

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Preparation a key step in Thanksgiving travel

KanDrive, K-TAG and keep safety in mind

Preparing before the trip begins and keeping safety in mind while traveling are important steps to help everyone have a good start to Thanksgiving and other holiday gatherings, according to the Kansas Department of Transportation, the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Kansas Turnpike Authority.

Check KDOT's traveler information website, www.KanDrive.org, before hitting the road to have up-to-date road condition information when traveling throughout the state. Impacts to traffic are updated 24/7 including maintenance and construction activities, winter highway conditions, incidents and crashes affecting traffic and closed highways.

“The KanDrive website is a great resource when traveling Kansas highways – helping you stay informed about road conditions and construction projects going on across the state,” said Secretary Julie Lorenz. “Be informed so you can choose the best route to safely get you where you need to go.”

In addition to having a commercial vehicle mode and accessing WICHway and KC Scout directly, users now have a table view to search exactly what they're looking for and a satellite mode on the KanDrive map.

For those planning to travel on the turnpikes in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, having a K-TAG provides motorists with the lowest tolls and works in all three states.

“Your holiday travels will be the most affordable on the Kansas Turnpike with a K-TAG,” said Bruce Meisch, KTA's Director of Technology. “With our recent announcement of a toll adjustment coming in February, a K-TAG is more important than ever since you'll save

a significant amount off the cash rate. Because it works in Oklahoma and Texas, your regional travel will be even easier.”

Thanksgiving Day is one of the busiest travel days, so drivers need to keep their focus on the road and make sure all passengers are focused on safety. Ditch the distractions, don't drive impaired, buckle up and have children secured in appropriately fitted safety seats. The Kansas Highway Patrol encourages all motorists to make safety their top priority.

“As friends and families gather across our state, KHP will be there to keep you safe. There will be extra patrols throughout the holiday weekend. Please do your part to ensure everyone makes it to their destinations safely,” said KHP Lt. Candice Breshears. “Always celebrate responsibly and have a plan in place for a designated driver or utilize a rideshare service. And always, buckle up and put the distractions away so you can focus on driving safely.”

KDOT, KHP and KTA also remind motorists to check in advance the vehicle's condition (tire tread/pressure, fluid levels, etc.) and have a basic winter travel kit handy in case of emergency. Some of the items included should be blankets, bottled water, non-perishable food, cell phone charger, ice scraper, jumper cables, flashlight/batteries and a first-aid kit.

Travelers who need assistance on the highway can dial *47 for the KHP or *582 while on the KTA. If it's an emergency, call 911.

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