

Translines EXPRESS

Nov. 30, 2016

Johnson County Gateway



Participating in the ribbon cutting and speaking at the Johnson County Gateway celebration on Tuesday included, from left, Acting Secretary Richard Carlson; Gov. Sam Brownback; Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer; FHWA Deputy Administrator David S. Kim; Johnson County Commissioner Ed Eilert; Lenexa Mayor Mike Boehm; Olathe Mayor Mike Copeland; and Gateway Interchange Constructors Bill Clarkson. See more photos in this edition.

Gateway project milestone: Officials celebrated the completion of the Johnson County Gateway project in Lenexa Tuesday.

“The Gateway project will be a means of improved travel for tens of thousands of commuters. With the addition of 56 new highway lane miles and more than 27 new and rehabbed bridges, the project provides a conduit for increased economic development, safe travel and the movement of freight,” said Gov. Sam Brownback.

The Gateway is the state’s first major design-build project. “The design-build contracting approach allows states to deliver projects more quickly and more cost-effectively,” FHWA Deputy Administrator David S. Kim said. “Through

our Every Day Counts initiative, the FHWA encourages innovations such as design-build that save time and money for U.S. taxpayers.”

More than 230,000 vehicles travel the Gateway corridor daily.

“With the number of vehicles expected to grow to 380,000 by 2040, drivers will now experience commutes with improved efficiency, decreased travel delays and safer travel through the I-435/I-35/K-10 interchange,” said Acting Transportation Secretary Richard Carlson.

The \$288 million Gateway has been under construction for 2½ years at Interstates 35 and 435 and K-10. The project is expected to fully open next week.

Happy Holidays!

Don't forget to use your Discretionary Day for 2016. It must be taken on or before Friday, Dec. 30.

Just a reminder, state offices are closed for the holidays on Monday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Jan. 2.

Trivia!

Months of the year

1. Where did the names of the month originate?
2. What month did the ancient Roman calendar begin with?
3. Who was July named after?
4. Where do the names September, October, November and December come from?

5. Numa Pompilius added the months January and February to the calendar. What is January named after?
6. In 1582, Pope Gregory adjusted the calendar to start on Jan. 1. But England and the American colonies continued to celebrate the New Year on March 1 until 1752. What is the calendar we now use referred to as?

KTA



New box culverts were installed at mile marker 116 along the Kansas Turnpike this summer.

Better flow: As part of the KTA's effort to improve drainage in the Flint Hills, several projects have taken place in the last few months including:

- ♦Larger reinforced box culverts at mile marker 116 and 118 on I-35/KTA have been installed and traffic has returned to normal.
- ♦Drainage improvements at mile marker 101, have been completed on the southbound side where a new

larger box culvert was installed. Dirt work will take place off the roadway as weather allows through the winter, with the northbound box culvert construction scheduled for spring 2017.

- ♦A third project for reinforced box culverts was recently awarded for mile marker 105. More information will be available closer to the project's starting date in early spring.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. From the ancient Romans. (because at that time, that's the number of months they were in the calendar).
2. March
3. Julius Caesar, in 44 B.C.
4. They are Latin. They come from names that mean, in order – seven, eight, nine and ten
5. It's named after Janus, the God of beginnings and endings.
6. The Gregorian calendar.

Have an idea for a news brief or picture that could be featured in an upcoming edition of Translines Express?

Please e-mail your suggestions to Kim.stich@ks.gov

Leadership Forum



Above, the Topeka High Drumline performed at the Leadership Forum in Topeka on Nov. 17. Top left, a drumline member helps District Six Engineer Ron Hall perfect his skills while at left, KTA's Kent Olson and KDOT EEO Officer Traci Ward also give the drums a try.

Marching to the beat: Attendees at the Leadership Forum on Nov. 17 in Topeka were entertained by the Topeka High Drumline, who invited members of the audience to participate in the drumming. The audience of KDOT and Kansas Turnpike Authority employees showed their appreciation by contributing \$750 in individual donations at the event. Sal Cruz, director of the drumline, said that was the largest amount ever donated to the group during a performance. "Sal said it brought tears to his eyes as well as many drummers because they were not expecting this gift of kindness," said Forum Organizer Sherry Petrie-Fitzgerald, KDOT's Organizational Development Manager.

Headquarters

Drug-free workplace: Lindsey Stephens, KDOT Drug and Alcohol Program Manager, reminds employees that the agency is in full support of the Federal Drug-free Workplace Act. Conditions of this act include:

- ♦Employees are required to notify the headship of KDOT in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after the conviction.
- ♦Employees are prohibited from reporting to work or performing work for the state while impaired by, or under the influence of, controlled substances or alcohol. (This includes prescription and over-the-counter medications that affect an employee's ability to perform his or her job in a safe and able

manner.)

- ♦Employees are prohibited from the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance in the workplace, or while the employee is on duty, official state business or stand-by-duty.
- ♦Employees who violate these prohibitions may be disciplined or referred to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

The EAP provides free drug counseling and referral services for rehabilitation. Benefits-eligible employees can call the EAP anytime at (888) 275-1205, option 7.

For more information, contact Stephens or see KDOT's SOM 2.6.3, "Drug-free workplace."

District Five



Eastbound U.S. 54 traffic has been moved onto a new south frontage road east of Webb Road and KTA Toll Plaza 50 in Wichita. A U-turn has been installed nearby so drivers exiting the KTA can go westbound on U.S. 54. The bridge that links the KTA with U.S. 54 will be demolished this weekend – for more details, see the article below. The new section will be completed in late 2019. Thomas Rhoads' road squad designed the project.

KTA

Progress in Wichita: East Kellogg improvements are in full swing in Wichita. At Plaza 50, the KTA bridge crossing over Kellogg near Webb Road has now closed. Access to or from Plaza 50 are via eastbound Kellogg. Traffic exiting KTA must go eastbound on Kellogg and take the designated U-turn past Webb Road to go west on Kellogg. Kellogg will be closed from Webb Road to Rock Road from Friday, Dec. 2, at 10 p.m. through Monday, Dec. 5, at 5 a.m. with traffic diverting to nearby roadways. This will allow for the removal of the bridge. More information is available on www.e54ict.com.



District Three



The U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree made its way through Kansas en route to Washington, D.C., on Nov. 18 and 19 with an overnight stop at the Hays Area complex. Hays Superintendent Max Dirks took photos of the 80-foot Engelsmann spruce (above) that was harvested from Idaho's Payette National Forest and will sit on the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol. Also accompanying the tree was the Big Idaho Potato truck and its six-ton Idaho potato (below).



District Five

On Dec. 3, three 130-foot bridge beams are scheduled to be placed over West Street traffic lanes as part of the I-235 and U.S. 54 Interchange Red Project in Wichita. West Street will be closed for 12 hours, weather permitting, while this takes place. The beams are part of a bridge widening that will accommodate traffic from new I-235 ramps onto eastbound U.S. 54. Kelly Keele's road squad and Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project.



Kansas Transportation

Wednesday, Nov. 23

Winter Ready Wednesdays: Salt brine

Winter is coming. Despite the mild autumn weather the majority of the state is still experiencing, snow and ice will most likely arrive in our forecast. Fortunately, KDOT has an effective tool to help combat slick roads: Salt brine

Salt brine is a proactive approach to battling inclement weather. Last year, KDOT used approximately 5 million gallons to prepare road surfaces for snow and ice. Each of the 112 Subareas in Kansas has at least 1,000-10,000 gallon storage tanks. But how is this salty mixture created and what determines how and when it is used?

Salt brine is typically created by filling a mixing tank with rock salt and then adding water. The water then percolates through the rock salt. The salt/water mixture overflows into a holding tank, where it is measured with a hydrometer. If the brine reads 23 percent salt (or 91 percent saturation) it is ready to be used on the roads. KDOT doesn't rely on salt brine for every weather event. It is most effective when it has a chance to stick to the roads after the brine water evaporates. If there is a rain changing to snow weather event,



using salt brine wouldn't work as effectively, the precipitation would wash it away. Because the salt brine is most effective when temperatures are 25 degrees or warmer, some areas around the state are starting to use sugar beet juice mixed with the salt brine. Beet juice, when added to the salt brine can help melt ice at near-zero degree temperatures. As the winter months move in, KDOT will use a variety of methods to clear roads and infrastructure and help Kansans travel safely. For the next several Wednesdays, we will share more ways

that KDOT works to keep Kansas moving during inclement weather. For up to date road conditions, check kandrive.org or dial 511.

To see more stories on other transportation topics, check out the regular posts on the Kansas Transportation blog at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>



Do you know of a KDOT retiree not receiving the electronic KDOT newsletter Translines?

Please let them know that if they are interested in receiving it, send an email to Kim.stich@ks.gov

As traffic flows by, the District Four paint crew places edge line on the new U.S. 400 passing lanes east of the Butler-Greenwood county line. Bettis Asphalt & Construction Inc. is the contractor on the \$3.8 million project. Steve King's road squad designed the project.



Johnson County Gateway



At left, Bill Clarkson speaks at the Johnson County Gateway celebration in Lenexa Tuesday. Bottom left, from left to right, Gov. Sam Brownback, FHWA Division Administrator Rick Backlund and FHWA Deputy Administrator David S. Kim talk at the event. Below, Acting Secretary Carlson welcomes attendees.



KDOT Employee Council Holiday Ornament Order Form

2016

Headquarters: Contact your Council Rep.

Districts/Retirees: Mail form to -
Ruby Hilton, ESOB - 13th Floor,
700 SW Harrison, Topeka, KS 66603



Don't miss out - they are going fast!

Year	Quantity	Cost	Total
2016		\$5.00	
2015		\$3.00	
2014		\$3.00	
2013		\$3.00	
2012		\$3.00	
2010		\$3.00	
Total Paid:			

Please Print -

Name: _____

Address: _____

Retirees only - home address)

Work phone: _____

Make checks payable
to KDOT Employee
Council

For more details, call
Ruby at (785) 291-3980

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

2010



2012



Supply is limited
on ornaments
from previous
years - first
come, first serve

2013



2014



2015

