



## March 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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: Fall 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. The contractor is doing prep work to remove the existing drainage structure including grading, temporary shoring and pavement removal.

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.

### **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:

- 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.
- 127<sup>th</sup> Street connection to East Kellogg is permanently closed. A new connection from 127<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

The contractor is finishing reconstruction of the women's restroom\* and tilework. Work in EZ-GO is nearing completion too, with new equipment being installed. The warmer weather has helped with the exterior concrete work, which is about 50% complete. The contractor anticipates construction to be substantially complete by the end of March.

\*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 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).

Work began March 15 to build crossover lanes, which will divert northbound traffic to the southbound side during construction of the northbound bridges in 2018. 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.

### **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 contractor completed work in 2017 at 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.) On March 12<sup>th</sup>, work began on the bridge located at mile marker 164.10 (S. Hoch Road, Osage County). Travelers can expect single lane traffic in both directions with a 14-foot width restriction.

### **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 95<sup>th</sup> Street) and 169.627 (SW 85<sup>th</sup> Street). On March 19<sup>th</sup>, SW 85<sup>th</sup> Street closed to traffic to accommodate its reconstruction in 2018. The contractor will be working to remove the existing bridge deck over the next several weeks.

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).

During the winter, the contractor worked on the substructure of the westbound bridge and on March 12, began the process of widening the bridge. In the coming weeks, the contractor will remove a portion of the bridge deck to accommodate setting new bridge girders.

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 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.

Construction of the new toll plaza administration building, north of the existing roadway, will be completed by late March. By early April, the contractor will demolish the old building and begin earthwork for the new highway speed lanes. Construction to widen the eastbound I-70 bridge just east of the toll plaza (mile marker 183.657) is also underway. To accommodate construction, barrier wall has been set on the bridge narrowing the shoulders resulting in a 12-foot width restriction.

Drivers can expect minimal impacts to traffic during this phase of construction as much of this work will be occurring off the main roadway.

## **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. The warmer weather allowed the contractor to seed, mulch and install the remaining fence in mid-March.

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](http://www.ksturnpike.com/openroad)

## **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 (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.