



April 2018 Construction Report

This report is intended to provide motorists with information about active construction projects on the Kansas Turnpike. Each project update is listed below and is prepared near the 20th of the month. Completion dates listed are weather permitting. Photos of the construction projects can be found on Flickr [here](#) and additional information on each project can be found on the KTA website [here](#).

Many of the projects included are part of KTA's 2015 Long Term Needs Study. This study outlines projects for one decade (2016-2025) aimed at preserving, modernizing and enhancing the Turnpike system. More information on the study can be found [here](#).

I encourage travelers to drive with caution in work zones and to check for traffic impacts at [KanDrive](#), subscribe to KTA alerts, follow the Kansas Turnpike on Twitter, and watch for information on the KTA's digital message boards.

~ David Jacobson, P.E., KTA Director of Engineering

Bridge Construction (MM 0.6)

Scheduled completion: November 2018, weather permitting

Project Manager: Glen Scott, P.E., Mark Roberts, Engineering Tech

A project to construct new northbound and southbound bridges and remove an existing drainage structure at mile marker 0.6 on I-35/KTA, near the Oklahoma border, began Friday, March 2, 2018.

Construction of the southbound bridge will occur first. Prep work to remove the existing drainage structure including grading, temporary shoring and pavement removal is complete. The contractor has started on the bridge foundation including driving piling and pouring columns.

All traffic will use the northbound lanes, from south of the Kansas-Oklahoma border to mile marker 1.5, where there will be a single, 12-foot lane of traffic in each direction. The speed limit will be reduced to 65 mph in the construction zone. Following completion of the southbound bridge, the northbound bridge will be constructed with traffic being moved to the opposite side.

Drainage Improvements (MM 4.4 and 6.2)

Scheduled completion: November 2018, weather permitting

Project Manager: Glen Scott, P.E., Mark Roberts, Engineering Tech

A project for reinforced concrete box drainage improvements on I-35/KTA at mile markers 4.4 and 6.2, including ramp improvements at the US-166, South Haven, interchange was awarded in March 2018 to Dondlinger & Sons Construction Company, Inc., Wichita, KS for \$2,722,876.70. Work is anticipated to begin later in April and construction details will be shared once finalized.

Arkansas River Bridge Project (MM 44.325)

Scheduled completion: late November 2017, weather permitting

Project Manager: Glen Scott, P.E.

A two-year project to widen and re-deck the Arkansas River Bridges in south Wichita (I-35/KTA mile marker 44.325) is substantially complete. The southbound bridge was reconstructed in 2016 and work on the northbound bridge took place in 2017.

Final construction activities began March 8 and include a polymer overlay and expansion joint work. Weather permitting, work will be completed in late May. Drivers can expect single lane traffic in each direction of I-35/KTA between mile markers 44 and 45 with speeds reduced to 65 mph.

East Kellogg/Wichita – Greenwich to K-96 (MM 51-53)

Scheduled completion: late 2021

Project Manager: Glen Scott, P.E.

Construction is underway to rebuild East Kellogg/US 54 from the Turnpike's Kellogg toll plaza east to K-96 including new connections between Kellogg (US 54/400) and I-35/KTA.

Turnpike travel impacts:

- Drivers can expect the right lane of northbound and southbound I-35/KTA to be closed between the K-96 and East Kellogg toll plazas (mile markers 53-51, I-35/KTA.) This closure allows for the construction of bridges and the new southbound KTA entry ramp.
- The East Kellogg toll plaza remains open however, access is from the south frontage road (west of KTA.) Eastbound local Kellogg traffic will exit to the south frontage road to reach the Kellogg toll plaza. Eastbound mainline Kellogg traffic, that does not exit on the frontage road, is directed to the K-96 toll plaza. Westbound Kellogg traffic continues to use the U-Turn at Rock Road to reach the south frontage road and the toll plaza.
- Traffic exiting the Turnpike at Plaza 50/Kellogg will go east on Kellogg. Those desiring to travel west, will continue to be directed to the U-turn ½ mile east of Webb Road.
- Traffic exiting at K-96 toll plaza should note that the K-96 ramp to westbound Kellogg is closed for the duration of the project.

Travel impacts off the Turnpike:

- Construction is expected to begin in early May on the west-half of Greenwich Road. Drivers can expect single lane traffic each direction with turn lanes provided.
- Kellogg traffic is using the frontage roads between Webb Road and Zelta while construction occurs on the Kellogg mainline.
- Left turns (from all directions) at Webb Road are prohibited.
- The K-96 ramp to westbound Kellogg is closed until fall 2021.
- 127th Street connection to East Kellogg is permanently closed. A new connection from 127th Street to Zelta is part of the improvements.

Learn more about the project, see the construction schedule, and stay informed of traffic impacts by regularly visiting the web site www.E54ict.com or by following @E54ict on Twitter.

Towanda Service Area improvements (MM 65)

Scheduled completion: March 2018, weather permitting

Project Manager: Jason Weber

Renovation of the Towanda service area, located at mile marker 65 on I-35/KTA, began in late-September. The remodel, approved as part of KTA's Long Term Needs Study, includes upgraded restrooms, storage expansion, an improved convenience store entrance, re-worked parking areas, and new interior finishes. Construction is substantially complete.

Pavement Overlay (MM 96-112) with Ramp Improvements (MM 96)

Scheduled completion: early October 2018, weather permitting

Project Manager: Mark Roberts, Engineering Tech

A project to mill and overlay pavement in the Flint Hills from mile marker 96.3 to 112.3 I-335/KTA, including portions of the Matfield Green service area parking lot and two median crossovers at mile marker 93-95 for future bridge rehabilitation was awarded in December 2017 to Cornejo & Sons, Wichita, KS for \$6,542,554.69. Work is anticipated to begin in June and construction details will be released closer to that time.

Bridge Construction near Emporia (MM 129-130.3)

Scheduled completion: early October 2018, weather permitting

Project Manager: Shannon Moore, P.E., Nathan Anstey, Engineering Tech

A two-year project involving ten I-335/KTA bridges northwest of Emporia began on March 15. Construction includes re-decking and widening mainline bridges (mile marker 130.360), rehabilitating bridges (mile markers 129.18, 129.71, 129.96) and removing a mainline bridge over abandoned railroad tracks (mile marker 130.120).

Construction of crossover lanes are complete and all traffic is using the southbound side to accommodate construction of northbound bridges in 2018. The contractor has started the substructure work necessary to widen the Allan Creek Bridge (mile marker 130.360) and will also begin deck removal of this bridge in the near future. Removal of the mainline bridge over the abandoned railroad line has also started.

Travelers can expect left lane closures in both directions to accommodate construction. Beginning in early April, all traffic will use the southbound bridges where there will be a single, 12-foot lane of traffic in each direction and reduce speed of 65 mph.

Pavement Resurfacing (MM 135.8-167.8) and Admire Interchange (MM 147)

Scheduled completion: early October 2018, weather permitting

Project Manager: Rich Olson, P.E., Nathan Anstey, Engineering Tech

A project to mill and inlay pavement with should seal from mile marker 135.8 and 167.8 I-335/KTA, including the Admire Interchange at mile marker 147, was awarded in March 2018 to Bettis Asphalt & Construction, Inc., Topeka, KS for \$9,853,950.50. Work is anticipated to begin in late May with construction details being releases closer to that time.

Bridge Raising/Elevation Project – (MM 137-165)

Scheduled completion: late November 2018, weather permitting

Project Manager: Luke Coltrane, P.E

Construction to increase the vertical clearance of ten bridges crossing over I-335/KTA, between Emporia and south Topeka began July 24, 2017. Each bridge will be lifted to provide at least 15'-9" of clearance and work at each location will take approximately two months to complete.

The bridge located at mile marker 164.10 (S. Hoch Road, Osage County) has been lifted and the contractor is working on the bridge abutments and constructing pier protection at this location. Work has also started on the next bridge located at mile marker 154.322 (Road 400).

Travelers can expect single lane traffic in both directions with a 14-foot width restriction at both locations.

Re-deck & Increase Vertical Clearance of Bridges – (MM 168.297 & 169.627)

Scheduled completion: late November 2019, weather permitting

Project Manager: Shannon Moore, P.E.

Construction has started on a two-year project to re-deck and increase the vertical clearance of bridges crossing over I-335/KTA at mile marker 168.297 (SW 93rd Street) and 169.627 (SW 85th Street). On March 19th, SW 85th Street closed to traffic to accommodate its reconstruction in 2018.

The contractor has completed removing the concrete deck. Over the next several weeks, the existing bridge girders will be lifted to increase the vertical clearance of the bridge.

Travelers should expect construction activity in the media and adjacent to the Turnpike with possible lane closures, construction vehicles entering/exiting traffic and the possibility of slow-moving traffic.

South Topeka Plaza, Ramps & Bridges (MM 177)

Scheduled completion: late November 2018, weather permitting

Project Manager: Luke Coltrane, P.E.

Work resumed on the second year of a two-year project to widen and re-deck the I-470/KTA bridge crossing over Topeka Boulevard and the BNSF railroad at mile marker 177.337. In 2018, construction will take place on the westbound bridge and include extending the westbound deceleration lane for the South Topeka interchange (exit 177).

The contractor is finishing removal of the westbound bridge deck over Topeka Boulevard and has started setting bridge girders to widen the bridge. Once complete, false work for the new bridge deck will be constructed. Dirt work to lengthen the exit ramp to the South Topeka toll plaza begins in May.

Drivers can expect single 12-foot lanes of traffic in each direction on the eastbound bridge, with speed reduced to 65 mph, to allow for construction on the westbound side.

East Topeka Toll Plaza Reconstruction (MM 183)

Scheduled completion: late November 2018, weather permitting

Project Manager: Luke Coltrane, P.E.; Rich Olson, P.E.; Josh Coffin, Engineering Tech

This project will convert the East Topeka Toll Plaza located at mile marker 183 I-70/KTA to open road tolling, which allows electronic customers to move through the toll plaza at highway speeds. Travelers who prefer to pay with cash can slow and pull to the right, well out of way of highway traffic. View a video simulation [here](#). This mainline work will be complete November 2018.

Construction of the new toll plaza administration building is nearly complete and the old building has been demolished. Grading and excavation for the new highway speed lanes will continue and footings for the new toll equipment will be constructed in the coming month. Work to widen the eastbound I-70 bridge just east of the toll plaza (mile marker 183.657) continues.

Drivers can expect minimal impacts to traffic during this phase of construction as much of this work will be occurring off the main roadway. To accommodate widening of the eastbound I-70 bridge, barrier wall has been set on the bridge narrowing the shoulders resulting in a 12-foot width restriction.

A Look Ahead

Some other projects KTA will receive bids on in the near future include:

- Interchange Ramp, Guardrail & Lighting Improvements at South Wichita Interchange
- Truck Parking and Information Management System

Maintenance projects, system wide

Ongoing

The KTA maintenance crews work hard to ensure a smooth ride for customers. You may encounter them performing routine maintenance along the 236-mile roadway. These less time-intensive projects normally do not cause traffic delays and are communicated only through social media and roadway signage. However, travelers should drive cautiously in all work zones.