and digital message boards and roadside signs informed motorists before and during the closures. Kansas Highway Patrol troopers also provided support in the area to facilitate traffic flow.



This aerial view of the Renner Road bridge demolition work in the Kansas City metro area shows a very uncommon occurrence - no traffic on I-435 below - just a few vehicles involved in the weekend project. Photo by Ian Stringham, District One.



Equipment and markings were in place on the Renner Road bridge for preparation of the bridge deck demolition. Photo by Delaney Tholen, District One.

Mike Rinehart, District One, Area Two Metro Engineer, described the project going smoothly and noted, "We appreciate having had good coordination with officials from both the City of Lenexa and City of Shawnee."

During the construction project, KC Scout, which provides real-time traffic data for the Kansas City metro, adjusted a camera typically pointed toward the I-435 roadway toward the Renner Road bridge. This allowed for a livestream view of the preparation, demolition and cleanup at the project site.

Ramps began reopening around 8 p.m. on Sunday night, with all ramps and I-435 lanes reopened to traffic hours ahead of the 5 a.m. scheduled time on Monday morning.

The bridge deck demolition was part of a project that includes bridge deck replacement, repainting of bridge girders and enhancement of bridge lighting. It is expected to be completed in late August.

2022 Kansas Aviation Art Contest winners honored

The Division of Aviation welcomed winners of the 2022 Kansas Aviation Art Contest for a celebration in their honor at the Kansas statehouse on March 30. The art contest theme for 2022 was “Design Your Perfect Aircraft,” and illustrated the importance of aviation through art. Over 120 pieces of art were submitted by Kansas students ages 6-17.

Students, their families and teachers joined Governor Laura Kelly, Secretary Julie Lorenz, Aviation Director Bob Brock and Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education (KCAE) President Logan Falletti-Wright at the event.

There was an opportunity to meet and have photographs with Governor Kelly as well as take an historical statehouse tour. The first-place winner in each age group received a prize package from KCAE.

See more details on the art contest [here](#).



In the photos above and left, Governor Laura Kelly, Secretary Julie Lorenz and Aviation Division members Bob Brock and Logan Falletti-Wright greeted and took photos with winners of the 2022 Kansas Aviation Art Contest on March 30 at the Capitol.

Rural road safety improvement projects receive \$6 million

Governor Laura Kelly announced that more than \$6 million in funds from the Kansas High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) Program will go to 10 rural counties to improve the safety and efficiency of roads and local roadways.

“These improvements are vital to maintaining the infrastructure as many Kansans depend on rural roadways,” Governor Kelly said. “Our rural roads are an important component to the local and state economy. Programs like this ensure that commerce flows and Kansas families can travel the state safely.”

The funding will be available through the Kansas High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) Program, which is a federally

funded state/local partnership initiative designed to improve safety on rural roads. This year’s 10 HRRR projects were selected from more than 40 applications seeking \$21 million in federal funds. Kansas HRRR funds cover 90 to 100 % of total project cost.

“Recognizing that Kansans use local roads to reach state highways, KDOT partners with cities and counties to help improve local infrastructure,” Secretary Julie Lorenz said. “Working together provides opportunities for communities to strengthen their local road network to improve connections across the state.”

For more information and a list of projects, click [here](#).

Thank you for your service

Retirees

The following employees will retire on May 1.

Headquarters

Patricia Gibson, Administrative Assistant,
Fiscal Services

District Three

Brett Maris, Engineering Technician
Specialist, Atwood

Employees planning to retire - make sure you send your home email address to Kim.stich@ks.gov if you want to continue to receive Translines.

If you know a KDOT retiree who is not receiving Translines - please let them know as well.

Milestones

KDOT employees celebrating April state service anniversaries.

30

Melinda Desch, Assistant Director, Topeka

20

James Andreotta Jr., Equipment Operator, Liberal
Edward Durkin, Engineering Technician Senior, Ozawkie

Jason Schell, Equipment Operator Senior, Centralia

10

Gregory Hoggatt, Equipment Operator, Wellsville
Ryan Hunter, Equipment Operator Specialist, Wichita

Jennifer Lee, Engineering Technician, Coats

Jason Rice, Engineering Technician Midpoint, Horton

Wade Wyman, Equipment Operator, Downs

In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of former KDOT Secretary Horace Edwards, who passed away on March 29 in Topeka. Edwards served in World War II and later worked at several corporations. In 1986, he was selected by Governor Mike Hayden as Secretary of Transportation, where he assisted in the passage of KDOT's first multi-year transportation program, the eight-year Comprehensive Highway Program.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Norman Stahl, who passed away on March 10 in Topeka. Stahl was a Human Resource Professional II in the Bureau of Personnel Services. He retired after seven years in 2009.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Paul Wenston Long, who passed away on March 4 in Meriden. Long was a state employee for nearly 24 years. He was an Engineering Technician in the Bureau of Road Design. Long retired in 1994.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Phillip "Jim" Clouse, who passed away on Jan. 14 in Topeka. Clouse was an Engineering Technician at the Materials and Research Center. He worked at KDOT for nearly 18 years, retiring in 2005.