

## NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## KDOT Travel Information Services improved for winter

A new service has been initiated by the Kansas Department of Transportation to help travelers get road conditions quickly and easily.

511 Mobile becomes part of KDOT's Traveler Information network, which includes phone and Internet access to the latest weather and road conditions for Kansas highways.

Highlights of each service and its changes include:

### 511 Mobile – <http://511mm.ksdot.org>

A new service that provides the following information on a Blackberry or other handheld, mobile device, such as a Smart phone:

- ◆ A list of Closed Roads and Driving Conditions on Kansas highways
- ◆ Currently, does not include maps or graphic information

KDOT reminds you not to use this service while driving.

### 511 Web site – <http://511.ksdot.org>

The site provides a map that shows road condition and construction/detour information for Kansas highways as well as links to other travel information, including the official Kansas State map and weather. This site can now also be accessed directly from KDOT's Internet home page at <http://www.ksdot.org> by clicking on the Closed Roads and Driving Conditions (orange) box.

Web site upgrades include:

- ◆ New page layout
- ◆ Larger, more detailed map that is easier to read and use
- ◆ Closed Roads List
- ◆ Revised Driving Conditions List
- ◆ Link to a new 511 Travel and Traffic Information Page that takes users to a page to select more travel and traffic information, including regional and national information

**Kansas 511 Phone system** - Call **511** from anywhere in Kansas or **1-866-511-KDOT (5368)** from anywhere in the U.S.

Kansas 511 is a free service (cell minutes may apply) that provides route-specific road conditions, road work information, emergency closures, and travel weather information for Interstate, U.S. and Kansas state highways, as well as Kansas Turnpike routes. Kansas 511 also provides similar information for Nebraska and phone numbers for callers to access road weather information in Colorado, Missouri and Oklahoma. With updates every 15 minutes, Kansas 511 can also be a resource to help keep you informed about changing weather conditions. The service is available at all times by using any phone.

Now, the phone number for obtaining Motor Carrier information is provided. Soon, all reports will use landmark references (cities, junctions, etc) instead of mile marker references for easier understanding of referenced locations.

If you are traveling for the holidays, KDOT encourages you to use these services to plan your trips or to get en route updates; but for everyone's safety, reminds you not to use them while driving.

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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., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice) (TTY).