

Translines EXPRESS

Feb. 10, 2016

Weather



Left: Near white-out conditions during the storm. **Above:** Clean-up continues on K-60 with the snowblower.

Big storm: The massive winter storm and high winds that hit Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas on Feb. 1 and 2 closed many highways in central and western Kansas. Westbound I-70 was closed to Salina because of high winds blowing snow and semis stranded along the highway. Sections of most of the highways from Hays west to the Colorado border and from Hays north to the

Nebraska border were closed at times from Feb. 1 to 3. Several highways in southwest Kansas were also snow packed and icy.

According to the National Weather Service in Goodland, wind gusts up to 55 mph were reported throughout the region and snowfall totals in the northwest area included Logan, eight inches; Colby, 11 inches; Goodland and Norton, 12 inches.



Above: U.S. 83 south of Scott City. **Right:** Semi-trucks, with no where else to park, parked along U.S. 183 north of Hays (photo submitted).



Ramp Metering

Recommended I-35 Ramps

See which I-35 on-ramps could be metered next year!



Ramp metering education: More ramp metering, which is part of *Moving Forward* – I-35 Corridor Optimization Plan, will soon be added to the Kansas City freeway system. KDOT's project leaders think the process of educating area commuters begins with educating KDOT employees. So, over the next couple weeks, posters describing the project will be strategically placed in KDOT's Kansas City-area offices and at Headquarters. Ramp metering is a cost-effective approach to addressing congestion by regulating with traffic signals when vehicles can safely merge from entry ramps into traffic. KDOT has already installed meters at other KC metro locations and they have been successfully used in other cities such as Minneapolis, Portland, Seattle and Denver.

"This is a great project that will enhance the daily commuter experience. But, public acceptance of something new isn't always immediate, so we need to have informed KDOT staffers who are knowledgeable and supportive," said ITS Program Manager Leslie Spencer-Fowler, who is managing the project along with David Schwartz, Models and Forecasting Manager. To learn more about the project, visit <http://adobe.ly/1T4s8hh>.

Aviation

Kansas airport improvement projects announced:

A dozen airports have been selected for Kansas Airport Improvement Program funding to repair or improve facilities and enhance air ambulance access. These projects will receive a combined total of up to \$2 million in fiscal year 2017. KAIP requires airport sponsors to pay a minimum of 5 percent of the total project costs up to a maximum of 50 percent, depending on project category (of modernization, equipment, design and preservation). The project cost of the 12 projects is \$2.25 million. The projects approved by Secretary Mike King are the first phase of new KAIP projects; a second phase

remains under review.

"These projects will help us toward a goal of making critical air services accessible to 94 percent of the state's population," said Secretary King. "Recent improvements to rural airports have brought us to 90 percent of the population covered by airports that can be accessed by air ambulance operators." KAIP is allocated \$5 million annually through the T-WORKS transportation program. KDOT's Division of Aviation, which manages the program, received 114 applications for projects totaling \$38.7 million. To see the selected communities and amount requested, go to bit.ly/1X3w1na.

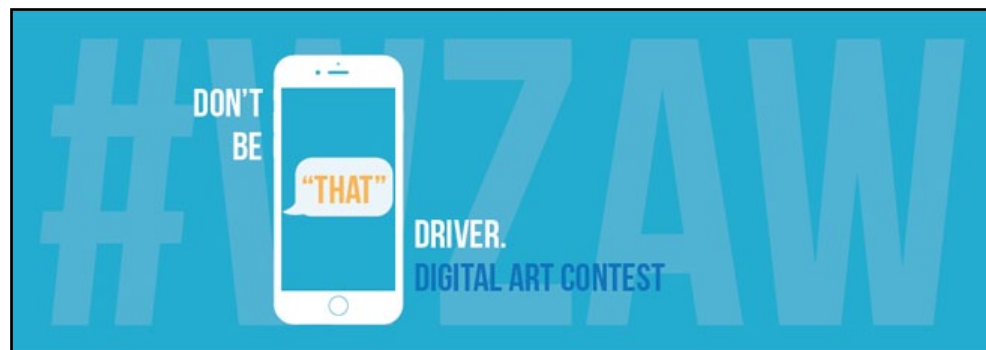
Work Zone Safety

Work zone safety art contest:

Teens in grades 8-12 are encouraged to participate in the KTA's digital art contest highlighting National Work Zone Awareness Week, which is April 11-15. The winner will receive a \$200 Amazon gift card and have the ad published in VYPE magazine and Turnpike Times.

The artwork should incorporate this year's safety theme, "Don't be THAT driver." Other guidelines include:

- Artwork dimension - 7.5 inches wide by 7.75 inches high
- 300 dpi



● CMYK color format

Entries must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on March 31 to beitzen@kturnpike.com and include a name, email, phone number and address. Any questions can also be sent to this email.

Aviation Day

At right, visitors stop by booths and talk with aviation officials at the Capitol on Feb. 3 as part of Aviation Day. Below, Secretary Mike King speaks to a large crowd in the rotunda of the Capitol about aviation and the 32,000 jobs as well as \$11.5 billion in economic impact that aerospace manufacturing has in Kansas.



In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree Louis Bredehoff who died on Jan. 30. He was from Independence. Bredehoff worked in KDOT construction for 37 years before retiring in 1994.

Trivia!

February is National Bird Feeding Month –

1. In regards to an ostrich, how fast can it run, and how tall can it grow?
2. Hummingbird can't walk, but

- they can do this.
3. About how much water can a pelican's bill hold?
4. How fast can the peregrine falcon fly?
5. What are feathers made of?

District Five

I-135 rest stops reopen: District Five has re-opened both north/south I-135 rest stops located north of Wichita in Harvey County. The reopening marks the end of the first major renovation to the two facilities since their original construction in 1970.



Many updates have been made to the I-135 rest stops north of Wichita.

The renovation addressed needed mechanical repairs and infrastructure updates. Issues such as failing cast iron drains, broken porcelain fixtures, inefficient windows, worn ceilings and an aging ventilation

system have been replaced. A new electrical system and wiring powers improved outside/inside lighting. An up-to-date ventilation system, new windows and fixtures were also installed.

Safety



Sharing safety alerts: This is the third safety alert by a KDOT employee that is being shared in Translines to help prevent similar accidents from happening.



KDOT Safety TEAM (Together Employees Accomplish More)

On Nov. 9, 2015, an Equipment Mechanic at a district complex was doing preventative maintenance checks on district equipment. When he got to equipment 488-2012, a core drill rig, he found the back engine battery low on voltage even though it was attached to a trickle charger. He proceeded to jump start it with a battery charger and bring it into the shop where the Equipment Mechanic Senior informed him of the need to charge the battery for an hour and then load test it to see if it needed replaced. In the process of load testing the battery, after the charging cycle, a spark occurred which caused the battery to explode due to the venting of hydrogen gases. The explosion blew chunks of battery everywhere, even lodging pieces into the 20-foot suspended ceiling and blowing the safety glasses off the Equipment Mechanic's face, covering his upper body with battery acid. He also was wearing prescription glasses which remained on his

face until he removed them to use the emergency eye wash station before going to the emergency room for further treatment. The Equipment Mechanic was disoriented after the explosion and needed help in getting to the emergency eye wash station and activating it. His eyesight was saved by the use of safety glasses. However, if he would have had a face shield, he would have been saved from the discomfort of the battery acid on his face. This accident shows the importance of safety shielding, eye wash stations, fellow employee's looking out for one another and the need to be aware of venting battery gases.

District Six



Construction will begin soon on this stretch of U.S. 83 in Haskell County.

U.S. 83 expansion project: The first in a series of potential improvements on U.S. 83 in southwest Kansas was included in January's bid letting. The T-WORKS expansion project in Haskell County calls for rebuilding six miles of U.S. 83, replacing the junction of U.S. 83/U.S. 160/K-144 with an

interchange and adding a set of passing lanes. The project addresses one of many segments of a 70-mile corridor from Sublette to Scott City that were identified during a needs study that KDOT began in 2007, following local consultation meetings in fall 2006. Aaron Frits' road squad designed the projects.

KDOT Blog

Kansas Transportation

Wednesday, Feb. 10

KDOT debuts one-of-a-kind roundabout

In the final weeks of 2015, KDOT opened a one-of-a-kind roundabout near Marion in central Kansas. It not only enhances safety, it accommodates freight superloads that sometimes have difficulty navigating a conventional roundabout. This video explains the need and the concept and also provides animation of how trucks pulling huge loads can pass through the intersection. See the video [here](#).



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

District Four



Gov. Sam Brownback, Secretary Mike King and KHP Lt. Col. Randy Moon honored KDOT Sedan Subarea crew members for their recent efforts to save a semi driver whose rig had become engulfed in flames along U.S. 166. The ceremony took place Jan. 28 in Topeka. From left to right: Art Wade (Sedan), Lt. Col. Moon, Independence Area Engineer Darrin Petrowsky, District Engineer Wayne Gudmonson, Brad Harter (Sedan), Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger, Randy Bierle (Sedan), Bill Snyder (Sedan), Dale Sweaney (Sedan), Donnie Simpson (Sedan), Gov. Brownback, Nathan Blankinship (Sedan), Tim Baker (Sedan), Secretary King, Director of Operations Catherine Patrick, Independence Area Superintendent Marcus Leck and Tom Ware (Sedan).

KTA



The Kansas Turnpike Authority has opened a second K-TAG Retail Center at the Lawrence toll plaza, exit 202. Participating in the grand opening event on Jan. 28, from left to right, were KTA Customer Service Manager Gary Culbertson, Kansas Rep. Richard Proehl, Secretary Mike King, Kansas Rep. Mark Hutton, Kansas Sen. Mike Petersen and KTA CEO Steve Hewitt. At the center, customers will be able to get new or replacement K-TAGs, learn how a K-TAG can save them on time and tolls when traveling on the Turnpike and make changes or a payment to their account. View photos of the opening at <http://bit.ly/1NFlaYh>

Kudos

KDOT offices received thank you notes recently though Facebook and emails.

Email

●Dear KDOT:

We are writing this email to thank KDOT employee, Jared Beary, who stopped on Interstate 70 near Chapman to help us after we had a flat tire last Friday, January 29, 2016. He could tell that my friend and I were in distress. We had just called the wrecker service when Jared came to our assistance. He tried to call the wrecker service to tell them that he would change the tire but they were already on their way. He waited with us, in the event that something happened to the wrecker service, and his calm and kind manner helped us cope. He said that KDOT employees often help stranded motorists and it was part of his job. We just want him and his supervisor to know how much we appreciated his assistance and the comfort in knowing that KDOT employees are so helpful. We were two pathetic older women and Jared saved the day. Thank you again Jared!

Sincerely,

Pam Staatz and Sherilyn Barnes

Facebook

- Thank you Trego County KDOT for doing all the hard stuff to keep us all safe! I saw you at 3 a.m. in front of my house working to free up the plow to make sure everyone could go where they needed to if they had to. Today you are my heros! Stay safe!
- Heading back from Colorado and you have done an excellent job on I-70.
- For those about to plow ... We Salute You! - this post on the KDOT traffic safety Facebook page was shared 802 times, liked 703 times and reached 75,911 people.
- Thank you KDOT. For all the hard work you do to keep our roads open! Be safe!!
- Thankful for KDOT for clearing roads and keeping us safe!
- Thank you for the job you do.
- Thanks for working so hard to keep the roads clear! Deeply appreciated!
- Thank you each and everyone and thank your family for letting you be there
- Thank you guys for all your hard work
- Great job guys be safe and thanks for what you do.
- No doubt. These workers are the best. Keeping us safe. Worth every penny.

General



KDOT Chief Counsel Barb Rankin displays her drum playing moves at the District One Construction and Materials Conference in Topeka on Feb. 2. Rankin borrowed the musical equipment from the Topeka High Drumline group, which provided an afternoon performance for conference attendees.

Bike Across Kansas

Bike Across Kansas: Registration for the 2016 Bike Across Kansas event is now open. This year's route will stretch along the northern part of Kansas, going east from St. Francis, with an optional loop into Nebraska for one of the days. The event takes place from June 4-11. For more information, go to www.bak.org.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. As fast as 43 miles per hour and as tall as nine feet.
2. Fly backwards.
3. Up to three gallons.
4. More than 100 miles per hour when diving.
5. Keratin.