October 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. The southbound bridge is complete and work continues on the northbound bridge.

In late September, concrete was placed for the new bridge deck and the contractor has been working on to tie in the bridge ends to the roadway. In the coming weeks, bridge rails will be constructed and final work items will be completed to normalize traffic later November.

All traffic will use the southbound lanes, from mile marker 1.5 to south of the Kansas-Oklahoma border, 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.

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 began on April 23, 2018. Backfill around the new box culverts has been completed. Some grading and paving over the boxes has occurred and will be completed in the coming weeks. Traffic will then be moved to the right lanes to accommodate construction of the center portion of the additional drainage structure.

Drivers can expect lane closures between mile markers 3 and 7 on I-35/KTA, with single 12-foot lanes of traffic in each direction. The new ramp extensions south of the interchange are now open to traffic. Speeds are reduced to 60 mph throughout the construction zone.
Southern Terminal Reconstruction (MM 16-17)  
*Scheduled completion: December 2019, weather permitting*  
Project Manager: Glen Scott, P.E., Mark Roberts, Engineering Tech

This project began September 18, 2018 and will convert the Southern Terminal located at mile marker 16.5 I-35/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. Included in the project is the reconstruction of two bridges crossing I-35/KTA – the 30th Street South Bridge (mile marker 17) followed by the 40th Street South Bridge (mile marker 16).

Demolition of the 30th Street South Bridge is complete. Work will continue on the reconstruction of this new bridge along with drainage structure improvements and work to extend utilities to the new cash lanes. Grading and asphalt paving will also occur.

The Turnpike is using Smart Work Zone technology to provide advanced notice of slowed or stopped traffic to travelers approaching the construction zone. The speed limit approaching the project is reduced to 55 mph with further reductions, as posted, through the toll plaza itself. Drivers are encouraged to stay alert and avoid distractions within the work zone.

Bridge Preservation  
*Scheduled completion: mid-October 2018, weather permitting*  
Project Manager: Glen Scott, P.E.

A project to paint eight bridges crossing the Kansas Turnpike in Sedgwick and Sumner Counties approximately between the Wellington toll plaza and the Towanda Service Area (I-35/KTA between mile markers 20 and 60), began August 6, and was completed in mid-October. This routine maintenance project helps preserve and lengthen the life of the bridges.

South Wichita Interchange improvements (MM 42)  
*Scheduled completion: November 2018, weather permitting*  
Project Manager: Glen Scott, P.E.

Construction to improve the South Wichita Interchange located at I-35/KTA mile marker 42 began on May 30, 2018. The project includes lengthening acceleration and deceleration lanes, guardrail and bridge pier protection improvements and high-mast lighting at the toll plaza.

All paving, lighting, signage and pavement marking work has been completed. Traffic has been normalized and the project is substantially complete. In the coming weeks, the contractor will remove the old lighting fixtures and do some general cleanup and seeding.

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.

The contractor has nearly completed paving adjacent to southbound I-35/KTA near mile marker 52. Concrete was placed on the new south frontage road bridge crossing the Turnpike. The barrier wall between the Turnpike and the new southbound I-35/KTA entry ramp has also been placed. Visit [www.E54ict.com](http://www.E54ict.com) to read about project construction not related to KTA travel.
East Kellogg/Wichita – Greenwich to K-96 (MM 51-53) - continued
Scheduled completion: late 2021
Project Manager: Glen Scott, P.E.

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.

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.

Pavement Overlay (MM 96-112) with Ramp Improvements (MM 96)
Scheduled completion: early October 2018, weather permitting
Project Manager: Mark Roberts, Engineering Tech

A pavement overlay project in the Flint Hills began June 4 and is substantially complete. In the coming weeks, the contractor will finish minor clean-up work. The project included milling and overlaying pavement from mile marker 96.3 to 112.3 on I-35/KTA, portions of the Matfield Green Service Area parking lot (mile marker 97) and lengthening the acceleration/deceleration ramps connecting to the service area. Construction of three median crossovers near mile markers 94 and 100 for future bridge rehabilitation projects were also included in the project.

Bridge Construction near Emporia (MM 129-130.3)
Scheduled completion: mid-November 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). In 2018, work will occur on the northbound lanes. Construction is winding down on this project for 2018. The contractor is placing asphalt at the Allan Creek Bridge (mile marker 130.360), the Troublesome Creek Bridge (mile marker 129.96) and the location where a mainline bridge crossed an abandoned railroad tracks was filled in earlier this year (mile marker 130.120.) Following this asphalt work, the roadway will be striped and traffic will be normalized through winter.

To accommodate construction on the northbound side, all traffic is using the southbound bridges where there is a single, 12-foot lane of traffic in each direction and speed reduced to 65 mph.
**Pavement Resurfacing (MM 133.2-167.8) and Admire Interchange (MM 147)**  
*Scheduled completion: late October 2018, weather permitting*  
Project Manager: Rich Olson, P.E., Nathan Anstey, Engineering Tech

A project to mill and inlay the driving lanes and sealing the shoulders of I-335/KTA from mile marker 133.2 and 167.8 I-335/KTA began May 21, 2018. Resurfacing the Admire Interchange at mile marker 147 is also included in the project.

Construction is nearing completion. The contractor is in the process of sealing the shoulders. Once complete, new pavement markings will be painted to complete the project.

Drivers can expect single lane closures with a 12-foot width restriction and speed reduced to 65 mph in the work zone. Motorists are encouraged to follow directions on posted signs and to use caution.

**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 bridge at mile marker 144.75 (Lyon County Road 320) has been lifted and the contractor is finishing up pier protection and guardrail for this bridge and the bridge located at mile marker 148.59 (Road V6, Lyon County.) At the end of October, construction is scheduled to begin at the 11th and final bridge of this project, located at mile marker 150.57 (Lyon County Road 370). Travelers can expect single lane traffic in both directions with a 12-foot width restriction at these locations.

Other bridges included in the project that have been completed include those at mile markers 164.10 (S Hoch Road, Osage County), 154.32 (County Road 400, Lyon/Wabaunsee County line), 158.96 (W. 149th Street, Osage County), 137.04 (Road 260, Lyon County), 142 (Road S, Lyon County), 138.25 (Road 270, Lyon County), 143.46 (County Road 310, Lyon County), 151.69 (Road X, Lyon County.)

**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.

Concrete has been placed for the SW 85th Street bridge deck and rails. Guardrail and pier protection construction is complete along southbound I-335/KTA and is nearly complete on the northbound side. In the coming weeks, the contractor will be grading and paving the approach to/from the SW 85th Street bridge followed by guardrail installation along SW 85th Street, removing the form work of the bridge and placing rock slope protection.

Travelers should expect construction activity in the median and adjacent to the Turnpike (near mile marker 169) 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.

Construction is nearly completion 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 of the westbound bridge, including extending the westbound deceleration lane for the South Topeka interchange (exit 177), occurred.

Work on the westbound lanes of the project is complete. The contractor is working on the eastbound side, milling and placing asphalt on the bridge ends and repairing some bridge rail and a portion of the deck.

Drivers can expect eastbound right lanes throughout the work zone with a 12-foot width restriction and speed reduced to 65 mph to allow for final construction activities.

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 is nearing completion. The old toll booths located in the eastbound lanes are being removed and the contractor will soon finish laying some asphalt on this side. Asphalt on the westbound lanes is in the process of being laid. Once complete, pavement markings and overhead sign trusses will be placed in preparation of toll plaza opening in early November. Opening details will be shared closer to that time.

Drivers can expect lane reductions and reduced speed through the work zone to accommodate the final stages of construction and are urged to drive alert, avoid distractions and follow posted signs.

Truck Parking and Information Management System
*Scheduled completion: first quarter 2019, weather permitting*
Project Manager: Rex Fleming, P.E.

This project will utilize technology to provide notice of available truck parking at each of KTA’s six service areas and provide alerts of a driver leaving the service area going the wrong way.

Equipment, such as camera poles, have arrived and crews are in the process of installation at the service areas. Additional equipment is still in the process of being fabricated.

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.