April 2017 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.

Many of the projects included are part of KTA’s recently released 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 at: http://bit.ly/2lcYT00

I encourage travelers to drive with caution in work zones and to check for traffic impacts at http://www.kandrive.org, subscribe to KTA alerts, follow the Kansas Turnpike on Twitter, and watch for information on the KTA’s digital message boards. Additional information on each project can be found on the KTA website at: https://www.ksturnpike.com/travel/construction.

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

Eastern Terminal Reconstruction (MM 217)
Scheduled completion: late March 2018, weather permitting
Project Manager: Luke Coltrane, P.E.

This project will convert the Eastern Terminal Toll Plaza located at mile marker 216 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 http://bit.ly/1oJsaiT. This mainline work will be complete late November 2017, weather permitting.

Construction will involve building new westbound cash lanes north of the existing lanes and new highway speed electronic lanes for both east and west bound traffic. Included in the project is the reconstruction of the 188th Street Bridge and the construction of a new 182nd Bridge crossing I-70/KTA at mile markers 216.404 and 217.176, respectively.

Demolition of the 188th Street Bridge is complete and dirt work for the new abutments is in process. Soon piling will be driven for the new piers and work on the bridge’s substructure will begin. Dirt work for the new westbound cash lanes, north of the existing plaza, is occurring. The utilities tunnel beneath the road is being extended to this new area and should be complete in May. Some utilities work for the new high-mast lighting has started and will continue in the coming weeks. Work is expected to start soon on drainage improvements for the project.

See illustration of project area here: http://bit.ly/2mwU2d
South Topeka Plaza, Ramps & Bridges (MM 177)

*Scheduled completion: late November 2018, weather permitting*

Project Manager: Luke Coltrane, P.E.

Construction is underway at and around the South Topeka interchange at mile marker 177, I-470/KTA. The project includes toll plaza improvements; longer acceleration/deceleration lanes coming to and from the interchange; a realigned northbound exit ramp; improved drainage and widening and re-decking the I-470/KTA bridges at mile marker 177.337, which cross over Topeka Boulevard and the BNSF railroad.

Reconstruction of the eastbound I-470/KTA bridge continues. Utility relocation is nearly complete and the contractor is constructing new piers to widen the bridge. Substructure work will continue in May and soon the bridge decking will be removed. The right lanes of northbound Topeka Boulevard are closed until June to accommodate this work.

Dirt work to improve drainage just west of the westbound I-470/KTA entry ramp has started. The contractor will soon begin building an additional 9x9 box culvert beside the existing one.

At the toll plaza, concrete was poured for the new K-TAG entry lane and crews are working to install tolling equipment in this lane. When the K-TAG entry lane is completed in early May, the contractor will begin to reconstruct the K-TAG exit lane.

Motorists can expect lane shifts and single lane traffic with 12-ft width restrictions between mile markers 175 and 179 on I-470/KTA with speed reduced to 65 mph. At the toll plaza, the K-TAG entry lane (lane 1) will be closed until early May. Entry traffic should use lane 2 and 3. In early May, the K-TAG exit lane will close, with lanes 3, 4, and 5 open to serve exiting traffic and lanes 1 and 2 for entry to KTA. Travelers are encouraged to stay alert, follow directions on posted signs and to use caution within the work zone.

Osage County Bridge Replacement – SB (MM 157.013 & 157.133)

*Scheduled completion: late November 2017, weather permitting*

Project Manager: Luke Coltrane, P.E.

A two-year project to reconstruct two bridges over Dragoon Creek and remove two bridges crossing an abandoned railroad track is underway, approximately 20 miles south of Topeka. The northbound bridge was reconstructed in 2016 and work on the remaining bridges will occur in 2017.

The contractor is in the process of removing the southbound decks of both the creek bridge and the bridge over the railroad track. Once the bridge decks and existing girders have been removed, crews will be doing earth work and working to finish construction of an access road under the bridge.

Motorists can expect all traffic, between mile marker 156 and 159, to use the northbound bridges where there is a single, 12-foot lane of traffic in each direction with reduced speeds of 65 mph.

Permanent Seeding at Bazaar Cattle Pens (MM 110.820)

*Scheduled completion: May 2017, weather permitting*

Project Manager: Luke Coltrane, P.E.

Permanent seeding at the Bazaar Cattle Pens and scenic overlook at mile marker 110.820 I-35/KTA started in mid-April and will be completed by the end of the month, weather permitting. The seeding marks the end of improvements started in early 2016 at this location.
Drainage improvements (MM 105.3 & MM 105.5)
*Scheduled completion: late November 2017, weather permitting*
Project Manager: Rich Olson, P.E.

Another drainage improvement project is underway south of Emporia at mile markers 105.3 and 105.5 on I-35/KTA, approximately eight miles north of the Matfield Green Service Area.

Excavation is complete and the contractor is in the process of setting the pre-cast reinforced box culverts at both locations and will be back filling and constructing their ends in the coming weeks.

All traffic is using the northbound lanes between mile markers 103.9 and 107, where there is a single, 12-foot lane of traffic in each direction. Travelers are encouraged to follow directions on posted signs and to use caution within the work zone. Speeds in this area are reduced to 65 mph.

Drainage improvements (MM 101.7 & MM 101.9)
*Scheduled completion: mid-October 2017, weather permitting*
Project Manager: Rich Olson, P.E.

Construction is underway to improve drainage at two locations south of Emporia, at mile markers 101.7 and 101.9 on I-35/KTA Work on the southbound side is complete. Construction to install new reinforced box culverts on the northbound side will occur in late summer, as weather and permit restrictions allow.

Pavement resurfacing (MM 50-71) & ramp improvements (MM 71)
*Scheduled completion: late 2021*
Project Manager: Mark Roberts, Engineering Tech

In February, a contract was awarded to Shilling Construction Co, Inc. for a pavement overlay project from mile marker 50.8 to 71.3 I-35/KTA and ramp improvements at the El Dorado south interchange at mile marker 71. Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-summer 2017.

East Kellogg/Wichita – Greenwich to K-96
*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:
- The East Kellogg toll plaza remains open, however access to/from it is via eastbound Kellogg only. Drivers should expect construction as they approach the toll plaza as work has begun to extend the south frontage road west of the plaza. Beginning the week of April 24, and continuing for about three weeks, there will be a single lane open for traffic entering KTA.
- Traffic exiting KTA and desiring to travel west on Kellogg will need to use the U-Turn ½ mile east of Webb Road. Westbound Kellogg traffic will use the U-Turn at Rock Road to get to the eastbound KTA entry ramp.
- 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.
- Travelers can expect single lane closures in both direction between the East Kellogg and K-96 toll plazas (mile markers 51-53, I-35/KTA.) The closures allow for the reconstruction of the eastbound Kellogg bridge and the construction of a new south frontage road bridge, both which cross over I-35/KTA.

Travel impacts off the Turnpike:
- 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, the construction schedule and stay informed of traffic impacts by regularly visiting the web site [www.E54ict.com](http://www.E54ict.com) or by following @E54ict on Twitter.
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 is underway. The southbound bridge was reconstructed in 2016 and the northbound bridge will occur in 2017.

Work began on the substructure and piers beneath the northbound bridge and will continue into May, contingent upon weather. Sometime next month, new girders to widen the bridge will be set.

All traffic is using the southbound lanes between mile markers 43 and 46, where there is a single, 12-foot lane of traffic in each direction and speed reduced to 60 mph. Travelers are encouraged to follow directions on posted signs and to use caution within the work zone.

Bridge Raising/Elevation Project (MM 8 - 38)
*Scheduled completion: late summer 2017, weather permitting*
Project Manager: Glen Scott, P.E.

Construction to increase the vertical clearance of ten bridges crossing over I-35/KTA, between the Oklahoma border and south Wichita started September 19. Each bridge location will take approximately two months to complete, with construction occurring at two or more locations at the same time. Watch this video to see how a bridge is lifted: [http://bit.ly/2ceDe6p](http://bit.ly/2ceDe6p)

In March, work resumed on the remaining bridges, located between the Belle Plaine service area and the Haysville-Derby toll plaza (mile markers 26-39, I-35/KTA.) The bridge located at mile marker 28.5 (100th Ave. North, Sumner County) will be completed in April, and the contractor is finishing another bridge at mile marker 30.5 (120th Ave. North, Sumner County.) Soon work on the sixth bridge located at mile marker 32.5 (140th Ave. North, Sumner County) will begin. Travelers can expect single right lane traffic in both directions with 14-foot width restriction within this area.

A Look Ahead

Some of the other projects KTA will be receiving bids on in 2017 include:
- Pavement surfacing on McDonald Drive south of Lawrence/US 59 toll plaza (MM 202)
- A bridge raising/elevation project for multiple bridges (MM 137-164)
- Drainage structure improvement/Bridge (MM 0.6)

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.