September 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. Photos of the construction projects can be found on Flickr [here](https://www.flickr.com/).

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](https://www.kta.org/).

I encourage travelers to drive with caution in work zones and to check for traffic impacts at [KanDrive](https://www.kanlive.com/), 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](https://www.kta.org/).

~ 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.

In late April, a contract was awarded to King Construction Company, Inc., for construction of northbound and southbound mainline bridges located at mile marker 0.600 I-35/KTA, near the Oklahoma border, and removal of the existing drainage structure.

While the bridges will be constructed in 2018, the contractor is constructing cross-over lanes that will be used next year when work on the bridges begin. Travelers should expect single lane closures until construction of the cross-over lanes are completed in early October.

**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, 2016. Work on the tenth bridge was completed in July. However, one additional bridge at mile marker 26.4 (80th Avenue N, Sumner County), was identified for this project. Work on this bridge began September 11 and is anticipated to be complete by the end of October. Travelers can expect single lane traffic in both directions on the KTA with a 14-foot width restriction.
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.

Concrete is in the process of being placed for the northbound bridge deck. Once complete, the contractor will be finishing up work under the bridge and setting expansion joints at the bridge ends.

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.

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:
- The East Kellogg toll plaza remains open, however access to it is from the newly opened 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, will be directed to the K-96 toll plaza. Westbound Kellogg traffic will continue 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:
- 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.

Pavement resurfacing (MM 50-71) & ramp improvements (MM 71)
Scheduled completion: early October, 2017
Project Manager: Glen Scott, P.E., Mark Roberts, Engineering Tech

A project to improve ramps at the El Dorado south interchange (mile marker 71 I-35/KTA) and for pavement resurfacing between El Dorado and east Wichita (mile marker 50.8 to 71.3 I-35/KTA) began Monday, June 26 and is scheduled to finish in late September, weather permitting.

(continued on next page)
Pavement resurfacing & ramp improvements - CONTINUED
Scheduled completion: early October, 2017
Project Manager: Glen Scott, P.E., Mark Roberts, Engineering Tech

This project is nearly complete: ramps to/from the El Dorado South interchange have been lengthened, improvements made to guardrail and resurfacing between the El Dorado South Interchange and the East Kellogg plaza are finished. Final work includes placing permanent pavement markings and milling-in rumble strips on the shoulders.

Travelers can expect intermittent lane closures and reduced speeds throughout the project. The El Dorado south plaza remains open.

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

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 and crews will begin installation of new reinforced box culverts on the northbound side on Monday, July 24.

In the past month, the contractor has completed installation of the new box. Crews are now building pier protection. Once complete, toward the end of September, traffic will be normalized at this location.

All traffic between mile marker 100.9 and 102.1 will use the southbound side of the roadway, where there will be 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 105.3 & MM 105.5)
Scheduled completion: late November 2017, weather permitting
Project Manager: Rich Olson, P.E., Nathan Anstey, Engineering Tech

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.

New pre-cast reinforced box culverts have been set and the crew is working on the cast-in-place portions of the box. Once the box work is complete, the contractor will backfill around the box and remove the temporary shoring. Resurfacing the roadway is anticipated toward the end of October after which, the project will be complete.

All traffic is using the southbound 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.

Bridge Raising/Elevation Project – (MM 137-165)
Scheduled completion: late November 2017, 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 will begin July 24, 2017. Each bridge location will take approximately two months to complete. Each bridge will be lifted to provide at least 15'-9" of clearance.

The bridge located at mile marker 137.040 I-335/KTA (Road 260, Lyon County) has been lifted and the contractor is doing dirt work. In early October, work will begin on the bridge located at mile marker 142 I-335/KTA (Road S, Lyon County) and continue into November. Travelers can expect single lane traffic in both directions with a 14-foot width restriction.
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 newly constructed southbound bridge over Dragoon Creek opened in late August. All traffic is using the southbound side while the contractor removes the last bridge crossing the abandoned railroad track and lays new asphalt. This work will be completed in late September. Construction will then shift to the median where the contractor will resurface the roadway used to carry crossover traffic during the project. This work, and the project itself, is expected to be complete in mid- to late-October.

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

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. The old bridge deck has been removed and the contractor is constructing falsework. Due to the length of the bridge, the concrete deck will be placed in two pours: one in late September and another in October.

The realigned eastbound I-470/KTA exit ramp has been built and drainage improvements in the area are complete. Asphalt will be placed upon this new ramp in late September. Shortly afterwards, traffic will begin using the new ramp and the old ramp is removed.

At the toll plaza, construction is complete in lane 2 (cash entry) and lane 3 (cash exit.) Installation of the toll plaza canopy will begin the week of September 18. Once completed in early- to mid-October, work at the toll plaza will be complete.

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, 1-2 exit lanes will be closed however, at least two exit lanes (one cash and one electronic) will remain open. Travelers are encouraged to stay alert, follow directions on posted signs and to use caution within the work zone.

Eastern Terminal Reconstruction (MM 217)

*Scheduled completion: late March 2018, weather permitting*

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

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](#). This mainline work will be complete late November 2017, weather permitting.

*(continued on next page)*
Eastern Terminal Reconstruction (MM 217) - CONTINUED

*Scheduled completion: late March 2018, weather permitting*

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

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.

Reconstruction of the 188th Street Bridge is complete. Sub-structure work is complete on the 182nd Street Bridge and new girders will be set between September 20-26, weather permitting, followed by constructing bridge falsework in early October.

At the toll plaza, the new westbound cash lanes and one of the two westbound high-speed lanes opened to travelers on August 23. (View new traffic movement graphic [here.](#))

Cash travelers should use the right lane to the toll booth for an entry ticket, while electronic travelers should travel in the left lane through the tolling area. If a cash customers gets in the electronic lanes by mistake, they SHOULD NOT STOP, but continue on letting the toll attendant know (or pushing call button) upon exit.

Work continues to convert the remaining westbound cash lanes to high-speed lanes. (When complete, there will be two high-speed lanes for both west and eastbound traffic.) Overhead electronic trusses are being installed and concrete will be poured for the remaining open road tolling lanes. The contractor is also finishing storm sewer work and soon will begin median work necessary for the median barrier.

Drivers can expect lane shifts and possible lane reductions near Eastern Terminal (mile marker 217, I-70/KTA) and are encouraged to stay alert, follow directions on posted signs and to use caution within the work zone. See illustration of project area [here.](#)

**A Look Ahead**

Some other projects KTA will receive bids on in 2017 include:

- Open road tolling at East Topeka Interchange (MM 183)
- Ninnescah River Bridge scour protection (MM 27)

**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.