



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 17, 2020

**KTA maintains financial strength and customer approval  
as it prepares to open first cashless exit**

WICHITA, Kan.— Despite challenges related to the ongoing pandemic, the Kansas Turnpike Authority has maintained its solid financial position, customer feedback remains positive and operational plans are moving forward as scheduled.

“This year has been extremely challenging yet still productive.” said Steve Hewitt, KTA’s CEO. “We remained committed to projects that, in addition to improving the Turnpike system, inject much-needed investment into the economy.”

KTA’s most recent [annual report for fiscal year 2020](#) reveals the agency met its financial goals. Net position increased by \$28.8M and long-term debt decreased by \$10.7M. KTA also maintained the highest bond rating possible for a toll authority – Aa2 with a Stable Outlook – from Moody’s Investors Service.

Results from KTA’s [annual customer satisfaction survey](#) show 78% of customers are very or completely satisfied with the value they receive for the tolls paid. The survey also affirms KTA’s direction to modernize its system, with the majority of travelers supporting increased compatibility with other tolling systems, removal of toll booths and expansion to accommodate additional traffic.

At the start of 2020, KTA announced plans to convert to a cashless system. Conversion efforts continued during the pandemic and will be evident when KTA’s first cashless exit opens in East Wichita in the coming weeks. The new exit ramp will allow southbound I-35/KTA drivers to move seamlessly onto westbound Kellogg without stopping. Those with a K-TAG, or other compatible transponder, will be charged the lowest toll rate as normal. Customers usually paying at a toll booth will be able to go online to pay their toll. [Learn how toll collection at this exit will work.](#)

“We’re looking forward to opening the state’s first cashless exit in the new year,” Hewitt said. “It will provide a seamless travel experience and lay the groundwork for KTA becoming a cashless system.”

###

**About KTA:**

For nearly 65 years, the Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) maintains 236 miles of user-fee supported roadway from the Oklahoma border to Kansas City. KTA doesn’t receive state or federal tax funds. Instead, toll revenue pays for preservation and modernization of the Turnpike system. [KTA’s Strategic Plan](#) supports organizational goals with four strategic initiatives. KTA’s mission is to move Kansas forward by operating a safe, reliable and customer-valued turnpike system in a fiscally responsible, businesslike manner.

For more information, contact:  
Rachel Bell | Director of Business Services & Customer Relations  
316.652.2673 | [rbell@ksturnpike.com](mailto:rbell@ksturnpike.com)