



February 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](#).

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. Additional information on each project can be found on the KTA website [here](#).

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

Bridge Construction (MM 0.6)

Scheduled completion: Fall 2018, weather permitting

Project Manager: Glen Scott, P.E.

Construction of two new mainline bridges and the removal of an existing drainage structure at mile marker 0.6 on I-35/KTA, near the Oklahoma border, is set to begin Friday, March 2, 2018.

Work will begin with construction of the southbound bridge. 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.

Ninnescah River Bridges Project (MM 26.815)

Scheduled completion: March 2018, weather permitting

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

A project to construct a scour protection pad and place rock slope protection beneath the Ninnescah River Bridges located at mile marker 26.8 I-35/KTA (Sumner County) began on December 18 and was completed ahead of schedule on February 14. Bridges, Inc., Newton, KS was the general contractor.

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. In spring 2018, drivers can expect lane closures for a polymer overlay.

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 will encounter single lane traffic with right lane closures on northbound and southbound I-35/KTA between mile markers 51 and 53 to accommodate construction.
- The East Kellogg toll plaza remains open, however access to it 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.
- Travelers can expect the right lane of 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.

Travel impacts off the Turnpike:

- 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, will begin in late-September with work scheduled to be complete in spring 2018, weather permitting. The service area will remain open with construction being done in phases to minimize impact to customers. 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.

Reconstruction of the men's restroom* is complete and work has started on the women's restroom. Concrete on the south side of the building, including new parking areas and the drive thru approach, has been laid and the new trash compactor site has been completed. Work has shifted to the west side of the service area.

*The new men's restroom is divided to accommodate both men and women during renovation.

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 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 eleven 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 contractor has completed work at the bridges located in Lyon County at: mile marker 137.040 I-335/KTA (Road 260); mile marker 144.75 (Road 320); and mile marker 138.2 I-335/KTA (Road S.) Work on the remaining eight bridges will resume in March, after the winter season.

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.

A two-year project to re-deck and increase the vertical clearance of bridges crossing over I-335/KTA at mile marker 168.297 (85th Street) and 169.627 (95th Street) was awarded in December 2017 to King Construction Company, Hesston, KS for \$1,817,241.57. Construction of the SW 85th Street Bridge will occur in 2018 and is anticipated to begin in mid-March with construction details available soon.

South Topeka Plaza, Ramps & Bridges (MM 177)

Scheduled completion: late November 2018, weather permitting

Project Manager: Luke Coltrane, P.E.

Construction for 2017 is nearly complete at and around the South Topeka interchange at mile marker 177, I-470/KTA. Completed portions of the project include: reconstructed South Topeka toll plaza; improved drainage; a realigned northbound exit ramp and longer acceleration/deceleration lanes west of the toll plaza interchange.

The project also includes widening and re-decking the I-470/KTA bridges at mile marker 177.373, which cross over Topeka Boulevard and the BNSF railroad. Construction of the eastbound bridge was completed in November. During the winter, the contractor will be working on the substructure of the westbound bridge as weather permits. In March, construction will begin on the bridge deck and to extend the westbound deceleration lane for exit 177.

East Topeka Toll Plaza Reconstruction (MM 183)

Scheduled completion: late March 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, weather permitting.

Work to construct a new toll plaza administration building, north of the existing roadway, has begun and will continue through the winter. This building is necessary as the new highway speed lanes will be placed where the current toll building and parking lot* is located. The contractor has also started earthwork for the new highway speed lanes and construction to widen the eastbound I-70/KTA bridge located just east of the East Topeka toll plaza at mile marker 183.657. Drivers can expect minimal impacts to traffic during the winter season as much of this work will be occurring off the main roadway.

*To accommodate construction, the commuter parking lot at this location closed October 31. Courtesy parking is still available off of 21st Street from the Rice Road exit off I-70 and at the S. Topeka toll plaza (I-470/KTA MM 177).

Eastern Terminal Reconstruction (MM 217)

Scheduled completion: late March 2018, weather permitting

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

The project to convert the Eastern Terminal Toll Plaza located at mile marker 216 I-70/KTA to open road tolling is essentially complete.

Now, drivers paying tolls electronically continue at highway speeds through the toll plaza, while those paying cash exit right for an entry ticket or toll payment. If a cash customer, traveling either direction, gets in the electronic lanes by mistake, they SHOULD NOT STOP, but continue on. Learn more about open road tolling and how this method of toll collection works, visit:

www.ksturnpike.com/openroad

Most of the clean-up from construction is completed. Seeding and mulching will occur later this spring, when the weather is warmer.

A Look Ahead

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

- Bridge Re-deck and Rehabilitation with Guardrail Improvements - Br. Nos. 129.18 N&S, 129.71 N&S, 129.96 N&S, 130.12 N&S, and 130.36 N&S
- Interchange Ramp, Guardrail & Lighting Improvements at South Wichita Interchange (MM 42)
- Drainage Structure Enhancements at MM 132.2
- Drainage Structure Enhancements & Ramp Improvements at MM 4 & MM 6.2
- Pavement Surfacing MM 135-168

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.