

# Translines EXPRESS

Jan. 13, 2016

## State of the State Address



*Gov. Sam Brownback delivers his annual State of the State speech Tuesday evening, a day after the start of the 2016 legislative session. Cabinet secretaries, including KDOT's Mike King, are situated in the balcony behind the governor.*

## Headquarters

**Schieber promoted to Bureau Chief:** Greg Schieber is starting off the new year with a new job, he has been named the Bureau Chief for Construction and Materials.

Schieber graduated from the University of Kansas and came to work at KDOT 14 years ago in the Bureau of Materials and Research where he has held several positions. He then became the Assistant Bureau Chief of Construction and Materials. In 2015, he went to the Area Four Office in Topeka as the Metro Engineer, then came back to Construction and Materials to become the Bureau Chief.

"It'll be challenging, but I'm excited and enjoy working with all the Districts and looking forward to getting out on the 1R tour," Schieber said.

Schieber and his wife, Abby, have three children and reside in Topeka.



*Greg Schieber*

**State offices  
are closed  
on Monday,  
Jan. 18,  
for Martin  
Luther King  
Jr. Day.**

## District Three

**Manhunt ends at KDOT office:** Two men led authorities on a manhunt in Ellis County on Dec. 29 that ended up with an arrest at the KDOT Area Office in Hays.

Sheriff Ed Harbin said the men allegedly robbed a Casey's General Store in Ellis earlier that evening. Witnesses were able to provide a description of the car, which was later located near Hays. As officers attempted to pull them over, the car took off and crashed after failing to negotiate a turn onto the interstate. The suspects then fled

on foot. One suspect was arrested near a drainage ditch south of I-70. The other was located in a KDOT asphalt distributor truck inside the maintenance yard. KDOT Area Engineer Kevin Zimmer said crews surveyed the area for damage the following day.



**This is where authorities believe that suspects went over the barbed wire fence and gained access to the KDOT Hays office.**

"We found a corner in the Subarea yard where we believe he gained access into the secured area by climbing a fence with barbed wire on top," Zimmer said. "Luckily, no one was hurt and the only damage we found was a broken radio bracket."

## Trivia!

**The year 1861 – a few facts from the year Kansas became the 34th state admitted to the Union.**

1. What President did Abraham Lincoln succeed on March 4?
2. What battle, considered the first battle of the Civil War, started on April 12?
3. What famous University of Kansas coach was born on Nov. 6?
4. What day was the bill signed for Missouri's secession from the Union?
5. What two states were organized that year as United State territories?

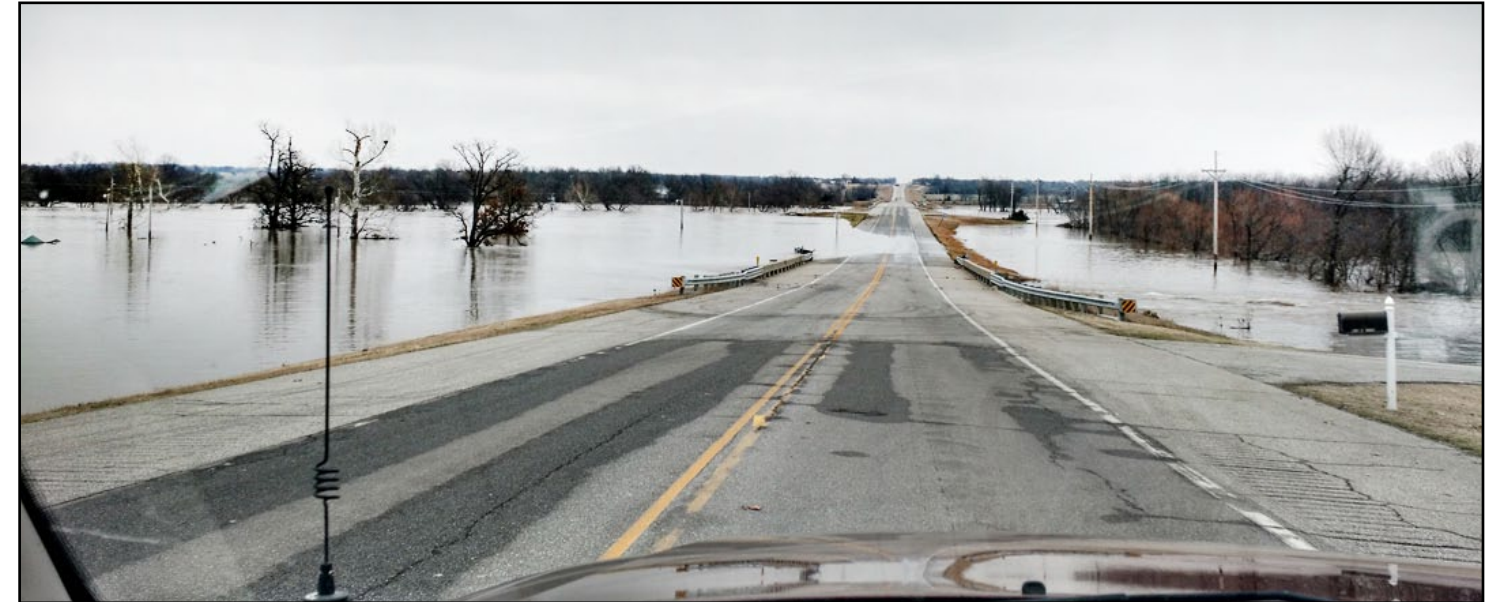
## Kudos

KDOT offices received thank you notes recently through tweets and emails.

- ♦Thanks @SEKansasKDOT @KDOTHQ for helping to keep #CherokeeCounty residents safe this week! (In regards to flooding in late December.) Sheriff David Groves
- ♦Please pass along my personal thanks to the road crews that worked so well this past week to ensure the roadways were as good as possible for travel. My young daughter was able to travel back to Lawrence without incident to resume her studies and job. I know that many times it is inconvenient and difficult to keep the roads safe. I appreciate all your efforts. I'd like to think that your road workers kept a Kansas family's photo on their dashboard while they were working as a reminder of how important their work is to the families and commerce of the state. You have my sincere gratitude for a job well done. Tonight my daughter is safe and that is a valuable reason to take pride in what you do for all Kansans. Thank you.
- ♦We've traveled through many states in our time and while this may be an odd compliment it is a compliment nonetheless. Your rest stops are the best in the nation, clean, functional, pet friendly and frequent.

Ed & Sharon Notter  
Richmond Heights, MO

## District Four



**Flooding was a big problem in various locations in late December as shown above in this photo taken by KDOT Highway Maintenance Superintendent Wayne Nelson on Dec. 29 on U.S. 166 east of Baxter Springs.**

## District Two



**New roundabout:** Secretary Mike King was the keynote speaker at a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the new roundabout at the U.S. 56/U.S. 77/K-150 intersection on Dec. 30 at the Marion City Community Center. Work on the roundabout began last June and was opened to traffic on Dec. 23. This is the first roundabout of its kind in Kansas designed to accommodate over-sized loads crossing the state. It allows the vehicle that will not pass through a traditional roundabout to navigate the intersection by way of a diamond-shaped set of lanes around the roundabout. Steve King's road squad designed the project.

**Above, the new roundabout at the U.S. 56/U.S. 77/K-150 intersection features lanes around it for use by over-sized loads. Below, from left to right, KDOT's David Greiser, CEO of Sauder Tank Company Joe Pimple, Secretary Mike King, Gene Winkler, Marion Mayor Todd Heitschmidt, Marion County Commissioner Randy Dallke and Marion Chamber President Don Noller cut the ribbon to celebrate the completed project.**



## Google Search



**Video highlights KDOT engineers:** Three of KDOT's engineers were featured in the Google Year in Search video for 2015. Kristi Erickson, Kathy Deitering and Catherine Patrick photos can be found at the 44-second mark of the yearly video for the search

giant as part of the **#ilooklikeanengineer** social media campaign that took place last summer. So far the video, which can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7o7R5BgWDY>, has been viewed more than seven million times.

## District Six

**Six Points reconstruction:** A pavement reconstruction project at the U.S. 54/U.S. 83 junction in Liberal is partially complete and will carry over into the spring. The project, at the intersection known locally as Six Points, calls for reconstructing U.S. 54 and U.S. 83 as well as closing two local streets at the intersection and extending another street to connect local roads. The first phase is complete and replaced the pavement on U.S. 83 north of the junction. J-A-G Construction Co. of Dodge City is the primary contractor on the \$1.8 million project.



**Construction continues on the U.S. 54/U.S. 83 intersection in Liberal.**

## District Four



**Winding its way through Pittsburg's Schlanger Park is a recently-constructed pedestrian/bike path. The Transportation Alternative project starts at Broadway and 12th, continuing east to Michigan and 12th, and through Schlanger to 4th Street. B&B Bridge Company of St. Paul built the 10-foot wide concrete trail, including signs, signals and pedestrian bridges where necessary, at a cost of \$778,000.**

## District One



**Replacement of the K-32 bridge over I-70/KTA is underway.**

**KDOT/KTA partner on bridge project:** A replacement project began on Jan. 4 on the K-32 bridge over I-70/Kansas Turnpike in Leavenworth County. KTA let the project and will manage the construction oversight on this KDOT bridge. Project work includes replacement of the existing 310-foot steel girder bridge with a 325-foot welded plate girder

bridge (with 47-foot wide roadway). In late February, K-32 will be closed to all traffic and follow a detour on K-7 and U.S. 24/40. Emery Sapp & Sons Inc., of Kansas City, Mo., is the contractor on the \$4.5 million project. It is scheduled to be finished in November. Brad Rognlie's bridge squad and Steve Rockers' road squad designed the project.

## Headquarters

**KDOT opens office on KU campus:** As a means of strengthening its relationship with the University of Kansas and addressing engineer retention, KDOT has opened an office on the KU Lawrence campus.

KDOT has transferred 18 employees, including 16 engineers, from the Topeka headquarters to the Lawrence office, which opened late last month in the "We've lost a significant number of good engineers lately," said Secretary Mike King. "Opening this office in Lawrence where all of these employees live gives KDOT an advantage in retaining engineers."

KDOT's Lawrence staff will include three road design squads and a bridge design squad. The squads do both design work and serve as managers on larger projects.

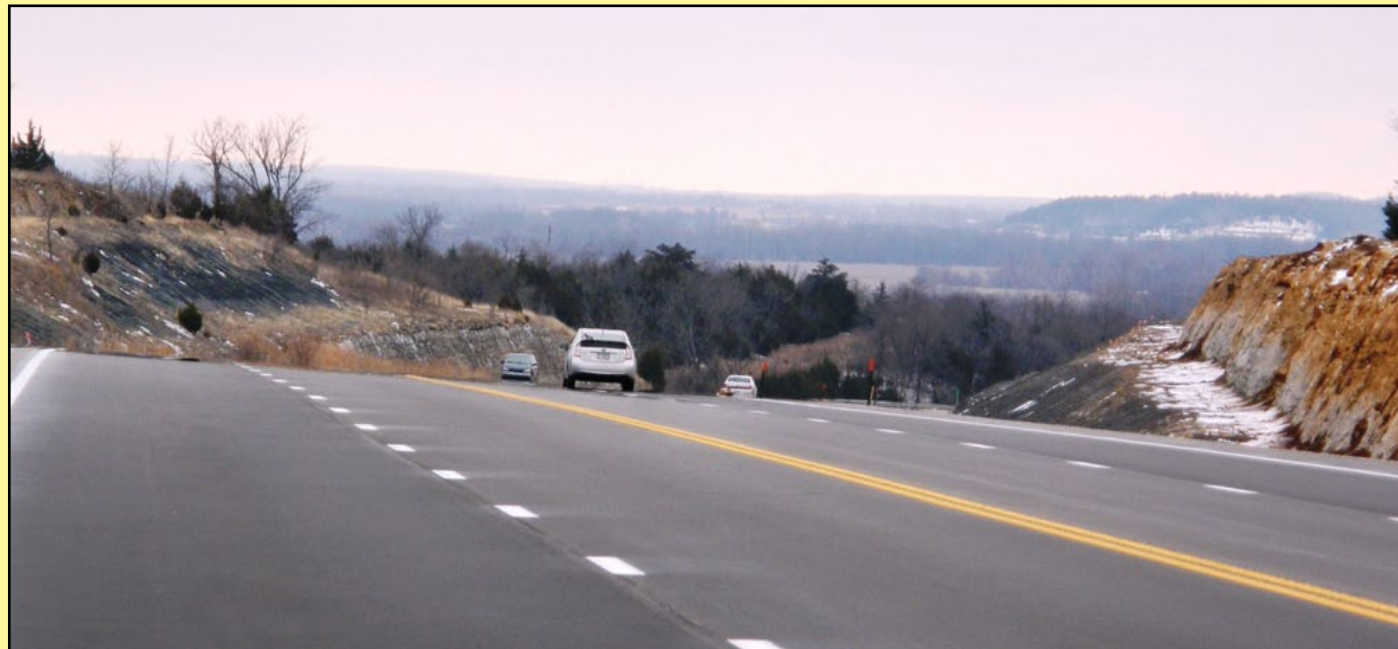
The new office also provides KDOT an opportunity to recruit engineering interns. It has the capacity to utilize up to four engineering students. In addition, KDOT will continue to offer summer internships in Topeka. By leasing space in the Bioscience and Technology



**Road Design Leader Steve Rockers, left, and Engineering Associate Brandon Vacek discuss a project at the new Lawrence KDOT office.**

Business Center, KDOT will be able to maintain a presence on KU's West District that is very accessible to students and also in close proximity to KU's Structural Testing and Student Projects Facility, also located on West District.

## District Four



**Traffic on U.S. 400 through Wilson County benefits from two new sets of passing lanes. Completed late in 2015, the passing lanes shown are four miles southeast of Fredonia. Shilling Construction of Manhattan was contractor on the \$4.7 million expansion, which was tied with a \$6.8 million project that replaced concrete panels and resurfaced the highway from Fredonia south and east to the Wilson-Montgomery county line. The second Wilson County project extended two existing passing lanes 1.5 miles east of the Greenwood-Wilson county lane at a cost of \$1.4 million. Koss Construction of Topeka was contractor. Steve King's road squad designed the project.**

## Safety

**Safety alerts:** KDOT maintenance leaders are hoping that workplace safety can be enhanced by sharing mishaps that happen in field operations with maintenance crews. In late 2015, Safety Coordinator Kelly Gaer began sending safety alerts detailing KDOT workplace accidents to supervisors, who share them with their crews. "By making others aware of accidents soon after they happen, we hope we can prevent similar accidents from happening elsewhere," said Gaer. Among the first alerts is an account of a KDOT worker who suffered a broken arm when the dump truck tire he was repairing on

a shop floor exploded. Another described how a worker gashed his head while pounding a delineator into the ground. And another told of a truck battery that exploded as it was being load tested. Each alert includes photos and tips on how to prevent similar

### KDOT Safety Team

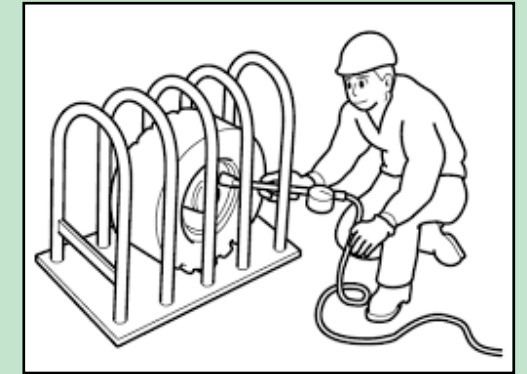
#### (Together Employees Accomplish More) Alert #3

##### Tire cages

On November 30, 2015, I had just completed a repair on a dump truck tire. I began filling the tire with air as it was lying on the ground. Another employee and I had just checked the pressure, which was at 65 psi, and was just starting to add a little more air when we heard the tire "cracking". In an instant, the sidewall of the tire facing the floor exploded causing the tire and wheel to flip up and strike my right arm breaking my forearm.

The tire should have been in an inflating cage to help prevent this from happening. If a tire cage is not available, place tire back on equipment prior to filling it with air.

This accident shows the importance of proper safety equipment.



accidents. Also included in the alerts are suggested safety precautions that would lessen the chance of injury.

For copies of these alerts or more information, contact Gaer.

## General

**Reference guide available:** According to Better Roads, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics has published its 19th annual reference guide to "significant transportation statistics," the Pocket Guide to Transportation 2016.

The guide is available for download [here](#).

"The Pocket Guide to Transportation is a compilation of statistics that provide key information the U.S. transportation system and highlight major trends," the agency says. "Intended as a compact reference, it supports the Bureau of Transportation Statistics mission to create, manage and share transportation statistical knowledge."

The 71-page guide provides a glance at population, gross domestic product, employment, household income and expenditures over time in relation to transportation figures.

Transportation data is presented in several categories, including infrastructure, moving people, moving goods, performance, economy, safety and environment.

The guide also includes a glossary of terms.

KDOT retirees interested in receiving Translines - send email address to [Kimberly@ksdot.org](mailto:Kimberly@ksdot.org).

# Kansas Transportation

Tuesday, Jan. 12

## Tuesday Trivia



How many public road miles does Kansas have?

- A. 313, 228 miles
- B. 140, 476 miles
- C. 101, 323 miles
- D. 59, 784 miles

The correct answer is B: 140,476 miles. Kansas ranks fourth nationally behind Texas, California and Illinois in number of public road miles.

About 90 percent or 126,884 miles of road are found in rural areas and the remaining 13,592 miles are in urban areas.

You can learn more tidbits like this in KDOT's recently released Quick Facts book. Click [here](#) to check it out.

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

## In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of **KDOT employee Mark Kussman** who died Jan. 7 in Baxter Springs. He was a Nuclear Gauge Technician in the Bureau of Construction and Materials. He worked at KDOT for 26 years.

Condolences to the family and friends of **KDOT retiree Harry Long** who died Dec. 3. He retired as the Highway Maintenance Supervisor in Syracuse in 1998.

Condolences to the family and friends of **KDOT retiree Nicholas Spanier** who passed away on Dec. 4. He retired as an Equipment Operator II in 1989.

Condolences to the family and friends of **KDOT retiree Karlton Naylor** who passed away on Dec. 29 in Fayetteville, Ark. He was an engineer in Road Design at KDOT for 28 years.

Condolences to the family and friends of **KDOT retiree Roy "Monk" Howell** of Chanute who died Jan. 3. Howell retired from the Chanute Special Crew in 2006.

## KTA

**Bids awarded:** The KTA announced that bids have been approved and contracts awarded on two upcoming construction projects.

Project #5739 will widen and re-deck the two Arkansas River Bridges at MM 44.325 in Wichita. Project #5879 will reconstruct two bridges at MM 157.013 and remove two bridges at MM 157.143. Read the full press release at <http://bit.ly/1Sjb1Z3>.

## Retirees

The following employee retired from KDOT on Jan. 1.  
**District Three**  
**Alan D Rose**, Equipment Operator Senior, St. Francis

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

- |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. James Buchanan        | 3. James Naismith  |
| 2. Battle of Fort Sumter | 4. Oct. 31         |
|                          | 5. Colorado/Nevada |

*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)