

# Translines EXPRESS

April 30, 2014

## District Four

**Tornado damage:** Late Sunday afternoon a tornado touched down at Quapaw, Okla., and within minutes had crossed the line into Kansas, cutting a diagonal swath of devastation through the community of Baxter Springs. KDOT crews from Pittsburg and Columbus were on the scene overnight and into Monday, providing traffic control and cleaning debris from U.S. 69A and U.S. 166 in Baxter Springs. Both highways were closed over periods of time following the tornado, with U.S. 69A remaining closed to all but local traffic until Monday afternoon. The EF2 tornado left one person dead and injured at least 36 others in both Quapaw and Baxter Springs. In Baxter Springs the tornado damaged or demolished more than 100 homes and 25 businesses.



*At left, KDOT employees look over the destruction in Baxter Springs. Several KDOT employees arrived quickly after the tornado hit on Sunday and worked to get the roads cleared by Monday morning as well as flag traffic. The top and bottom photos show more damage in Baxter Springs caused by the tornado.*





## District One



*Participating in the Johnson County Gateway Phase 2 ground breaking ceremony were, from left to right, Johnson County Commission Chair Ed Eilert, Olathe Mayor Michael Copeland, Lenexa Mayor Mike Boehm, Kansas House Speaker Ray Merrick, Gov. Sam Brownback, U.S. Congressman Kevin Yoder, Secretary Mike King and Gateway Interchange Constructors Bill Clarkson.*

**Breaking ground in Lenexa:** KDOT, along with Gov. Sam Brownback and officials from the cities of Lenexa and Olathe and Johnson County, broke ground on April 22 in Lenexa for Kansas' first design-build project – the Johnson County Gateway Phase 2 Project. This \$288 million, three-year project is the largest project KDOT has let for construction.

Gov. Brownback, Secretary Mike King, Lenexa Mayor Mike Boehm, Olathe Mayor Michael Copeland, Johnson County Commission Chair Ed Eilert and Gateway Interchange Constructors' Bill Clarkson shared their comments, then officially “turned the dirt” with golden shovels near I-435 and K-10.

Average daily traffic counts show that more than 230,000 vehicles use the I-435/I-35/K-10 interchange,

which is estimated to grow to 380,000 by 2040. This traffic volume, along with future economic development potential, declining infrastructure and roadway safety concerns, are several reasons for improvements in the interchange area.

In 2010, as part the T-WORKS transportation program, KDOT identified this as the state's first major design-build project to accelerate the schedule. Project construction will begin later this spring.

The \$288 million budget for this phase includes a \$3 million schedule incentive GIC accepted to complete work by Dec. 31, 2016.

Additional information is on the project website at [www.jocogateway.com](http://www.jocogateway.com) and a YouTube video of the ceremony is at <http://goo.gl/UnpRld>

### Quarterly Report

**Report posted:** This issue of KDOT's Quarterly Report features a column from Secretary King about the Freight Advisory Committee, a Q&A about the agency's revenues and the latest T-WORKS progress numbers. You can view the report at <http://www.ksdot.org/publications.asp>

### General

**All lit up:** Glow in the dark road markings have been unveiled on a 500-meter stretch of highway in the Netherlands, according to the BBC News website. The paint contains a “photo-luminising” powder that charges up in the daytime and slowly releases a green glow at night, doing away with the need for streetlights.

Interactive artist Daan Roosegaarde teamed up with Dutch civil engineering firm Heijmans to work on the idea. It is the first time “glowing lines” technology has been piloted on the road and can be seen on the N329 in Oss, approximately 65 miles south east of Amsterdam.

Once the paint has absorbed daylight it can glow for up to eight hours in the dark. For more information and a video, check out the KDOT transportation blog at <http://goo.gl/RwRch8>.



## Trivia!

How well do you know our neighbor?

### Oklahoma

1. What is the State Motto?
2. What is the State Floral Emblem?
3. What year did Oklahoma enter the union?
  - A. 1847
  - B. 1867
  - C. 1887
  - D. 1907
4. Cimarron County in Oklahoma's panhandle is the only county in the U.S. to do this.
5. At that time, the high and low temperature on Nov. 11, 1911, hit a record high and a record low. What were they?
6. How did the state's official nickname, Oklahoma Sooners, come about?

Answers below

## District Five



**Wichita Engineering Technician Specialist Earl Bartlett, center, accepts his 45-year certificate of service from District Five Engineer Benny Tarverdi and Director of Operations Catherine Patrick. How old were you when Earl went to work for the Kansas Highway Commission in 1969?**

## KTA



**Members of the "Pike Hikers" (from left to right) are Roxana Peraza, Gary Culbertson, Patti Mitchell, Joyce Miller, Sheri Mayer and Dot McDonald.**

**Taking a walk:** KTA is participating in Walk Kansas again this year with three teams. This Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service health initiative started in 2011. Over 2,600 teams are participating this year. Each team's minimum goal is to walk 423 miles, or the distance across the state of Kansas, during an eight-week challenge ending May 10. Team members keep track of the number of minutes of vigorous activity and servings of fruits and vegetables each day. The goal is to make daily exercise and good food choices a habit. KTA's teams are the "The KTA Southern Belles" from the Southern Toll District; "The K-TAG Kruisers" consisting of Wichita Headquarters employees; and, returning for their second year, the "Pike Hikers" from the Emporia Toll District.

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)



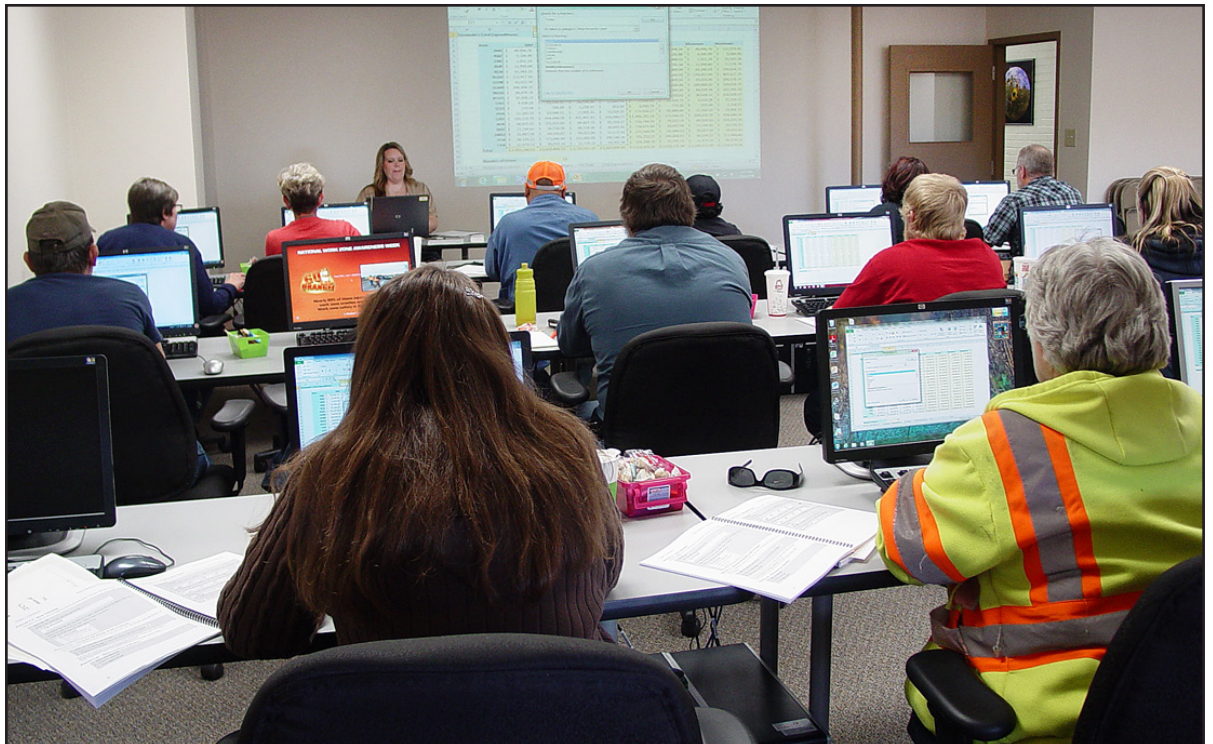
## District Four



*KDOT Iowa Superintendent Gary Ward (gesturing) conducts a pre-bid walk-through of the U.S. 54/Greenwood County safety rest area for companies interested in bidding to provide cleaning and mowing services. KDOT and the Department of Administration conducted walk-throughs April 21 at both the U.S. 54 SRA and the rest area on U.S. 75 north of Yates Center. The rest areas are closed while a new cleaning contract is negotiated. It is hoped to reopen both facilities in early June.*

## District Six

The new computer training classroom on the District Six complex in Garden City is up and running with several classes in April. As part of the district shop expansion, a storage room was converted into the classroom, which provides a permanent computer training room for the district. Cody Fief, District Six Computer Tech, says having the lab will make it easier to offer computer classes on site. "In the past, I



***The new District Six computer training classroom can accommodate 18 students at one time.***

would have to set up laptops in the basement (district conference room) the day before an event in order to get updates installed and make sure they were ready to

go. Now we are able to power the machines up and go. I also hope that having a dedicated room will make for a more conducive learning environment. "



## TRIVIA ANSWERS

Oklahoma

1. "Labor omnia vincit"  
- Labor Conquers All Things
2. Mistletoe
3. D. 1907, it was the 46th state to enter the union
4. It touches four other states – New Mexico, Texas, Colorado and Kansas.
5. 83 degrees in the afternoon and 17 degrees at midnight.
6. For major land runs in Oklahoma, the land was opened to settlers on a first come basis. Those who broke the rules by crossing the border sooner than the official opening time led to the term sooners.

## District Four



**Traffic flows smoothly across the new bridge spanning Four Mile Creek on U.S. 166. KDOT closed the old bridge for demolition and replacement in June 2013, detouring traffic on U.S. 69, U.S. 160 and U.S. 59. The new bridge opened on April 11. Located eight miles east of Chetopa, the new structure is 44 feet wide. The main project was designed by Steve Rockers' squad with Mark Hoppe's squad designing the bridge. B&B Bridge Company of St. Paul was the primary contractor on the project, which had a construction price tag of \$884,178.**

## Traffic Safety



**Julie Breitenstein and her son, Austin, are interviewed after a media event on April 19 at the Capitol. The event highlighted the dangers of texting and driving. Austin was severely injured in a crash four years ago when he was texting and driving. He has had to re-learn everything, from swallowing to eating and walking and still has limited speaking abilities. Julie stressed that there is no text message worth risking your life for.**



## District Six



*In these three photos, John Waller, Special Bridge Inspection Engineer, and Matt Bleier, Engineering Technician Specialist, Bridge Management Section, inspect the bridge over the Arkansas River on K-25 south of Lakin, using an aerial snooper truck. The bridge is one of three over the Arkansas River in District Six that require annual pin and hanger inspections. The team also inspected bridges on K-27 south of Syracuse and K-23 at Lakin during a three-day span.*

## Go Orange!

### Spreading the work zone safety

**message:** During National Work Zone Awareness Week, KDOT's social media accounts pushed out information with the hashtag #goorangeks and created a Thunderclap that supported the "Go Orange" message.

Thunderclap is a crowd-sourced platform that helped spread our message of Work Zone Awareness. At the same time a message went out from all of the people that supported the thunderclap. The tweet or Facebook post read



"Today I'm taking the pledge to slow down in work zones and being aware of construction crews. #goorangeks." It also included a link to our "Go Orange" website and allowed all of our supporters to send the same message together flooding social media with "Go Orange" messages.

The original message had the social reach of more than 317,000 users, but then the message was retweeted and retweeted (and retweeted) by users and had a tweet reach of more than 820,000 users by week's end.



## Traffic Safety Conference



*Above, Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office Project Director Norraine Wingfield, Kansas Highway Patrol officer Scott Harrington, KDOT Director of Governmental Affairs Tara Mays and Jim Hanni with AAA Kansas participate in a session on “Changing Traffic Law and Policy: Steps that Work,” at the 20th Annual Traffic Safety Conference in Topeka on April 23.*



*In the photos at left, Secretary Mike King is pictured with high school students in attendance who were the first to like and follow the @KDOTHQ Twitter account and the KDOT Headquarters Facebook page. The students belong to their school’s SAFE (Seat Belts are For Everyone) program and each received a gift card as a prize. The conference featured breakout sessions on injury control, law enforcement, youth issues and roadway safety.*



## District Five



*Blowing dirt created hazardous driving conditions on April 28 leading KDOT and law enforcement to close a section of U.S. 56 between Pawnee Rock and Dundee in Barton County from about 4 to 10:30 p.m. Several vehicles were involved in crashes leading to one fatality. This section of roadway had places of zero visibility at times. The photos at left and below are from the next day and show stranded vehicles surrounded by dirt.*

