

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**07-047**

February 9, 2007

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### **Kansas 511: Record Usage during Recent Winter Storms**

The Kansas 511 Advanced Traveler Information System, provided by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), has received more than 362,000 calls since November 29, 2006, when the first major winter storm hit in Kansas.

Kansas 511 broke daily and storm event call volume records during the historic storm that raged in western Kansas over New Year's when travelers made almost 65,000 calls to 511 on December 31. Almost 133,000 calls came in during the storm, December 29-January 2, 2007. One of the calls received on December 31 marked the millionth call to 511 since it began three years ago in January 2004.

During the first winter storm in late November, 511 received about 38,000 calls. The storm in western Kansas a few days before Christmas generated more than 52,000 calls, and almost 160,000 calls were received in January 2007 during several winter storms across Kansas.

"I am pleased that more travelers are using 511 because our goal is to help them be safe and informed," said Deb Miller, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Transportation. "511 is a valuable year-round resource for travelers and will only grow in importance as the number of vehicles on our roads continues to increase."

By calling 5-1-1 from anywhere in Kansas or 1-866-511-KDOT (5368) from anywhere in the U.S., travelers can hear up-to-date route-specific road conditions, construction detours, and travel weather information for any Interstate, US and Kansas state highways, including Kansas

Turnpike routes. Information is provided at all times and is free from a landline phone. For cellular phone users, cell minutes may apply, but no roaming fee should apply.

For everyone's safety, KDOT urges callers to call 511 before they travel. If motorists need updates as they travel, they should either find a safe place to pull over or call while they are stopped for a rest.

Travelers may also get road condition information by visiting the KDOT Web site at <http://511.ksdot.org> or through KDOT's main Web site, [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org), under "Road Conditions." State and regional maps are available with color-coded road conditions for each route. Text reports are also available. User tips and other information for the 511 phone system are also provided on the site. The Web site has received more than 650,000 visits since November 2006.

The Kansas 511 system is part of a nationwide effort to provide timely and accurate travel information throughout the United States. In July 2000, the Federal Communications Commission established 511 as the national phone number for travel and traffic information. There are currently 31 "511" systems across the country active in 28 states. The goal is that eventually travelers will be able to call 511 anywhere in the United States to obtain local and/or regional travel information.

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This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information, 700 SW Harrison St., Second Floor West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice) (TTY).

