

APPENDIX A

(Policies, Programs, Personnel,
Achievements)



Policies, Programs, Personnel, Achievements

Road safety requires the skills of engineers, public relations specialists, trainers, law enforcement officers and emergency medical personnel, among others. Many strategies for making travel safer were identified in the first State Highway Safety Plan, by the Driving Force Task Force and in other initiatives. Some of the results are described below.

❖ Engineering:

- Since 1998 the 10,000 miles of road in the state highway system have been reviewed or studied, county by county, either by a traffic engineer or by an engineering associate supervised by an engineer from the Kansas Department of Transportation Traffic Engineering Section.
- Kansas is a national leader in the promotion and use of roundabouts.
- In 2005 KDOT increased the width of the white edgeline on all state highways from 4 inches to 6 inches.
- In 2007 KDOT implemented a new centerline rumble strip policy. Since then, more than 300 miles of rumble strip have been installed.
- In 2009 KDOT developed a policy on the use of cable median barriers, which may prevent vehicles from crossing narrow grass medians and colliding with other vehicles.
- KDOT continues to manage a longstanding program related to the intersection of highways and railroad lines. It oversees about 50 projects a year. Most involve replacing static signs with gates and signals where road and rail intersect. This program and another, Operation Lifesaver, have reduced fatalities in the past decade.

❖ Education:

- KDOT has sponsored Bucks for Buckles since 2005. This statewide seat belt awareness campaign has been directly credited for saving a life.
- KDOT aggressively promoted motorcycle awareness after cyclist fatalities in 2006 doubled from the average of previous years.
- KDOT has provided a three-year grant to fund the Buckle Up program. It provides child safety seats, training and other support to enhance child passenger safety.
- The Kansas Operation Lifesaver program was fourth in the nation in the number of presentations and events held in 2009. It reached more than 97,000 Kansans.
- In 2009 the Crawford County sheriff and KDOT initiated Seatbelts Are for Everyone, or SAFE, a program to promote seatbelt use among high school students. The program, launched in one county and six schools, now reaches at least 25 counties and 60 schools. Partnering with KDOT to provide funding for SAFE are the six Kansas trauma councils, AAA of Kansas/Missouri and State Farm Insurance, as well as numerous local organizations and businesses.
- The KDOT Traffic Safety Section utilizes federal funds to promote safety programs in Kansas and to raise public awareness about safety issues on Kansas roadways. These campaigns include safety messages related to seat belt and child safety seat use; impaired and distracted driving; motorcycle, pedestrian and bicycle safety; and other road safety issues.

- The Traffic Assistance Services for Kansas program trains public employees charged with traffic safety responsibilities. More than 100 local officials are trained each year.
- The Kansas Rural Transit Assistance Program, or RTAP, provides defensive driving/emergency procedures training to about 600 transit agency employees annually. The RTAP newsletter reaches a thousand Kansans with roadway safety information.
- The Kansas Highway Patrol, or KHP, and the Kansas Motor Carriers Association, or KMCA, are promoting Teens and Trucks, a program aimed at teaching new drivers about the dangers of driving in the vicinity of large commercial motor vehicles and how to minimize accident risks.
- KHP has visited 669 motor carriers new to the interstate motor carrier industry. During the visits, carriers learn about industry safety requirements.

❖ **Enforcement:**

- Operation Impact was launched in the Kansas City area in 1990, in Wichita in 2010. In these efforts, coalitions of law enforcement agencies execute selective enforcement campaigns.
- More than 60 law enforcement agencies are now utilizing the Kansas Law Enforcement Reporting Tool developed by the KHP to complete and electronically submit crash reports to KDOT.
- KDOT sponsored an Occupant Protection Safety Assessment in December 2003. An expert panel felt that upgrading the seat belt law, adding law enforcement partners and increasing the number of child passenger safety technicians in Kansas were keys to occupant protection. Since then, Kansas has made strides in these areas, including passage of a primary seat belt law in 2010.
- KHP executes Roving Aggressive Violation Enforcement, or RAVE, saturation patrols on high priority corridors statewide. RAVE targets impaired drivers, seat-belt use, child passenger safety, speeding and other traffic infractions.
- The Kansas Impaired Driving Assessment conference, from July 10 to 14, 2006, had several results. Drivers with blood alcohol levels of 0.15 or greater now face heavier penalties and a DUI advisory board, which meets quarterly, was created. Although the conference did not give rise directly to this decision, the state also hired a traffic safety resource prosecutor to conduct training statewide and to provide prosecutors with information to assist them in cases involving driving under the influence of alcohol.
- KHP, with the support of KMCA and funding from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, or FMCSA, has implemented the Trucks on Patrol for Safety program. It aims to reduce commercial vehicle crashes caused by unsafe driving by others in proximity to those vehicles.
- KHP and FMCSA implemented Compliance, Safety, and Accountability 2010, a data driven system to identify motor carriers for a safety review. These agencies visited 92 carriers in federal fiscal year 2010 to check their management processes and procedures for compliance with safety requirements.
- KHP conducted 52,458 commercial vehicle and bus safety inspections in federal fiscal year 2010. These inspections are designed to remove unsafe vehicles from highways and collect data on carrier safety.

❖ **Emergency Medical Services:**

- Kansas was one of three states chosen by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to participate in a trauma and emergency medical services data evaluation project.
- Driving Force recommended support for trauma centers in each of six state regions. In 2010, Kansas had seven designated trauma centers and three hospitals working toward trauma center verification. As of this writing, hospitals have been verified as trauma centers, or are working toward verification, in all but one region (southwestern Kansas).
- Regional trauma councils promote motor vehicle safety in each of the trauma regions.
- The Kansas Emergency Nurses Association provides various injury prevention activities in each of its emergency departments. The national Emergency Nurses Association ranks Kansas 17th, along with 11 other states, in its report “2010 ENA National Scorecard on State Roadway Laws: A Blueprint for Injury Prevention.”
- Stormont-Vail Health Care Trauma Services continues to conduct presentations to high schools on roadway safety.

❖ **Personnel and Restructuring:**

- In 2005 KDOT created a new position, state highway safety engineer, to administer development of the first Strategic Highway Safety Plan.
- In 2008 KDOT provided funding for a traffic safety resource prosecutor to assist prosecuting attorneys in litigating DUI-related violations.
- In 2008 KDOT combined the bureaus of Traffic Safety and of Traffic Engineering and its Intelligent Transportation System program to form a new Bureau of Transportation Safety and Technology.
- In 2008 KDOT created a new position of state highway safety analyst to assist the state highway safety engineer and others in making strategic, data-based investment decisions.