

## Work Zone Crash

### Work zone crash:

KDOT Equipment Operator Tim Farquhar was providing control for bridge inspectors working on the I-35 bridge near mile marker 175 in Franklin County. About 10 a.m., work moved to the northbound side and Farquhar had just repositioned traffic control and was ready to keep an eye on traffic when a semi side-swiped Farquhar's pickup truck.

"I saw the truck in the mirror coming right at me," he said.

"Everyone says things slow down in accidents, but it didn't – it happened so quickly. This was the first time I was actually scared for myself."

Farquhar said the truck rocked violently but the air bags didn't deploy. That's when the pain hit.

"If I had not had my seat belt on though, I would have been all over inside that cab like a ping pong ball," he



**Equipment Operator Tim Farquhar was not injured, but his pickup truck was severely damaged when it was side-swiped by a semi March 29 in a work zone on I-35 in Franklin County.**

said. "I was told if the semi had been another six to 12 inches over, I wouldn't be here. It could have been a hundred times worse." Farquhar remembers seeing the semi going over on its side and was concerned about the driver. He later found out he was walking around and doing OK, he said.

Emergency responders didn't realize Farquhar was in the truck at first, but then used the Jaws of Life to open the driver's side door. Farquhar was taken to

the hospital, treated and released.

He stressed the importance of wearing seat belts and keeping your eyes open for all possibilities.

"You've got to constantly be aware - you're looking out for your life at all times," Farquhar said. "I've got three little girls and a wife to come home too and I'm not leaving them any time soon."

## National Work Zone Awareness Week

**Gov. Sam Brownback signed the National Work Zone Awareness Week in Kansas proclamation on March 25 at the Capitol. Those attending include, from left to right, KHP Lt. Adam Winters, Alex Wiebel with the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office, KDOT employee Tony Trower, KDOT employee Vince Grier, Jamie Lane with the Kansas Contractors Association, KTA employee Merlin Eck, David LaRoche with the Federal Highway Administration, KDOT employee Kim Qualls, KHP Master Trooper Stephen LaRow, KDOT employees Kim Stich, Eric Nichol and Mike Stringer.**





## National Work Zone Awareness Week

**Work zone safety:** National Work Zone awareness week is April 11-15. There are several ways all KDOT employees can get involved and help improve work zone safety.

**Thunderclap** - From your home computers, go to <https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/39028-go-orange-kansas-2016> and join KDOT's Thunderclap effort to raise work zone safety awareness

to hundreds of thousand of people across the country.

Click to participate through Facebook or Twitter, and join the group. It will send a one-time message to your followers at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April

13, the same time as the statewide news conference.

The safety message is simple and to the point - "I'm taking the pledge today and every day to slow down in work zones and am aware of construction crews."

Please sign up now and forward to others – the effort requires 100 participants before April 13.



### On the KDOT Go Orange webpage at

<http://www.ksdot.org/offTransInfo/GoOrange/WorkZoneSafety.asp> -

**Kansas Highway Workers Memorial** - see the memorial that is located at the Paxico Safety Rest Area.

**PSA** - Check out the work zone safety public service announcement created last year by KDOT's Bureau of Support Services.

**Work zone coloring page** - Encourage kids to color and think about safety, print out copies.

**Go Orange locations** - see a list of places that will be orange for the week.

**Safety blog series** - read blogs each day from April 11-15.

**Go Orange Day** - show support by wearing orange on April 13.

**KDOT/KTA employees are encouraged to watch the statewide news conference at 1:30 p.m. on April 13** - All KDOT and KTA offices are asked to have a location in each building available for employees to watch the news conference. ESOB employees can go to the 4th floor auditorium, Room B watch. Contact your Information Technology staff for information.

## In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree **Billy Meech** who passed away on April 5 in Fort Scott. He retired as a Highway Supervisor in District Four in 1992 after 35 years of service. Funeral services are Friday, details are in the Fort Scott Tribune newspaper.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree **Pat Williams** who passed away on March 24 in Topeka. Williams was the Photography Supervisor in Support Services for many years. He retired in 2003 after a 37-year career.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree **Don Stewart** passed away on March 19 in Denison. He retired from KDOT's Right of Way office in 2002.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree **Wayne Johnston** who passed away on April 1. He worked in District Four for 43 years, retiring in 1996.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree **Wilbur Johnson** who passed away on March 13 in Topeka. He retired from KDOT's Transportation Planning office in 1995.

## Trivia!

### Tax Day – April 18

1. When was income tax first introduced in the U.S.?
2. How much was the tax?
3. Why was the income tax levied?
4. The tax was repealed in 1872. What amendment ratified the Constitution to clear the way for the modern income tax system in the U.S.?
5. How long has Tax Day, or the filing deadline, been set on April 15 (unless it's extended)?

*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](mailto:translines@ksdot.org)*

## District Five



*Below, KDOT crews work to clear debris after a platform semi-trailer traveling westbound on U.S. 50 was transporting an excavator and the boom of the equipment struck the K-14 bridge U.S. 50 (left). Two concrete girders were damaged underneath the bridge. Emergency responders were present and KDOT crews are assessing the damage. A crane removed the damaged heavy equipment. Fortunately, no injuries were initially reported and there was no significant structural damage.*



## KTA

*Construction is in full swing at the Bazaar Cattle Pens located at mile marker 111 on I-35/KTA as seen in this aerial view. The ramps and walls are currently being built. Learn about the project at <http://bit.ly/1V4V6jh>.*





## Retirees

The following employee retired from KDOT on April 1.

### Headquarters

**Leslie Spencer-Fowler**, Intelligent Transportation System Manager, Transportation Safety and Technology

The following employee will retire from KDOT on May 1.

### Headquarters

**Michael Thompson**, Engineering Technician Specialist, Structures and Geotechnical Services

## Kudos

A thank you note recently received through email:

♦Our family traveled along I-70 and state highway 81 on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week and I wanted to relay to you how splendid the road conditions were. They were smooth, clean and easy to navigate. There was very little trash along the roads and all in all the driving was pleasant and agreeable. Please convey to your staff that their hard work to maintain the roads is very apparent.

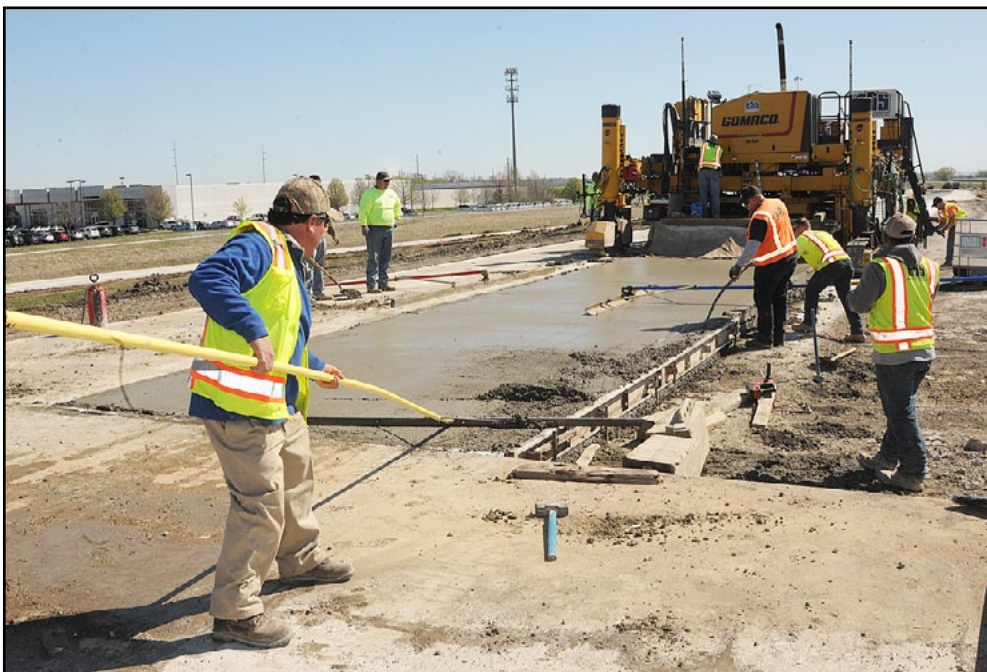
## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. In 1861
2. 3 percent on incomes above \$800 per year.
3. To help fund the American Civil War effort.
4. Sixteenth Amendment, in 1913.
5. 1955

## SLT



**Above and below, concrete is placed on the eastbound portion of the SLT on Monday to connect the roadway to the existing bridge over U.S. 59 on the south side of Lawrence. The westbound section was placed last week. The overall K-10 east leg of the SLT project is scheduled to be open to traffic in November. Ryan Barrett's road squad and Chris Meyer's bridge squad designed the project.**



## KTA

**Service area updates:** Renovations at the KTA's Matfield Green Service Area, located in the Flint Hills at mile marker 97 on I-35/KTA, began March 21. The service area will remain open with food, fuel and restrooms available throughout the project, which should be completed in late December.

Renovations include improved restrooms that can be sectioned off to allow for easier cleaning; commercial trash compactors to minimize frequency of trash service to this rural location and decrease area litter; and better truck parking for commercial travelers.

## District Three



**Above, work begins next week on this stretch of U.S. 36 in Norton. At left, Phillipsburg Area Engineer Harold Schleicher discusses access points with a Norton business owner at a public meeting on April 5.**

**Improvement project begins:** Work is expected to begin on April 18 on a Geometric Improvement Project to reconstruct and widen a portion of U.S. 36 in Norton. A public meeting took place April 5 to give business owners and residents a chance to discuss concerns including business access and project timing.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of October. The westbound lanes will be constructed first, with traffic diverted head-to-head in the eastbound lanes. Construction of the eastbound lanes will begin upon completion of the westbound portion.

## KDOT Blog

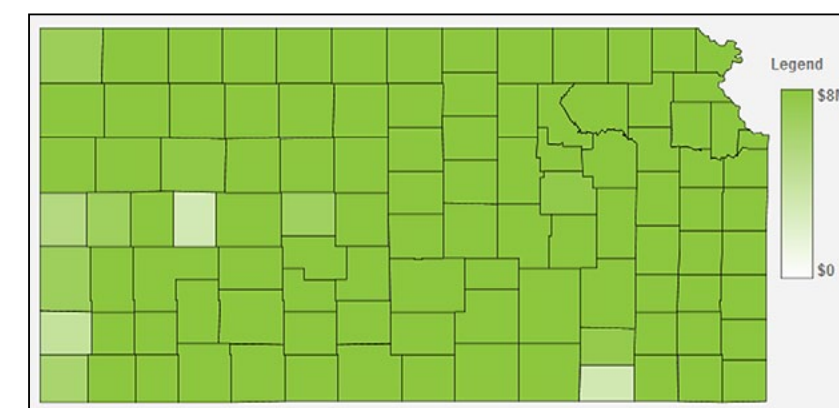
### Kansas Transportation

Monday, March 28

#### How many counties have met the \$8 million promise?

When the Kansas Legislature passed the state transportation program, T-WORKS, in 2010, it required that at least \$8 million be invested in every Kansas county. The \$8 million could be made up of highway, rail and aviation projects. Currently, 93 of the 105 counties have met that promise.

Of the remaining 12 counties, many have work currently scheduled that will get them to the \$8 million mark. For example, \$6.7 million of work has been completed in Rush County so far and another \$1.4 million worth of work is currently scheduled to begin in the next few years. You can learn more about the \$8 million promise and check it's progress by clicking [here](#).



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



## General

**Secretary Mike King, in foreground, asks students at Village Elementary in Emporia questions, helping them to think and learn more about traffic engineering.**

**Learning traffic engineering:** Secretary Mike King and Traffic Safety and Technology Bureau Chief Mike Floberg recently traveled to Village Elementary in Emporia to meet with fifth graders. The children are members of the school's math and science club and redesigned a four way stop as an assignment from their teacher Marcus Cornelius. The fifth graders worked on their projects for about a month, before talking to the officials from KDOT. The assignment's genesis happened when their teacher, Cornelius, was complaining that most people do not know how a four-way stop works, with drivers never



knowing when it's their turn. The students then observed an intersection near the school, before creating their designs, which included roundabouts, ramps and bridges in an effort to show a different way to use a four-way stop, as shown in this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=An8j9OyN0eU>.

## District Two

**U.S. 56 work begins:** Construction on U.S. 56 from the I-135 ramp west to the U.S. 56/Eby Street intersection in McPherson began in late March. The project will reconstruct the four lanes including shoulders and replace the grass median with concrete. This project includes bridge rehabilitations, review of crash wall requirements at railroad bridge piers, hike/bike trail, sidewalk and installation of conduit and light pole footings for a city lighting system. Traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction. This section of U.S. 56 also functions as Kansas Avenue through McPherson. During construction, a temporary traffic signal will be at the U.S. 56/Centennial Road intersection and the two permanent signals within the project will be modified. Reconstruction of the eastbound lanes will then take place with the entire project schedule to be completed in July 2017. Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project.



**Pavement removal is taking place between the I-135 ramp and Champlin Street.**

## District Five

**Putting out the fires:** Two weeks after the fire, officials report that the Barber County fire is contained although there are still hot spots hidden in the cedar-filled canyons. Local firefighters are monitoring the issue and working to close the book on the largest wildfire to strike the state of Kansas. Despite unforgiving winds that fueled the fire, emergency responders, firefighters, and volunteers prevailed. According to the Wichita Eagle, 12 homes were destroyed in Barber County and the total burn area mounted to more than 600 square miles between Oklahoma and Kansas. Donations by Kansans as well as those in other states, such as free meals for firefighters and hay bales for farmers with livestock, continue to be made. KDOT crews closed U.S. 160 between Medicine Lodge and Coldwater due to the dangers posed by fire/smoke and were on standby to provide further assistance if needed. Fire damaged or destroyed more than 300 guardrail posts in Barber and Comanche counties alone and will be replaced by KDOT crews.

**Guardrail posts will be replaced along U.S. 160 as many were destroyed by the recent fires in south central Kansas.**



## General

**Money-saving idea:** A pair of Hesston High School students, Austin Bollinger and Kitt Regier, have a big idea to help their school and the entire Hesston district save money – install a wind turbine at the school and significantly cut into the district's \$210,000 annual electric bill. But first, they have to sell their idea and last month the pair visited another Hesston native – Secretary Mike King – to get feedback on presenting their idea. While KDOT's Division of Aviation issues permits for turbines to assure aviation safety, the pair were looking for practical advice on advancing their idea from the Secretary. He suggested the pair develop more data to support their cause and do all they can to present a "compelling case" for wind energy at Hesston High School. Secretary King also invited Kimberly Svaty, a Topeka



**Hesston High School students Austin Bollinger, left, and Kitt Regier, second from right, visited Secretary Mike King last month to discuss their proposal to put a wind turbine at their high school. Listening to the presentation is Kimberly Svaty, a Topeka consultant for the Wind Coalition.**

consultant for the Wind Coalition, a regional partner of the American Wind Energy Association, to sit in while the students gave their presentation and offer advice. Svaty offered important feedback and encouraged them to use bold language such as: "You can say, 'Texas to Canada is the Saudi Arabia of wind'."





*The demolition of the southbound I-235 bridge over the Wichita-Valley Center Floodway in northwest Wichita started today. Part of the “Five Bridges” project, two southbound bridges will be rebuilt this year and two northbound bridges plus the 25th Street bridge over I-235 will be constructed in 2017. Traffic is single lane, head-to-head and can be seen on the right. About 40,000 vehicles used this part of I-235, at least, before construction began in late-March. Kelly Keele’s road squad and Mark Hurt’s bridge squad designed the project.*