

Land and Sky Scenic Byway

New byway designated:

The Land and Sky Scenic Byway in northwest Kansas is the 12th byway to be designated by KDOT.

The byway covers parts of Wallace, Sherman and Cheyenne counties.

“We are excited to extend the byway program into northwest Kansas with the Land and Sky Scenic Byway,” said Secretary Mike King. “The state designation will create greater awareness of the agricultural significance and scenic beauty of this area for visitors and spur interest in the communities along the route.”

The 88-mile route on K-27 begins in Wallace County in Sharon Springs, runs north through Goodland in Sherman County, and ends in Cheyenne County north of St. Francis at the Kansas/Nebraska border. Travelers along the byway have the opportunity to experience the Wallace Branch of the Great Western Cattle Trail, scale the highest point in Kansas at Mount Sunflower and explore the deep canyons and rugged landscape of the Arikaree Breaks. The byway is also the only one in the state that focuses on agriculture and features thousands of acres of rotating



Rugged landscape can be seen along the new Land and Sky Scenic Byway.

crops, livestock and wildlife along the route.

The state designation will result in the placement of route markers along the byway, inclusion in the Kansas Byways Guide, a page on the Kansas Byways website at www.ksbyways.com and promotion on the Kansas Byways Facebook and Pinterest pages.

For additional information, contact Scott Shields, Kansas Byways Coordinator, at 785-296-0853, or Sue Stringer, Kansas Byways Manager, at 800-684-6966.

Headquarters

Seitz to lead division: Ron Seitz has been promoted to Director of the Division of Engineering and Design. He replaces Jim Kowach. Seitz has spent his entire KDOT career in different areas of the division he will now lead. He came to the Bureau of Design's state road office in 1986. After two years, Seitz was promoted to Squad Leader. In 2001, he was named the Assistant Bureau Chief in Local Projects and in 2006, became the



Ron Seitz

Bureau Chief.

Seitz has also spent 22 years working on the national level on roadside safety, including 10 years on the American Association for State Highway Officials roadside safety committee and 12 years on the Transportation Research Board committee. While in Design, he was one of the top DOT officials in the nation on the practical installation of guardrail.

“Ron’s experience at KDOT is a great asset,” said Secretary Mike King. “His leadership efforts on a state and national level will help the division and the agency become more efficient as we move into the future.”

Trivia!

Flag Day

1. For a short time, how many stripes did the American flag have? How many stripes has it had since 1818?

2. Flag Day was established in 1777. What organization is exactly two years older than this national holiday?

3. What day is set as Flag Day?

4. Flag Day is recognized in all the states, but one state observes it as a legal holiday – which is it?

5. Where does the oldest continuing Flag Day parade take place?

General

Smart City: Kansas City is one of seven cities chosen out of 78 that have applied to be Smart City. U.S. DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx launched the challenge last winter in response to the trends identified in the Beyond Traffic report, which asserted that the nation's aging infrastructure is not equipped to deal with a growing population.

The winning city will receive up to \$40 million to help create a fully integrated, first-of-its-kind city that uses data, technology and creativity to shape how transportation moves in the future. The "Smart City" will become the country's first city to integrate innovative technologies, including self-driving cars, connected vehicles and smart sensors into their transportation network.



The other finalists are Pittsburg, Pa.; Columbus, Ohio; Austin, Texas.; Denver, Colo.; San Francisco, Calif.; and Portland, Ore. The winner will be announced later this month.

Retirees

The following employees will retire from KDOT on July 1.

Headquarters

James Brennan, Professional Civil Engineer II, Structures & Geotechnical Services

Connie Eakes, Engineering Technician Specialist, Transportation Safety & Technology

Michael Fletcher, Environmental Program Administrator, Right of Way

Daniel Kahler, Administrative Specialist, Chief Counsel

Deborah Kossler, Applications Developer III, Structures & Geotechnical Services

District One

Ronnie Swogar, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Emporia

Robbie Weishaar, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Atchinson

District Two

Steven Cox, Equipment Operator Senior, Abilene

District Three

Bradley Lare, Equipment Operator Senior, Phillipsburg

District Four

Alice Myers, Administrative Specialist, Chanute

Janet Sandusky, Administrative Assistant, Independence

Duane White, Equipment Operator, Waverly

District Five

Michael Robinson, Equipment Operator Specialist, Wellington

District Six

Mark Davis, Highway Maintenance Superintendent, Dodge City

Rey Nieto, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Ulysses

District Four



Work continues on the eight-mile U.S. 59 widening and preservation project from the Parsons south to the U.S. 160 junction. The roadway is receiving a mill and overlay, and the shoulders have been extended to 10 feet. Shilling Construction of Manhattan is contractor on the \$6.2 million project. The road work began in September 2015 and was shut down during the winter months. Completion is expected this summer.

District Six

Subarea improvements: Two more District Six Subareas got upgraded facilities in the past year and the crews are enjoying the additional space. The modernizations feature drive-through bays and can hold four fully-outfitted trucks with snowplows attached. The Cimarron modernization cost \$605,900 and was constructed by Burman Companies of Ozark, Mo. SBA Construction of Wichita built the new addition at Syracuse at a cost of \$715,950. The Cimarron crew moved in last November, while the Syracuse crew started using their upgraded facility in March of this year. Ulysses and Bucklin are the next District Six Subareas on the modernization list.



Above is the Cimarron Subarea and below is the Syracuse Subarea.



District Four



David Ross, Supervisor at the Columbus Subarea, displays several signs of yesteryear that welcomed travelers to Kansas. The signs were discovered during recent renovation work at the Subarea.

District One



The pier shown above was removed last weekend at the I-35/K-435 interchange, as seen at right.

Busy Gateway weekend: Traveling in parts of Overland Park and Lenexa was a challenge last weekend as many projects were completed as part of the Gateway construction efforts.

I-35 at the I-435 interchange in Johnson County was closed to traffic from late June 10 to early June 13 to remove the pier that supported the flyover ramp that was previously removed. I-35 was also reduced to one lane in each direction from 87th Street to 119th Street. While the closure was in place, other accomplishments included:

- ♦ replacing bridge joints on northbound I-35 bridge over Pflumm Road
- ♦ switching traffic on southbound I-35 bridge over Pflumm Road to continue bridge work
- ♦ removing bridge utility conduit under 95th Street



- ♦ placing asphalt on northbound I-35 between I-435 and 95th Street
- ♦ placing striping and barriers on I-35 for 30-day lane closure that began June 13
- ♦ installing overhead sign on northbound I-35
- ♦ pouring concrete for southbound I-35 to eastbound I-435 loop ramp

To learn more about the Gateway project, go to www.jocogateway.com. To see a video of the bridge pier demolition work, go to <https://youtu.be/yfYAzJ9MY8s>.

Traffic Safety



Within a short amount of time at the June 10 event, the temperature in the van below reached 141 degrees, as seen at left. The temperature outside at that time was 87 degrees.



Summer safety: KDOT partnered with the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office and the Department of Children and Families on June 10 at the Statehouse to bring awareness of heatstroke prevention in vehicles. The demonstration showed how quickly temperatures can rise in vehicles, up to 20°F in just 10 minutes. The event was in conjunction with South Steps Fridays at the Capitol, which featured several agencies and organizations.



KTA

Crews pour concrete on the KTA at the Arkansas River Bridge in Wichita.

Kansas Transportation

Monday, June 6

Motoring Monday: Soda fountains

Last year in the Motoring Monday series, several communities that still have soda fountains were featured. That blog was so popular, we decided to highlight a few more locations across Kansas. All of the existing soda fountains as of 2012 were featured by the Kansas Sampler Foundation in the "8 Wonders of Customs" category – that list can be seen here.

WaKeeney – Gibson Health Mart has been in business since 1892 with a soda fountain the entire time. The current soda fountain features nine stools and still makes Green Rivers and sodas, malts and shakes the old-fashioned way.

Marquette – City Sundries has original, late-1800s marble counters and tables, metal soda shop chairs, walnut and glass display cases and the original tile floor.

Bucklin – In the Main Street Market, you'll find the fountain at the back of the store where they make their own syrup and use carbonated water. Make sure and ask about the Orange Cow

Oskaloosa – On the south side of the square is the County Corner Variety. Built in the 1950s, this fountain has nine stools. In addition to the fountain, they have breakfast items and popcorn and sweets on Saturday.

Hamilton – The 1920s soda fountain at the Holmes Sundry has a marble base and stools as well as the original syrup pumps and water spigots. To make the old-fashioned sodas, they mix the syrup and carbonated water separately and stir with a spoon.

Wichita – The Old Mill Tasty Shop opened in 1932 and features a 25-foot marble counter with 11 stools, a wooden back bar and brass foot rails. In addition to sodas and shakes, they have daily meal specials, sandwiches, soups and more.



Holmes Sundry in Hamilton



City Sundries in Marquette

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

State, local and other officials participating in the ribbon-cutting event that highlighted improvements near Logistic Park Kansas City on June 1.



Improved access: The City of Edgerton celebrated the nearly complete Waverly Road design-build project on June 1. The project improves three miles of Waverly Road near Logistics Park Kansas City (LPKC) to support truck traffic for non-standard, heavy loads. A grade separation was constructed at the BNSF intermodal tracks to ensure Waverly Road traffic can operate without delays due to train traffic. The design-build team was led by Clarkson Construction Co. and assisted by HDR, Inc. The team worked on an accelerated schedule to maintain building access for tenants along the route. The infrastructure will now provide access to property on Waverly Road south of 191st Street and the direct-rail served property north of 183rd Street. This allows 3.4 million additional square feet of direct rail space, in addition to the 11 million square feet of warehouse space at LPKC by NorthPoint Development.



Edgerton Mayor Donald Roberts speaks at the ribbon cutting event while Colby Tanner with BNSF Railway and Deputy Secretary/State Transportation Engineer Jerry Younger listen.

Do you know of a KDOT retiree not receiving Translines?

Please let them know that if they are interested in receiving it, send an email to Kimberly@ksdot.org

KTA Briefs

KTA is seeking sponsorships and vendors for their second Kansas Winter Expo, which will take place in partnership with KDOT on Sept. 7 and 8 in Topeka. Vendors will be able to meet roadway maintenance workers and provide information. Learn more and sign up at www.kansaswinterexpo.com.

Let K-TAG can help motorists with summer travel. Get a free sticker K-TAG and receive 20 percent off tolls (class 2-4). You can also manage your account online and on your smart phone. Sign up at www.myktag.com.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. In 1795, two stars and two stripes were added to reflect Kentucky and Vermont, making 15 stripes. In 1818, the design was permanently set with 13 stripes.
2. The U.S. Army. Congress formally authorized the enlistment of soldiers to fight in what became known as the Continental Army.
3. Flag Day is always June 14.
4. Pennsylvania
5. Since 1910, in Fairfield, Washington.

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>