

Translines EXPRESS

Aug. 10, 2016

Example of Excellence



KDOT employees from the Coldwater and Medicine Lodge Subarea offices and the Pratt Area office provided traffic control during and after a wildfire burned more than 900 square miles of grassland in Barber and Comanche counties on March 22 and 23. Then they got to work removing and replacing 331 guard rail fence posts and five sign posts that had been burned, accomplishing this in less than 10 days. From left to right are William Washington, Joshua Small, Russell Neilson, Dewayne Roland, Eric Barnes, Anthony Becker, Harold Martin, Robert Perry, Jose Garcia, Richard Thompson, Martyn Howard, Greg Delaney, Colten Clark, Kevin Mazzanti, Klete Hackney, Scott Mullen, Interim Secretary Richard Carlson, Dan Ferrin, Gene Watts and Jerry Baker. Team members not pictured include Neal Brown, Shawn Flemming, Joshua Rogers, Charles Thimesch, Dwayne Thronesbery, Norman Unruh, Mark Valenti, Ritchie Webster and Michael Yohn.

District Six

Hall to lead District Six: Ron Hall has been named the new District Six Engineer. Hall replaces Larry Thompson, who was recently named the Director of Operations. Hall, who has a Civil Engineering degree from the University of Colorado, began his KDOT career in 1980 in the Dodge City Construction Office. He spent several years as the Equipment Engineer in the Bureau of Construction and Maintenance in Topeka, before returning to southwest Kansas as the Assistant District Engineer for Maintenance, a position he has held since 1988.



Ron Hall

General

According to the Hutchinson News, the Fire Marshal's office is offering a new grant program to help recruit firefighters to volunteer or part-time departments around the state. The \$200,000 Fire Marshal Fee Fund will pay for firefighter safety gear, physical exams and other regionally shared equipment. The grants will not require local matches. The grant program also could be used to fund youth Explorer programs, to help interested young people learn about fire fighting. The deadline for submitting applications is Oct. 3, with funding available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The agency will announce the awards by Dec. 1.

In Memory

Condolences to co-workers, friends and family of KDOT employee Nathan Sams, who died on July 12. Sams worked at the Grainfield Subarea office since 2012.

Trivia!

Horses

1. What organ does a person have that a horse does not?
2. In a horse's head, the teeth occupy more space than this.
3. True/False – Horses are colorblind.
4. What is the measurement of a "hand?"
5. The horse is the state animal of ...

Traffic Safety

A simple message: KDOT launched a new radio advertisement this month aimed at getting drivers to slow down, particularly on K-10 between Lawrence and Lenexa. The ad explains that 25 percent of fatal crashes in Kansas are speed related and states, "In fact, speeding is such a factor on Highway K-10 that we're buying air time to tell you." There aren't any fancy sound effects or jingles, it's a straight-forward message encouraging drivers to slow down and pay attention. The "Drive to Zero" initiative aims to decrease fatal crashes in Kansas, while promoting safe driving behaviors. To listen to the advertisement, click [here](#).



District Four



A new bridge is taking shape over the Marais des Cygnes River on K-68 west of Ottawa. Traffic is continuing to use the existing bridge to the north while the new structure is built on an offset alignment. A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc., of Atlantic, Iowa, is contractor on the \$3.8 million replacement. Mark Hurt's bridge squad and Steve Rockers' road squad designed the project.

Rail

At right, the Amtrak train pulls into Garden City on Aug. 4 during the special trip from Topeka to La Junta, Colo. Below, Interim Secretary Richard Carlson chats with a fellow rider while the train stops in Newton.



All aboard: Interim Secretary Richard Carlson rode a special train with Amtrak President and CEO Joe Boardman on Aug. 4 from Topeka to La Junta, Colo. Boardman was meeting with state and local officials and inspecting the progress being made to preserve the route for the Amtrak Southwest Chief passenger train and improve BNSF freight service.

Successful grant applications led by Garden City and La Junta have resulted in \$27.6 million in federal TIGER funding in the past two years. State support and contributions from Amtrak (\$8 million), BNSF (\$4 million) and other communities have led to the replacement of jointed rails and ties nearing the end of their service between Hutchinson and Waldo, New Mexico.



Far left, Amtrak President and CEO Joe Boardman speaks with the media in Newton. At left, the train comes around the corner in Garden City.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Gall bladder.
2. The brain.
3. False – although it is more difficult for them to see purple.
4. Four inches, because that was considered to be the average width across a man's knuckles.
5. New Jersey.

KTA

KTA news:

The KTA is hosting its second Kansas Winter Expo in September. Attendees will see displays and demonstrations and have the ability to meet with vendors. Admission is \$20, which gives access to all classes at the expo and includes lunch on Sept. 7 and a job fair on Sept. 8. Those interested in attending the event can sign up at www.kansaswinterexpo.com.

Construction to improve ramps and truck parking at the Towanda service area (MM 65, I-35/KTA) is set to begin this week. The service area and ramps will remain open with minimal impacts to traffic. The project is expected to be completed mid-November, weather permitting. Learn more [here](#).

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

Put the Brakes on Fatalities: A poster contest and a video contest are open for entries to educate youth on increasing roadway safety and reducing traffic fatalities as part of Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day.

Kansas kids ages 5 to 13 are encouraged to enter artwork in the 15th annual poster contest. Three statewide winners will receive \$50 Visa cards from the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas; movie passes from AAA Kansas; and one of these hotel and entertainment packages courtesy of:



Wichita: Best Western Airport Inn/Exploration Place

Topeka: Capitol Plaza Hotel/Kansas Children's Discovery Center and Topeka Zoo

Kansas City: Crowne Plaza Kansas City-Overland Park Hotel/Prairiefire

Eighteen regional winners will receive a bicycle and a helmet from Safe Kids Kansas. Poster entries must be postmarked by Sept. 23.

This is the second year for the video contest for Kansas



teens in grades 8-12. Submit a 6- to 60-second video to educate drivers on safe road behaviors. Prizes include an iPad, a Go Pro and a Osmo Steadicam. Video entries must be posted by 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 25.

For more information on both contests, click [here](#).

Work Zone Crash



A Topeka Subarea crew was completing noxious weed spraying along I-70 on Aug. 3 when a vehicle struck the back of a KDOT attenuator that was directing traffic to move over. No injuries were reported in this work zone incident.



District Four

Below, KDOT employees Charlie Clay, left, and Shane Drybread, along with Roy Widmar who took the photo, show off the historical marker they worked to improve in Fort Scott. At left is the historical marker before it was renovated.



Vast improvement: The Old Fort sign at the Fort Scott National Historic Site was in dire need of repair, and some of the locals were complaining about the way it looked. Contractors were contacted yet there was no interest in submitting a bid for the work.

Three KDOT employees stepped up to lend their skills and expertise to stripping off the old paint and repainting the sign. Shane Drybread, then an Equipment Mechanic at Iola and now the Equipment Inspector at Chanute, previously operated an auto body repair shop. Drybread was familiar with the necessary processes of prepping and detailing, which he applied to the sign repair. Roy Widmar, Subarea Supervisor at Fort Scott, and Equipment Operator Charley Clay of Fort Scott



volunteered to do most of the labor on the project, with Drybread's assistance.

"The final product really turned out great. These employees were willing to take on a task that as equipment operators we normally do not do," said Darrin Petrowsky, Area Engineer at Iola.

Aviation



Interim Secretary Richard Carlson, center with scissors, and Aviation Director Merrill Atwater, left of Carlson, celebrate the new hangar and terminal at the Rooks County Regional Airport with local and state officials on July 30. The project was funded through the Federal Aviation Administration.

Kansas Transportation

Thursday, Aug. 4

The road to the Summer Olympics

Every four years the world comes together to celebrate and witness incredible acts of athleticism and astounding feats that defy limitations. The dreams of hundreds of athletes are realized as they take their first steps into the Summer Olympics arena. Among those dreamers are four Kansas athletes and 20 other athletes who have ties to the Sunflower State. (Some of these athletes are competing for other countries, but they attended Kansas schools and universities.) According to the Wichita Eagle, the four Kansans who are representing the USA are:



- Amy Cragg**, Leavenworth – track and field
- Nico Hernandez**, Wichita – boxing
- Lydia Paterson**, Kansas City – shooting
- Jack Sock**, Kansas City – tennis

Opening Ceremonies took place on Aug. 5. What events are you looking forward to watching?

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

Work Zone Safety



Traffic Control Engineer Kristina Ericksen presents to a group from FHWA as part of the Smarter Work Zones Demonstration Site Visits on Aug. 2. Ericksen presented on the dynamic late merge, or zipper merge, being used on a bridge construction project at 119th and U.S. 69 in Johnson County.

CAPITOL MID-WEEK FARMERS' MARKET



Topeka - every Wednesday
7:30 a.m. to noon
 10th Street - south side of the Statehouse grounds

To locate/find out more about other farmers markets taking place in Kansas, check out the From the Land of Kansas website at <https://fromthelandofkansas.com/discover-resources/farmers-market-resources>

KTA

Girders were set recently for the KTA bridge at mile marker 157 in Osage County.



Last one for 2016! South Steps Fridays

Grab your lunch, kick back and start your weekend right as you enjoy live music by the University of Kansas Jazz Band and learn more about the area attractions and activities from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the south steps of the Capitol.

Friday, Aug. 12

Transload Facility

Garden City shipping center: KDOT will contribute \$4.5 million to Garden City to assist with the construction of its transload facility. Garden City was one of two sites selected to develop transload shipping centers last year. Great Bend and Garden City were chosen out of 111 sites that were initially proposed. KDOT will contribute \$4.5 million to the \$14 million Garden City project, \$3 million of which will go to rail construction and \$1.5 million for local roadway improvements. "We are excited to have KDOT partner with us on this project," said Lona DuVall, President of the Finney County Economic Development Group. "This facility will serve to further improve the competitiveness of our region and the state of Kansas in attracting new industries." The shipping center will be located southeast of Garden City and provide the infrastructure necessary to move goods from rail to truck and truck to rail. The facility is expected to be operational by December.

Celebrating 30 years of service

You are cordially invited
to attend a
Retirement Reception
honoring

Jerome T. Younger
Deputy Secretary
State Transportation Engineer

Wednesday, September 7, 2016
2:00-4:00 p.m.

Eisenhower State Office Building
Auditorium

700 SW Harrison,
Topeka, KS 66603

