

Translines EXPRESS

May 4, 2016

District Five

A contractor's crew lowers reinforcing steel for a concrete footing that will anchor a structural support for a dynamic message sign on eastbound U.S. 54 near downtown Wichita. The sign is part of Phase 3 for WICHway, the Intelligent Transportation System on Wichita's highway system. Karen Peterson's squad designed the project.



District Two



A worker from Pavers Inc. makes cuts for the construction of the north crossover where traffic will be redirected as part of the U.S. 81 reconstruction project in Republic County.

Work on U.S. 81 begins: A reconstruction project on U.S. 81 in Republic County started this week. The project extends from south of the U.S. 81 inspection station then north to one mile north of the U.S. 81/U.S. 36 interchange.

Construction involves removing the existing concrete down to the base material and replacing it with new concrete.

Traffic within the work zone will be reduced to one 12-foot lane in each direction. During construction, the U.S. 81/U.S. 36 interchange ramps will be close. The project should be completed by the end of the year. Debbie Tanking and Shawn Schwensen's squads designed the project.

Trivia!

Star Wars - May the 4th be with you

1. What is the communicator made from that Qui-Gon Jinn in Star Wars Episode I used?
2. How much did Harrison Ford get paid for Star Wars Episode IV?
3. What was Luke Skywalker's name originally going to be?
4. What is Yoda's first name? Who was originally going to play Yoda?
5. Who was originally wanted to provide the voice for Darth Vader?
6. What general phrase was said in the six original Star Wars movies?

Newsletter

Sign up for news: Secretary Mike King recently started a monthly e-mail newsletter that focuses on transportation-related projects as well as positive news that may not get widespread attention. To sign up for the emails, go to <http://eepurl.com/bVYBFb>.

District One



Several highways around northeast Kansas were flooded on April 27 including (top left) K-30 in Wabaunsee County, (top right) K-116 in Atchison County, (above and left) K-99 north of Emporia and (below) K-87 in Marshall County.



KDOT Blog

Kansas Transportation

Monday, May 2

Willard Bridge loan agreement officially approved

An agreement authorizing a state loan to Shawnee County to help pay for a new Willard Bridge was signed April 27 by Secretary Mike King.

The agreement, signed during an event near the bridge, authorizes a loan of up to \$8.5 million from KDOT to the county. The interest-free loan, which is to be repaid in annual installments of \$850,000, will be combined with countywide sales tax revenues, \$900,000 from Wabaunsee County and other funds to cover the costs of the \$16 million replacement project. The Willard Bridge, which was built in 1955, spans the Kansas River between Shawnee and Wabaunsee counties. It is structurally deficient and has a posted weight limit that restricts school buses and other heavy vehicles from crossing over it.

"KDOT recognizes this is an important connection between I-70, western Shawnee County and Wabaunsee County," said Secretary King. "This is a great example of a partnership between KDOT and local governments to improve the public transportation system."



Left: Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger signs the Willard Bridge agreement as Shawnee County Commissioner Shelly Buhler watches. Below: Work on the Willard Bridge is underway.



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 retiree **Imogene Davis** who passed away on April 21 in Topeka. Davis worked in the Bureau of Design for many years before retiring from KDOT.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree **Ted Roberts** who passed away on April 24 in Topeka. Roberts had a 39-year career with KDOT, retiring in 1988 as the Bureau Chief of Design.

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree **Tommy Joe Mooney**. Mooney worked for the Subarea office in Columbus for 30 years, retiring as the Subarea Maintenance Supervisor.

General

Free ride: As part of Public Service Recognition Week, May 1-7, public employees are able to ride the Topeka Metro bus free this week until Saturday, May 7.

"They just have to show their work ID when boarding. No tickets or bus passes are required," said Marketing and Communications Director Keri Renner. "We want to show our appreciation for public employees."

District Three

Assisting the KHP: A standoff in Oakley prompted the use of part of the Oakley area office and shop as a staging area for the Kansas Highway Patrol and local law enforcement on April 15. The incident began in a mobile home in the south part of town at approximately 2 a.m. KHP requested use of the facility at around 6:45 a.m. and remained on location until nearly 8 p.m. No evacuations were necessary and employees were able to work elsewhere in the facility or out in the field. In addition to providing space for law enforcement, KDOT also assisted with traffic control along U.S. 40/83, which was temporarily closed because of the standoff.



Equipment Operator Kenneth Martin, from the Oakley Subarea, assists the Kansas Highway Patrol with traffic control during an incident in Oakley.

Projects Delayed

KDOT to delay expansion, modernization projects: In accordance with measures outlined by State Budget Director Shawn Sullivan, KDOT will delay two categories of road projects scheduled for fiscal years 2017 through 2019. Previously-programmed modernization and expansion projects will be delayed until remaining State Highway Fund revenues allow or new money is made available. Modernization and expansion projects are generally the larger projects under the current T-WORKS transportation program. Modernization includes work such as the addition of shoulders, passing lanes and remediation of hills and curves. Expansion projects add capacity to the

highway system. The delays include 14 projects in FY 2017 that have an estimated construction cost of \$271 million; 9 projects in FY 2018 that have an estimated construction cost of \$247 million; and two projects in FY 2019 that have an estimated construction cost of \$35 million. "Despite the delays, the overall good condition of the 10,000-mile state highway system won't be impacted since KDOT's preservation projects will be let to contract as scheduled and will be funded at the \$400 million per year level. Nor will these delays affect projects that are already underway," said Secretary Mike King.

KTA



A semi crashed into a KTA toll booth located at the Wellington exit on April 27. Two people were injured. Crews repaired the damage and cleared the area that day. This accident highlights one reason why the KTA is working to modernize its system and is moving towards an open road (or gateless) tolling system that allows high-speed travel in electronic lanes but still provides a cash option.



Above: New girders are placed on the KTA bridge in Osage County at MM 157 as a bridge replacement project is underway. Below: Drainage improvements at MM 116 and 118 in the Flint Hills on the Turnpike continue. Travelers can expect lane closures with side-by-side traffic in this area.



TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. An altered Gillette Sensor Excel women's razor.
2. \$10,000
3. Luke Starkiller
4. Minch. The character was going to be played by a monkey carrying a cane and wearing a mask.
5. Orson Welles
6. I have a (really) bad feeling about this.

Aviation/District Five

Nine airports to receive funding under KAIP: Nine airports have been selected for funding under the second phase of the 2017 Kansas Airport Improvement Program. The projects selected include runway improvement, fuel system installation, taxiway construction and more. The airport sponsors, which must provide a funding match from 5 to 50 percent, will receive \$2.7 million in KAIP funding for projects costing an estimated \$3.1 million. “KAIP has not only funded key improvements at local airports, it has helped create a statewide aviation network that enhances both the health and economic well-being of the entire state,” said Director of Aviation Merrill Atwater. Applications for KAIP funding regularly exceed available funds and this year was no exception. KDOT received 114 applications for projects totaling \$38.7 million.



Aviation Director Merrill Atwater announces 2017 Kansas Airport Improvement Program projects while in Rose Hill.

Communities selected and the amount requested include:

Anthony – Extend runway, \$990,000
 LaCrosse – Repair runway, \$607,433
 Lyons – Install Automated Weather Observation System III, \$103,500
 Wakeeney – Runway modernization (lighting, striping,

signage), \$441,000
 Stafford – Land acquisition for development, \$27,075
 Herrington – Construct airport fence, \$21,000
 Rose Hill-Cook Field – Relocate fuel system, construct ramp, \$208,250
 Lawrence – Reconstruct taxiway C, \$154,800
 Pleasanton – Install fuel system, \$191,250

General



At left, Secretary Mike King participates with other officials on Tuesday in a ground breaking ceremony for the \$19 million renovation and expansion of Foley Equipment on its complex in Wichita.

General

3D crosswalk: According to Better Roads, a new crosswalk design is being implemented in the state of Ahmedabad in India that brings drivers to a halt using an optical illusion. The design is the brainchild of mother and daughter Saumya Pandya Thakkar and Shakuntala Pandya, says reports from Wired and The Architect’s Newspaper.

When viewed from the approach of the crosswalk, it looks like four large raised barriers blocking the road. It doesn’t look very impressive in photos, but the optical illusion has been so effective at slowing drivers to a stop that it has been adopted across Ahmedabad.

The AN report points out that though distinctive in its particular design, this 3D crosswalk isn’t the first. Similar crossings have been popping up in China for the last eight years with similar success. In fact, one Chinese company is already selling a “stick-on” version of the 3D design that doesn’t have to



The crosswalk design is painted as a stretched out chevron design and appears as such when viewed from the side.

be painted on. AN reports this solution is “made from flexible polymers, pigments and micro glass beads and apparently lasts for up to two years when applied to concrete, asphalt, cement and marble.”

National Recognition

System provides timely information: A Kansas record-keeping system created for DUI-related offenses has received a national award from the National Information Exchange Model.

The Report and Police Impaired Drivers (RAPID) project seeks to improve the timeliness and accuracy of dispositions, and access to records related to DUI-related offenses in Kansas. The project was initiated by the DUI Commission, funded by the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee and executed by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

The new system links multiple databases together, making them searchable through

one user interface. This allows prosecutors to see a defendant’s past DUI convictions without needing to search court records in multiple jurisdictions. A bill passed this year by the Kansas Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Sam Brownback will allow the records produced from this search to be admissible as evidence in court.

“This project will give prosecutors and court personnel timely access to information that will hold impaired drivers accountable for their actions,” said Secretary Mike King. “Working together, we have developed a project that will help reduce death and injury on Kansas roads.”