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## **Dennis Graves Retires from KDOT after 16 Years of Service**

After 16 years of service with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), Dennis “Denny” Graves’ retirement officially begins on September 1st. Denny originally began his career at KDOT in 1980 as an equipment operator in Scott City, transitioning to Dighton, Kansas, and then sought other pursuits in 1985 before returning to KDOT in 2005 in Great Bend, Kansas. He maintained both state and federal highways, mowed right of way property, removed snow during wintery seasons, and served as a dispatcher.

Service and community involvement has defined Denny throughout his life. He helped deliver the safe and dependable highways residents have come to expect, but his KDOT tenure joins a long list of accomplishments including: earning his associates degree in criminal justice, serving 19 years as a law enforcement officer, over 20 years as a firefighter, and 11 years as an EMT. His most memorable experiences with KDOT include being part of the Greensburg Tornado Crew in 2007 that helped clear the destruction following the natural disaster and working at the Kansas State Fair KDOT booth interacting with the public. To this day he serves as a St. John volunteer firefighter and a part-time 911 dispatcher for the Stafford County Sheriff's Department.

During retirement, Denny plans to enjoy the rest of his life traveling and spending quality time with his wife, Barbara, and two sons, Darrell and Davin who are both EMT/firefighters themselves.

Persons with questions about KDOT can call South Central Kansas Public Affairs Manager, Zach Oswald, at 620-663-3361 or 1-877-550-5368 (Toll free).

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