

NOV/DEC 2011

KTA helps “Put the Brakes on Fatalities”

The 2011 Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day® was observed on October 10th.

The goal of this event is to bring awareness about the major causes of transportation fatalities and their avoidance, in an upbeat fashion. For 20 days leading up to Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day, KDOT hosted guest bloggers on their ktoc.net web site to help spread traffic safety messages.

On this day each year, the Kansas Turnpike Authority and partners at the Kansas Dept of Transportation and AAA of Kansas, encourage everyone to drive as if his or her life depended on it — because it does!

Another way these partners spread this safety message is by organizing a poster contest for school children.

This year’s winners are: Sierra de Koning, Reagan de Koning (also statewide winner), and Neeharika Kothapalli from Northeast Kansas; Elijah Schmidt, Breckyn Martens, and Zoey Rankin (also statewide winner) from North Central Kansas; Aaron Moore (also statewide winner), Indigo Guise, and Donovan Schroeder from Northwest Kansas; Abigail Balson, Macie Ables, and Nathan Cunningham from Southeast Kansas; Heath David Moeckel, Britton Maclaughlin, and Jack Kelly Lynch from South Central Kansas; and Emmi Lott, Emily Allen, and John Dohogne from Southwest Kansas.

NEWS

KANSAS TURNPIKE



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Construction on I-70 near Lawrence now complete

The Kansas Turnpike Authority is pleased to officially and fully open the Turnpike’s two new bridges across the Kansas River in North Lawrence.

“This is truly a milestone in the history of the Kansas Turnpike,” said KTA President/CEO Michael Johnston. “Nearly 57 years ago at a location nearby, ground was broken for the Turnpike itself and a little less than two years later the roadway opened from Kansas City to Oklahoma.”

This project was the single largest ever undertaken by the Kansas Turnpike Authority. At approximately \$130 million, it cost nearly as much as it did to build the entire roadway back in the 1950s.

Replacing the bridges was a necessity, as KTA consulting engineers concluded several years ago that the existing two-lane spans were closing in on the end of their useful lives.

At the same time that the KTA replaced the bridges, other improvements were made to nearby Lawrence interchanges. Work on the adjacent project to the East of Lawrence to replace original 1950s pavement is also complete.

Scan this QR code with a reader on your smart phone to watch a video of highlights from the project.



Variety of tools helps you plan travels, be prepared

Travelers have a variety of tools at their disposal to help plan their trips and know about road conditions and traffic prior to getting on the road. There are also many tools that can assist them along the way.

- **511:** For road conditions on the Turnpike and roads throughout the state, dial 511 or visit www.kandrive.org. A mobile site is also available.

- **Twitter:** Follow the Kansas Turnpike on Twitter. Our “handle” is @kansasturnpike. This account provides basic information on the KTA and its services, as well as updates on some traffic situations. This account is not monitored 24 hours a day and should not be used to report emergencies.

- **Text alerts:** KTA offers text or e-mail alerts when traffic situations arise on the Turnpike. Visit www.ksturnpike.com to sign up today!

- **Digital signs:** There are seven signs along

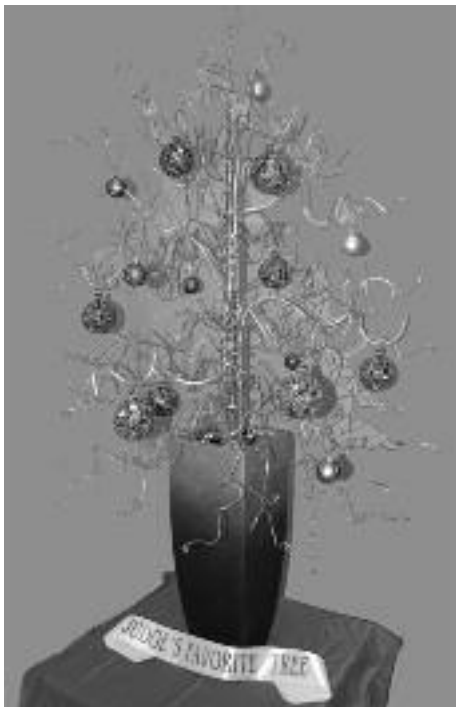
I-70 to assist travelers once they are on the road. The signs alert drivers to incidents ahead so they can be prepared for lane changes, slow moving traffic or choose to exit prior to the incident.

- **Mobile site:** Visit www.ksturnpike.com from any mobile device and you'll be redirected to a mobile-optimized site. The abbreviated site includes maps, tolls, construction and other information you may need while traveling. There is also a link to the full site.

- **Emergency contact:** Travelers can dial *582 from their mobile phone to be connected with Turnpike emergency help. This number should be used to report accidents, erratic drivers, objects in the roadway, pedestrians and other situations that could cause problems on the roadway. Travelers on state roads (not the Turnpike) can reach Kansas Highway Patrol assistance by dialing *47 from a mobile device.

Winter weather is coming! Take The Weather Channel's Extreme Weather Driving Quiz to brush up on what to do in a variety of weather situations.

http://www.weather.com/activities/driving/extreme/text_quiz1.html



Sheltered Living celebrates 40 years during annual Festival of Trees

Sheltered Living Inc., is celebrating 40 years of service and Kansas' 150th birthday with a special addition to its annual Festival of Trees holiday fundraiser. A guitar signed by the entire band “Kansas” will be auctioned off. The event also includes more than 60 decorated trees and wreaths of all sizes.

Sheltered Living is a Topeka-based, non-profit organization

founded in 1971 to provide residential, day and case management services.

If you go:

December 1-4

Kansas ExpoCentre Ag Hall

9 am - 4 pm Thursday thru

Saturday; 11 am - 2 pm on

Sunday

Admission is \$5 for adults; \$3 for Senior Citizens (62+);

and children 12 and under are free.

Left: This tree was voted “Judges Favorite” during the 2010 Festival of Trees. It was created out of copper by a designer from BA Design Group.

TURNPIKE NEWS is published bi-monthly by the Public Relations Department of the Kansas Turnpike Authority, 9401 E. Kellogg, Wichita, KS 67207-1804. KTA Board: Mary E. Turkington, Chairman; Representative Gary K. Hayzlett, Vice Chairman; Paul Dugan, Secretary-Treasurer; Senator Dwayne Umbarger, member; Deb Miller, Secretary of Transportation (KDOT), member.