



Bureau of Transportation Information
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NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Winter travelers will benefit from KDOT's improved travel information

When travelers take to the road this winter in Kansas, they will have the benefit of new and improved traveler information resources to assist them in safely reaching their destinations.

New Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) devices across Kansas

Twenty-five new cameras have been installed on several routes in Kansas and are expected to be operational by early 2009. Cameras have been installed along I-70 between Goodland and Topeka; I-135 near Salina; and on US-75 in North Topeka. These are in addition to the existing eight camera views that are updated every 15 minutes and shown on the 511 Web site.

A series of six new snow gates on I-70 at Russell, Hays, WaKeeney, Oakley, Colby and Goodland have also been installed. Resembling railroad crossing gates, the new gates will support KDOT's efforts to control traffic access to westbound I-70 in western Kansas, and will be used to close I-70 to westbound travelers when conditions dictate.

In early 2009, travelers on I-70 will be informed of road conditions and road closings by 15 new Dynamic Message Signs (DMS), extending from Topeka to Goodland. There are also 10 additional new DMSs in the north central region of Kansas, including six on I-70 between Ellsworth and Junction City; two on northbound I-135, located at interchanges south of Salina; and two on southbound US-81 north of Salina.

In late August, an expansion project for Kansas City Scout was completed on a four-mile stretch of I-635 that serves as a link between I-35 and I-70 over the Kansas River. Besides roadway sensors, 12 cameras and two DMSs were added and signaled Scout's expansion into

Wyandotte County, the northwest component on the Kansas side of the Kansas City metro. An additional nine cameras were also installed in outlying areas of the KC Scout system this summer. For more information, visit the Web site at www.kcscout.org.

511 Web site Enhancements

The 511 Web site (<http://511.ksdot.org>) has been enhanced:

- ◆ ***New map*** - Microsoft Virtual Earth is now used as the background road map. KDOT adds its road conditions and construction information on top of Microsoft's map. The Virtual Earth map provides two views: 1) a *road view* (default view) that shows all highways and even county roads and city streets as users zoom in on the map, and 2) an *aerial view*, with or without labels, for roads and cities is provided; however, it does not provide a live, real-time image.
- ◆ ***Improved navigation features*** - The State view is the default setting for the map view, but users can select map views by Region, Metro Area, County, City or Route. Also, map navigation tools (zoom tools) are now more precise and easier to use.
- ◆ ***Multiple browsers*** - As of Oct. 1, 2008, the Web site map can be viewed on the following most commonly used browsers: Internet Explorer, Versions 6.0 and 7.0; Firefox, Version 3.0; and Safari, Version 3.1.
- ◆ ***New camera and DMS views*** – In early 2009, views of traffic and road conditions from the new cameras and DMS will be available to the public by selecting the camera icon at the top of the Web site. This will take them to a map that shows locations for cameras and signs and when selected, users can view the cameras or signs.

Kansas 511 phone system enhancements

The Kansas 511 Phone System, which received its two millionth call on Nov. 11, 2008, has also been enhanced over the past year, including:

- ◆ ***Direction of travel*** – Callers may now hear reports given in their direction of travel
- ◆ ***Landmark descriptions*** – New landmark descriptions should make route descriptions easier for callers to understand or locate on a map.
- ◆ ***Expanded menu*** – Callers now select “7” for information for Nebraska or other neighboring states. Motor carrier information has also been added by selecting “4.”
- ◆ ***AMBER Alerts automated*** to provide more real-time information when they occur.

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This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request.
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700 SW Harrison St., 2nd Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice) (TTY).