

Kansas Department of Transportation news release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **KDOT Traveler information map to be tested again for winter**

While the weather forecast for Wednesday is cool and sunny, the 511 Traveler Information map ([511.ksdot.org](http://511.ksdot.org)) may look like a blizzard is covering the state.

The 511 map will undergo a live simulation test from approximately 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 9, weather permitting, to test its ability to handle a large number of information requests when the entire state highway system has snow and ice conditions. Since an actual winter storm is occurring today in northwestern Kansas, the test will be postponed to Thursday (Nov. 10) if the storm conditions have not cleared by Wednesday. KDOT does not want to confuse the traveling public with test winter conditions and real existing conditions.

During the test, travelers will still be able to see real construction/incident information; however, this information may not display as the stress point of information is approached. Users may turn off the snow and ice condition colors by un-checking "Roadway Weather Conditions" in the legend on the left side of the map. The real highway information will be available in the "Driving Conditions List" link at the top of the map and will be listed separately from the simulated snow and ice conditions.

While testing, the weather information won't be updated on the 511 phone system. The last reported conditions prior to the test period will be reported throughout the test period. Travelers who call the 511 system will be informed of the test and reporting of road conditions during the test by an introductory message. Current road work activities and incidents will be reported on 511 as these reports won't be affected by the test. Travelers can access the 511 phone system by calling 5-1-1 from anywhere in Kansas or 1-866-KDOT (5368) from anywhere in the U.S.

KDOT apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause; however, the testing is necessary to test new enhancements to the site and for reliable service during winter inclement weather.

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