2010 Employee Day – Main Message Video Script

Secretary Miller:
Hello KDOT. Not only is it Cinco de Mayo, but it’s also State Employee Recognition Day. It seemed like a good opportunity for Jerry and I to let you know how much we appreciate the work that you do and also to recognize how well we think you’ve handled the stresses and strains of the budget cuts we’ve been under. Let’s face it, it’s been a tough year, it’s been a tough year for all of us. We’ve had over $257 million dollars cut from our 2010 budget, we know 2011 is going to be tough, we haven’t had pay increases and certainly we’re not looking towards any pay increases, I don’t think, for 2011 and still the possibility of the threat of furloughs perhaps or pay cuts, we don’t know for sure. We’re hoping not, but as I hear stories all across America about what’s happening in other states and what’s happening in businesses, the one thing I think we can say is at least we have a job. Now you know, I know sometimes the cynical of you might say, “Oh yeah right,” but really when I look around I know I’m appreciative of the fact that I have a job and I have a job with good benefits.

Jerry Younger:
You know when I came out of school, I was probably like a lot of engineers that came to work for KDOT thinking, you know, well I’ll give this KDOT thing a few years and then kind of see what transpires, but like a lot of engineers we have in our agency, I came to KDOT and liked the work I did, like the people I was working with had plenty of challenges along the way that always kept my interest and 24 years later here I am still at KDOT and proud to be here and proud of all the service public service type of things that not only I did, but KDOT did too.

Secretary Miller:
I’ve always very much appreciated working for the public. I say a lot that it’s nice to have a clear conscious about where the monies coming from that’s paying my salary. I look at some people who lobby for different interest and I think “Huh, I just couldn’t feel comfortable with that, but I feel very good working for the people of the state of Kansas. I think it’s easy to make jokes about public servants just like it’s easy to make jokes about legislators, but in fact we make such a difference in the world that we all live in and our entire government structure is set up around the idea that we’re going to have people that serve the public and I like it. I like thinking that I’m working not just for the state of Kansas, but for the people of the state of Kansas and that’s the way I look at it. I think, really this is a state if you look at our history, that’s been very progressive. We set-up universities, which are public. We have a strong commitment to public education which you can see in the Kansas constitution, because, you know, if we’re not educating ourselves and our children, we don’t have much hope for our state. This is a
state, which quite frankly, matters to me, perhaps not to all of you, that’s been very forward thinking in terms of women’s rights. So I can feel really good about working for a state like this. I think if you’re looking at public policy issues that have an impact on the world in which we live, you don’t have to look much farther than the impact transportation has had on America whether we’re talking about the interstate highway system and what it did, or the last two transportation programs and what they’ve done for the state of Kansas. It certainly goes beyond moving people from here to there. It undergirds our economy and really makes a difference in the way people live their lives. I think we have a lot to be proud of.

Jerry Younger:
Well, much like the Secretary, I’d like to thank everybody for all you’ve done over the past year. It’s certainly been a tough year, as the Secretary said, but we have accomplished a lot with much less than what we’ve become use to over the past ten years. As we move onward, you know good times will come back to KDOT and we’ll be able to enjoy them when they do come back. Until then we’ll continue to manage as we’re managing right now. Continue to be frugal and diligent in budget items, but still enjoy what we’re doing. I think we still all do. You know, have a lot of pride or take a lot of pride in what we do for the citizens of Kansas. A lot of it is taken for granted, a lot of it is unappreciated, but believe me those of us in the business, those of us in this agency know how important it is, so thank you all.