



September 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.

Bridge substructure including foundation piling and columns for the northbound bridge are complete. The contractor will be finishing up falsework and preparing to place the concrete deck in late September/early October. While the deck cures, the contractor will be doing abutment work to tie in the bridge ends, followed by bridge rail construction in October.

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.

Box culvert work on [the outside](#) of the roadway is complete and the contractor is back filling in preparation of moving traffic to the right lanes in late September or early October. Once traffic is using the outside lanes, construction of the center portion of the additional drainage box will begin.

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, allowing electronic customers to move through the toll plaza at highway speeds. Travelers preferring 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).

Construction began by closing the 30th Street South Bridge to accommodate its reconstruction. The contractor will also begin drainage improvements and work to extend utilities to the new cash lanes.

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 began August 6, and will be completed in mid-October, weather permitting. This routine maintenance project helps preserve and lengthen the life of the bridges. The bridges are located between mile markers 20 and 60 on I-35/KTA, approximately between the Wellington toll plaza and the Towanda Service Area.

Bridges located at mile markers 20.172 (E. 20th Ave. N.), 26.492 (E. 80th Ave. N.), 28.507 (E. 100th Ave. N.), 29.524 (E. 110th Ave. N.), and 35.405 (E. 103rd St. S.); are complete. The contractor will continue moving north in the coming month working on bridges at 38.414 (E. 79th St. S.); 59.247 (SW Tumbleweed Road); and 59.997 (57th Terrace).

Drivers can expect single lane closures and reduced speeds of 65 mph throughout the project. They are encouraged to follow directions on posted signs and to use caution within the work zone.

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.

In late August, work on the northbound ramp extensions were completed and the roadway was opened to full traffic. The contractor has been focused on southbound construction. Dirt work, pier protection and new guard rail is complete. The week of September 17-21, asphalt will be placed on the southbound ramp extensions. Once the asphalt is completed, remaining items include: lighting, sign structure installation, grading, permanent seeding and new pavement markings.

Drivers can expect single lane closures between mile markers 41 and 43. Speeds are reduced to 65 mph in the construction zone.

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.

KTA-related construction includes the contractor paving adjacent to southbound I-35/KTA near mile marker 52. There is also a focused effort to complete the new eastbound Kellogg bridge over the KTA. Since the eastbound Kellogg bridge is nearing completion, work will shift to the new south frontage road bridge which also crosses over KTA. Visit www.E54ict.com to read about project construction not related to KTA travel.

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. The project includes 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 are also included in the project.

In the past month, the contractor has completed resurfacing the northbound lanes and the southbound left lane of I-35/KTA between mile markers 96.3 and 112.3. Work is in progress to resurface the southbound right lane of the project. Crews are also working to seal the shoulders and place shoulder rock wedge along the outside shoulder. This work is anticipated to be complete in early October at which time the roadway will be re-stripped.

Drivers can expect single lane closures and reduced speeds of 65 mph throughout the project. They are encouraged to follow directions on posted signs and to use caution within the work zone.

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.

The new bridge deck for the Allan Creek Bridge (mile marker 130.360) has been formed and the contractor is preparing to place the deck's concrete in the later part of August. Installation of new bridge joints for the Neosho River Bridge (mile marker 129.18) continues. The overlay on the Troublesome Creek Bridge (mile marker 129.96) was completed in late July. Rehabilitation of the guardrail of the Prairie Street bridge is also complete.

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.

The contractor has completed placing asphalt for this project, and rock wedge on the outside shoulder has been installed. In the coming weeks, the shoulders will be sealed and 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 contractor is finishing up pier protection and guardrail for the bridge at mile marker 151.69 (Road X, Lyon County.) The bridge at mile marker 148.59 (Road V6, Lyon County) has been lifted and the contractor is working on pier protection and guardrail. Construction at mile marker 144.75 (Lyon County Road 320) started earlier this month. In mid-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).

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 completed the deck framing and placed the concrete for SW 85th Street bridge deck (mile marker 169.627) on September 18. While the deck is curing, pier protection and guardrail will be completed on the southbound lanes of I-335/KTA under the bridge followed by pier protection and guardrail construction on the northbound lanes of I-335/KTA under the bridge. In early to mid-October, the contractor will begin bridge rail construction and dirt work on the bridge approach.

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.

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 is nearing completion. In 2018, construction is taking place on the westbound bridge and include extending the westbound deceleration lane for the South Topeka interchange (exit 177).

Construction of the bridge deck and rails were completed earlier this month. The contractor is working on, and plans to finish, the bridge ends by early October. Permanent barrier wall and asphalt at the crossovers will be placed in mid-October followed by pavement markings.

Drivers can expect left lane closures 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 of the new entry toll booths continues and are scheduled to be complete soon. The last week of September, the contractor will fix a bump in the existing concrete pavement on I-70/KTA east of the toll plaza and traffic will be reduced to a single westbound lane for approximately one day for each lane. Beginning the first week of October, asphalt will be placed on the westbound lanes in preparation of the toll plaza opening later in the month. 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: late November 2018, 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.

Technology testing at the Towanda Service Area is complete and the process for acquiring the infrastructure and equipment has begun. Maintenance crews are installing pole and sign footings at the other five service areas. Camera poles for the service areas and laser vehicle classification, truck counting and wrong-way vehicle detection equipment is 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.