

Translines EXPRESS

April 20, 2016

Work Zone Safety



KDOT employee Max Dirks speaks about the importance of work zone safety at the statewide news conference in Topeka on April 13.



Raising work zone safety awareness: "I warned the other flagman over the radio what was happening and then I dove into the ditch," said KDOT Hays Area Superintendent Max Dirks. "All I could think about was the eight KDOT equipment operators working on the bridge - are they hurt, are they alive."

Dirks was detailing an incident where a semi driver had trouble stopping and came close to hitting workers and nearby motorists. "Work zone safety and awareness is important, not just today, not just one week out of the year," Dirks said. "It is important every day you drive our Kansas roads."

Dirks was joined by Secretary Mike King, KHP Col. Mark Bruce and KTA Engineering Technician Mark Roberts from Wichita at the statewide work zone safety news conference on April 13 in Topeka. The event was one of several activities in Kansas that took place as part of National Work Zone Awareness Week, highlights include:

- Highway workers and others shared stories in a blog series about work zone safety that can be read [here](#).
- Electronic message boards had rotating work zone safety messages.
- Numerous pictures as part of Go Orange, see [here](#).
- Gov. Sam Brownback signed a proclamation recognizing work zone week in Kansas.

Last year in Kansas work zones, 480 people were injured and four people were killed.



Top right: The Johnson County Public Works Department placed cones and a sign along the entrance to their campus on old U.S. 56 in Olathe. Left: The KDOT Pittsburg Area Office created a work zone safety display in front of the building.

See more National Work Zone Awareness Week photos at the end of this edition.

Trivia!

Bowling

1. The largest bowling center is in Japan. How many lanes does it have?
2. The first indoor bowling lanes were built in New York City in:
 - A. 1840
 - B. 1881
 - C. 1899
 - D. 1920
3. In bowling lingo, what refers to three strikes in a row? What about six strikes in a row?
4. What material was a bowling ball made out of until the early 1900s?
5. What President had a bowling lane installed at the White House?
6. For the optimal strike, the ball should hit how many pins?

Transportation Alternatives

KDOT awards 25 Transportation Alternatives projects: Twenty-five projects that advance a host of transportation initiatives have been selected for funding through the Transportation Alternatives program. Eligible projects include facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, scenic or historical highway programs, landscaping and scenic beautification, historic preservation of transportation facilities, conversion of abandoned railway corridors to trails, control or removal of outdoor advertising, archaeological planning and research related to transportation, and the Safe Routes to School program. "We received 48 applications and chose projects that would best strengthen non-motorized transportation for Kansans of all ages and abilities," said Mike Spadafore, KDOT coordinator for the Transportation Alternatives program. "We were pleased to see a wide variety of applications, and so many that used local collaboration that showed public support of their projects." Each project sponsor must commit to a minimum 20 percent match. See a list of the projects [here](#).

District One



A column supporting the eastbound Johnson Drive bridge over I-435 in Johnson County was struck by a vehicle on April 10, leaving the column bent more than five feet from the center at the bearing. A lane of Johnson Drive is closed to traffic. KDOT bridge inspectors are conducting in-depth reviews and repair work on the structure will take place later this spring.

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 translines@ksdot.org

KTA

Artwork winner: Leanne Neal of Wellington was chosen as the KTA's National Work Zone Awareness Week digital art contest winner. Neal's work was selected out of nearly 50 submissions from students around the state. Neal's work will be published in VYPE Magazine, a high school sports magazine for the Wichita area.



Left: Kansas high school student Leanne Neal, third from left, accepts a certificate from KTA staff members, from left to right, Jason Weber, Rachel Bell and Mike Vargas for winning the digital art contest highlighting work zone safety. **Right:** Neal's artwork.



Traffic Safety Conference



The 22nd Kansas Traffic Safety Conference took place this week in Topeka with 432 people registered. Of those, 184 attendees were members of the SAFE (Seatbelts Are For Everyone) high school program. Participants at the conference had the chance to learn about impaired driving, safer highway design, older drivers and distracted driving as well as meet with law enforcement and prosecutors.



District Six



Temporary signals direct traffic through the intersection of U.S. 56 and U.S. 83 near Sublette in Haskell County. Work has started on a project to rebuild the intersection, replacing the asphalt pavement with concrete. Smoky Hill, of Salina is the primary contractor on the \$4.3 million reconstruction project. The work should be completed by November. Kris Norton's road squad and Brad Rognlie's bridge squad designed the project.

General



At left: KDOT and McPherson industrial leaders tour the Viega manufacturing plant before the event to announce work on U.S. 56 near the I-135 interchange. Below: Attendees at the U.S. 54 event look at the project map to see where the upcoming improvements will be constructed.

Projects announced in McPherson, Liberal: Secretary Mike King was joined by local and state officials in announcing upcoming transportation projects in McPherson and Liberal during visits to both towns on April 19. In McPherson, work on U.S. 56 will improve access to the city and also the industrial area. In Liberal, work has started to expand a portion of U.S. 54 to a four-lane expressway in Seward County.



District Four



BNSF Railway and South Kansas & Oklahoma (SKOL) Railroad coordinated to make track improvements on U.S. 400 east of K-7 as the crossings are close to each other. When BNSF notified KDOT to schedule track repairs, KDOT contacted SKOL about repairing its nearby crossing at the same time. The track work took place April 11-14 with the highway closed at the work zone and traffic detoured on a state route.

KDOT Blog

Kansas Transportation

Monday, April 18

The Secrets of Southeast Kansas: Beaumont

A stagecoach stop between Fredonia and Wichita, the community of Beaumont – on U.S. 400 at the Greenwood-Butler county line - was established as a railroad town in 1885 with the arrival of the St. Louis and San Francisco (Frisco) Railroad. An east-west rail line connected St. Louis with Wichita, and a spur route went south to Oklahoma. Frisco soon constructed a 50,000-gallon wooden water tower to service the seven trains stopping at Beaumont each day. Beaumont became an overhaul station and major cattle shipping point in the region, complete with a roundhouse, depot and offices. At one time the town also boasted the largest stockyards to have electric lighting, water



and scales between Wichita and Springfield, Mo. By 1950, trucks had taken over the shipping of cattle. Five years later Beaumont bid farewell to its last steam passenger train. Only the Frisco's wooden water tower remains standing down the street from the Beaumont Café and Hotel. And the water tower is a landmark for those who travel to Beaumont by motor vehicle and small airplanes. Planes are frequently spotted taxiing onto the grass airstrip next to the restaurant. Pilots and passengers disembark to dine at the cafe and perhaps stay the night at the hotel, savoring the town's history and surrounding Flint Hills vistas.

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

District Six



Fire and rain: A wildfire in Morton County on April 5 destroyed buildings, jumped U.S. 56 and forced the closing of the highway west of Rolla for a few hours. In the aftermath, the Rolla subarea crew replaced several signs. Then, heavy weekend rains in Morton County, April 16 and 17, forced the closing of portions of K-51 from Saturday evening until Monday morning as the normally dry North Fork of the Cimarron River topped its banks, flooding nearby fields and ditches. The Rolla Subarea crew reported more than five inches of water over the road near Richfield.

Above: Water over K-51 caused KDOT to close the highway near Richfield. Right: The North Fork of the Cimarron River rises up to a bridge on K-51. Below: Portions of U.S. 56 were closed to traffic due to wildfires on April 5.



Retiree

The following employee will retire from KDOT on May 1.

District Six

David Marsh, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Syracuse

TRIVIA ANSWERS

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. 116 lanes | 4. Wood |
| 2. A. 1840 | 5. President Richard Nixon |
| 3. Turkey, wild turkey | 6. Four pins. |

District Four



Two-way traffic is channeled through a sea of cones in the final phases of the passing lane expansion on U.S. 400 east of K-99 in Greenwood County. Koss Construction of Topeka is the contractor on the \$4.6 million project. Construction on two passing lane projects in western Greenwood County will begin later this spring. Steve King's road squad designed the project.

District One



Staff from the Olathe Maintenance, Kansas City Metro Materials and Structures & Geotechnical showed a variety of career trades at KDOT to more than 2,600 KC Metro area middle school and high school students on April 14. The iBuild Showcase, hosted by the National Institute for Construction Excellence (NICE), brings students and construction industry professionals together in the KC Metro area. KDOT's activities at the exhibit booth included a geology presentation, materials testing, portable work zone sign assembly and maintenance equipment presentations.

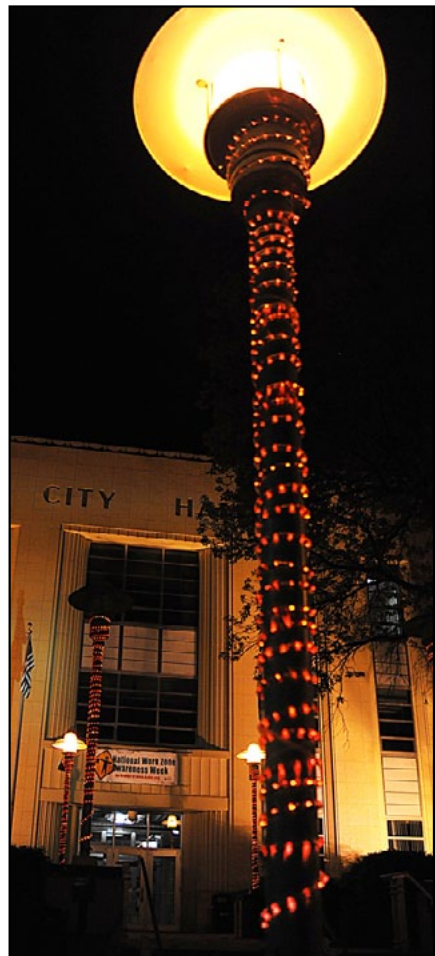
National Work Zone Awareness Week



Transportation and emergency response partners set up a vehicle display at the news conference on April 13.



Above: KHP Col. Mark Bruce speaks to attendees at the statewide work zone safety news conference. Below: The front of the Topeka City Hall is lit up in orange.



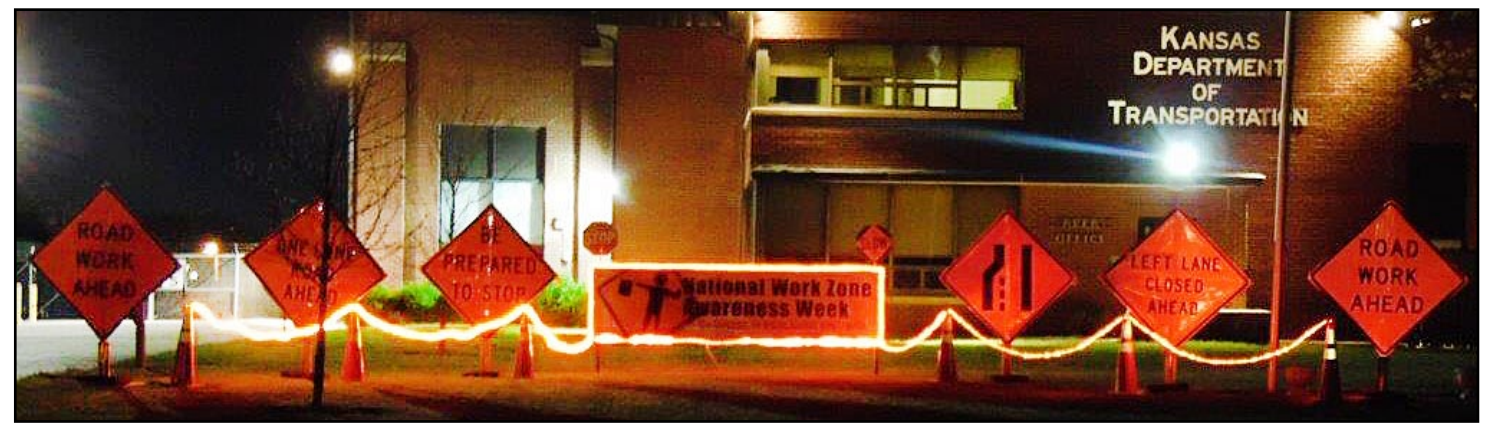
KDOT employees at the Independence Area Office wear orange to promote work zone safety.



Above: KDOT employees in Eisenhower participate in Go Orange Day. Left: Names of all the KDOT and KTA employees who have been killed in work zone crashes since 1950 were on display at the statewide work zone safety news conference.



National Work Zone Awareness Week



The KDOT El Dorado Area Office is surrounded by orange signs and lights.



Cedar Crest, the Governor's Mansion in Topeka, was lit in orange last week.



Above: KDOT employees at the Hutchinson office wear orange. Below: KDOT employees at the annual Maintenance Meeting in Salina pose for a photo.



The Visitor Information Center near Goodland promotes work zone safety.



Left: Partnering groups participate in the Give 'Em A Brake program. Right: DMS signs show work zone safety messages.

