

# Translines EXPRESS

Oct. 7, 2015

## National Award

**Office receives national honor:** KDOT's Bureau of Local Projects has received national recognition for its innovative programs that have made a positive impact on the state's cities and counties.

The President's Transportation Award for Administration was presented to KDOT representatives in Chicago in September at the annual AASHTO meeting.

Some programs the bureau administers include:

- Local Bridge Improvement Program - provides approximately \$10 million for the replacement of small, lightly-traveled, structurally deficient bridges. Despite the light travel, the bridges provide crucial connections for farmers.
- Federal Funds Exchange Program - provides local governments the opportunity to swap their federal funds, which come with many spending requirements, for state funds that carry fewer restrictions.
- Practical Road Safety Assessment - KDOT, at no charge, assists counties in developing ideas for safety improvements along specific corridors.
- Kansas Local Bridge Evaluation Program - initiated to bring Kansas into conditional compliance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards. Most of these bridges are on local road systems.



*The Bureau of Local Projects includes, front row, left to right, Brian Engelke, Dianna Perry, Michael Ingalls, Ed Lewis, Nelda Buckley, Kent Anschutz, second row, Mike Bowser, Adam Fernsler, Tod Salfrank, Ed Thornton, Lynn Berges, Ron Seitz, Dawn Hueske, on stairs, Crystal Madrid, Judy Tyner, Bill Legge, David Marten and Darvin Carlson.*



## District Four

*The Streetscape project under construction in Fredonia's central business district includes new crosswalks, sidewalks, lights, curb and landscaping. Bryant & Bryant Construction of Halstead is the primary contractor on the \$1.6 million Transportation Alternatives project funded by 80 percent federal money and 20 percent in matching funds from the city of Fredonia.*



## Trivia!

### Presidential visits

A correction to the last edition's Presidential trivia questions - Grover Cleveland stayed at the Hotel Josephine in 1891, not 1981. And since so many people were interested in this topic, here are a few more questions on the subject.

1. What President visited Leavenworth in 1868 and again in 1871?
2. What President made numerous stops in Kansas from 1900 to 1915, and described one trip on a Union Pacific rail line as "one of the times of my life," as he crossed the state?
3. What President made a campaign appearance in Strong City with his vice presidential running mate, Charles Curtis?
4. What President spoke at Kansas State University in 1970?
5. What President spoke at Kansas State University in 1967 and again in 1982?

## Kansas Highway Patrol

### Overwhelming support:

On the first day of the Kansas State Fair, one kind act was all it took to get the momentum building for what became a touching and humbling time for Kansas Highway Patrol personnel, as well as those in other law enforcement agencies. Someone came into the booth and placed a Post-it note with a kind word of thanks on the patrol car in the display. Word spread through social media, and more people came in to leave their notes, some even emailing words of support when they could not attend the fair. The patrol's public resource officers were prepared to talk about traffic laws, car seats, buckling up and other safety-related items. However, the focus soon changed to hearing encouragement from the public, and in turn, thanking the public for their support.

"I looked at all those notes and found myself laughing, smiling, and sometimes shedding a tear," said Technical Trooper Ben Gardner, KHP Public Resource Officer from the north central Kansas area. "I, like so many other law enforcement officers across America, love helping the public, being a servant to them. It felt amazing reading and seeing the support the public has towards all of us."

The kind words left on the notes were not taken for granted, and left such a positive impact that each of the more than 2,400 notes were saved. A photo of the car covered in notes was framed with the notes surrounding it, one for each of the Patrol's seven field troop offices across the state.



## Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

**Kansas kids win:** Statewide winners of two Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day contests have been announced as part of the national safety campaign Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day.

*For the poster contest* - Kendall Rogers of Cunningham, Kayleigh Flores of Moscow and Reagan de Koning of Axtell are the statewide winners. They will receive a family package from the Great Wolf Lodge waterpark in Kansas City, Kan., and a \$50 gift card from the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas. A total of 1,118 Kansas kids ages 5 to 13 participated.

*For the video contest* - Siera Hartwell, Lauren Gabriel, Justin Tumberlin and Nate Herries from the Video Production class at Eudora High School won first place. The class will receive their choice of an iPad mini, GoPro video camera or Apple Watch along with a \$500 donation to the school. A total of 170 entries from teens in 21 Kansas schools participated. For more information and a list of all the winners across Kansas, go to [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org) and click on the Poster and Video Winners slide at the top of the page.

*Winning posters were drawn by Kendall Rogers, top left; Kayleigh Flores, top right; and Reagan do Koning, right.*



## District Four



On U.S. 59 north of Garnett, the new bridge over Pottawatomie Creek is being constructed on an adjacent alignment west of the current structure. B&B Bridge Company of St. Paul began the bridge replacement this past summer and it should be completed late in 2016. The cost of construction is \$5.2 million.



## District Six



A Koss Construction Company worker sprays curing compound on newly-placed concrete pavement on U.S. 56 through Montezuma, as a KDOT technician inspects the work. The compound will help prevent the concrete from drying out too quickly during the curing process. The work in Montezuma is one of two pavement reconstruction projects replacing asphalt pavement with concrete on U.S. 56. The other is in Ensign. Once the two concrete lanes can be opened up through each town, traffic will be shifted to that side, so the work can begin on the opposite side. The projects include replacing storm drainage inlets and storm sewers to improve drainage along the highway through each community. The remaining asphalt lanes will be reconstructed in the spring.

## Fly Kansas Air Tour

Several planes were on display for people to see at the Junction City airport on Oct. 1 as part of the Fly Kansas Air Tour, including an Apache helicopter from Fort Riley. The tour visited 12 communities across the state in five days to promote aviation.



## Operations Meeting



Numerous KDOT employees attended the Operations Meeting in Hutchinson on Sept. 29-30 (top), with speakers including Secretary Mike King (bottom left) and Norm Bowers from the Kansas Association of Counties (right).

## STEAM

**Steamopolis:** On days with no school, kindergarten through sixth grade students in the Topeka area can participate in a unique lab called Steamopolis. The labs teach kids different topics involving STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics). The first lab is this Friday, Oct. 9 and will focus on hands-on experiments teaching the basics of forces, physics and chemistry. For more information on this and future labs, contact Christine Turner at 785-272-1414.

## District One

**Progress continues:** As construction continues along the Johnson County Gateway project, upcoming changes to the configuration along the current traffic routes can be seen in a new video at <https://youtu.be/Us5Jvp1ofC4>. Numerous traffic shifts have taken place this year to expand and improve traffic from K-10 to I-435 and with this new change, decision points for motorists will occur earlier. Updated daily traffic information for the #jocogateway interchange project can be viewed at [www.jocogateway.com](http://www.jocogateway.com) and for the entire Kansas City Metro Area at [www.ksdot.org/kcmetro/laneclose.asp](http://www.ksdot.org/kcmetro/laneclose.asp).



## Baker Wetlands Discovery Center

**Wetlands center opens:** A key piece of a mitigation plan that cleared the way for the South Lawrence Trafficway project is now attracting visitors – both human and feathered.

The Baker Wetlands Discovery Center on the south edge of Lawrence was dedicated Sept. 30. A video of the wetlands and the dedication can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/1OWI05S>

Agreeing to build this educational facility was part of a plan that nearly quadrupled the amount of wetlands and other natural habitat along the SLT. It is owned and operated by Baker University.

“Because of the South Lawrence Trafficway, we now have a resource that’s more accessible to all those wanting to enjoy, experience and be educated by the wetlands resource, and I think that’s a great thing. I’m happy KDOT was a part of that,” said Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger at the dedication.

Agreement on the \$16 million plan cleared the way for



**Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger speaks at the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center dedication.**

construction of the road, which will connect K-10 east of Lawrence to the existing western leg of the SLT at U.S. 59 on the southern edge of Lawrence. The \$130 million road and bridge project got underway in late 2013 and is expected to be open to traffic in fall 2016.

## Retirees

The following employees retired from KDOT on Oct. 1.

### District One

**Desdia Prockish**, Administrative Assistant, Wamego

### District Four

**David Owings**, Engineering Technician Specialist, Independence

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Ulysses S. Grant   | 3. Herbert Hoover |
| 2. Theodore Roosevelt | 4. Richard Nixon  |
|                       | 5. Ronald Reagan  |

## District Four



**Traffic flows on the newly completed passing lanes on U.S. 400 in western Labette County. The finished project is the first of eight planned or currently in progress passing lane expansions along the U.S. 400 corridor from Cherokee County west to Butler County. Shilling Construction of Manhattan added the passing lanes at a cost of \$3.3 million.**

## KDOT Blog

## Kansas Transportation

Wednesday, Oct. 7

### The point of no return

By Wayne Nelson

As a part-time police officer I write anywhere from 25 to 35 citations a month on a stretch of U.S. 400 in southeastern Kansas. The speed limit drops from 65 to 55 miles per hour, and ultimately to 45 mph as traffic passes through the small city of Cherokee. This stretch is currently part of a larger highway construction zone.

I have never really liked writing citations to folks who exceed the speed limit. But there is a time when lives mean more to me than issuing a \$100 ticket, even though many of our citizens will experience added stress and discomfort from having to pay that ticket on top of their other bills. I have observed many speeding violations. A high percentage of folks pulled over didn't have a clue they were exceeding the speed limit. I have heard all the excuses, from "We were just talking," or "I just missed the signs, Officer," or "I just wasn't paying attention" and so on.

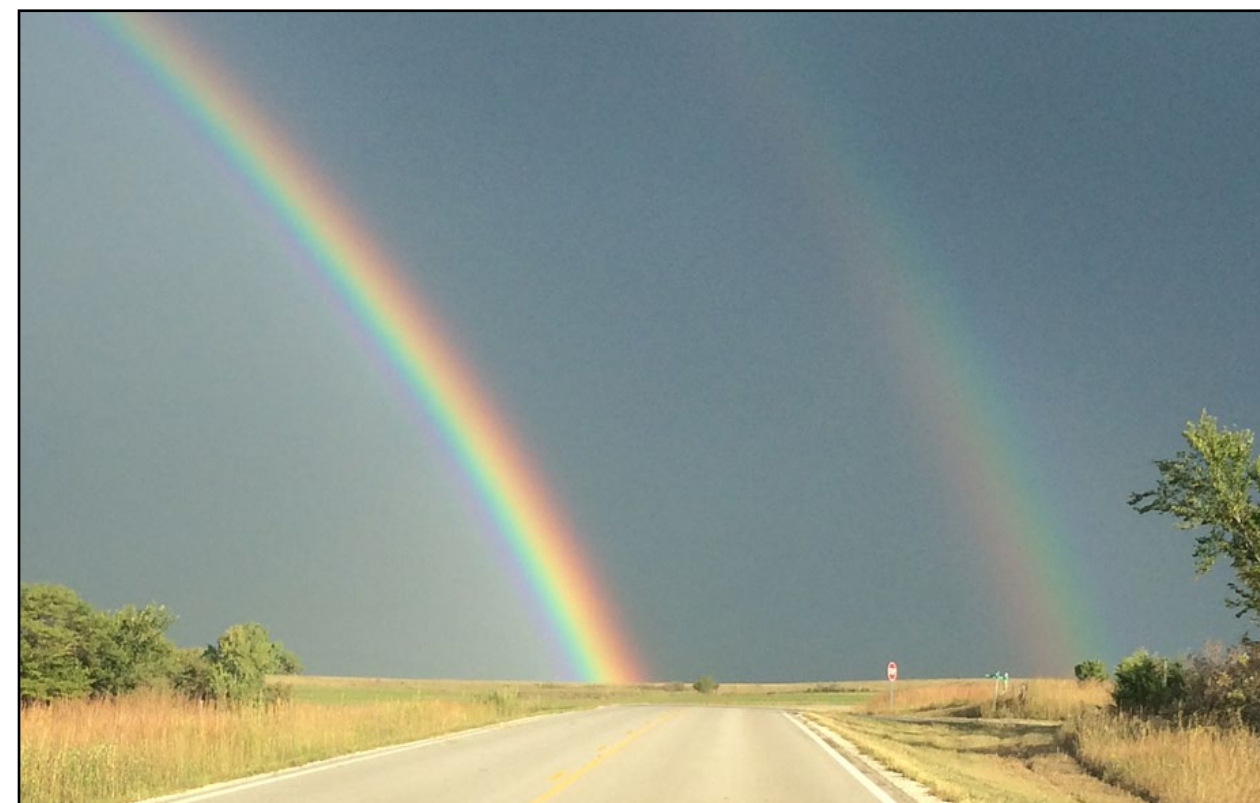
This is what I have to offer drivers: When in transit and behind the wheel of your several-thousand-pound projectile, always remember there is a point of no return. By the time you realize you are going to crash into the vehicle turning in front of you at the road work sign because your speed is 65 mph instead of the posted 45 mph ... it's too late. The lives of entire families will be changed within the next few seconds. This outcome could have been avoided.

The only way I sleep at night after issuing a citation is to know in my heart the person receiving it will be a little more nervous about missing the speed limit sign in the next city or work zone. He or she will be driving the appropriate speed to react, and lives may be saved.

*Wayne Nelson is Superintendent at the KDOT Pittsburg Area Office. He also works part-time as a police officer for the City of Galena and is assistant police chief in Cherokee.*

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

## District One



**Wamego Area Engineer Mark Karolevitz captured a photo of a double rainbow the morning of Sept. 24 on K-99 south of Frankfort in Marshall County.**