

# Translines



Reader's Digest magazine  
ranks Kansas roads number  
one in the nation

*See pages 6 and 7*



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*By Secretary  
Deb Miller*

## Getting to the top, staying there a struggle

In case you missed the news last month, we're number one!

According to a special report by *Reader's Digest*, Kansas has the best roads in the nation, based on a variety of factors. I hope that's something in which you take great pride because we couldn't have achieved a top ranking without a strong, dedicated work force. And I hope it's something Kansans and our leaders take pride in, too. It was the vision and political will of key elected leaders as well as the commitment of Kansans that provided the means to build the fine transportation system we have today.

But, I have to admit my initial reaction to the ranking was a groan. It was, "Oh no, we can't be ranked number one." KDOT has lost \$257 million to budget cuts this fiscal year and we're now spending less on construction than we did in the 1970s. There are those who think that because we have smooth roads today, we can scale back spending on the highway system. I worried that the detractors would use this ranking to bolster their flawed arguments.

But I soon changed my mind and we planned a special event to both celebrate our accomplishments and stress the need to preserve the state's substantial investment.

**See related story on page 6**

We contacted Gov. Parkinson and then former Govs. Mike Hayden and Bill Graves, the architects of the 1989 Comprehensive Highway Program and the 1999 Comprehensive Transportation Program respectively. They were enthusiastic about participating in a celebration.

At the March 15 event at Topeka's Gage maintenance complex, the governors were emphatic that Kansas transportation be adequately funded lest our roads fall into the "deplorable" condition they were in before 1989.

Yes, things might look good today, but I can see real trouble right around the corner. In fact, our success will be fleeting if we don't appropriately fund the state's infrastructure. But trying to get people to pay attention to that is very hard.

I've been telling legislators this session that by the time they start hearing constituents complain about roads, the system will be very difficult to improve without spending massive amounts of money. Even if we have the best roads in America today, we've got to be forward thinking about infrastructure investments.

Nationally, we've been living off the infrastructure investments of former generations and we've taken for granted what those investments have done for us. I think that's also happening in Kansas.

Gov. Hayden reminded the crowd that gathered at the March 15 event of the struggle it was to gain passage of the CHP.

"Thank goodness there were people with vision, (and) the courage to increase taxes because that's what it took," he said.

"These roads aren't free and they aren't cheap. But if you're going to invest in the future of your country and your state, you have to make that kind of commitment."

We need adequate funding if we are to have a transportation system that generates economic growth, provides mobility and keeps Kansans safe. Let's hope we still have the leaders who possess the vision and courage of which Gov. Hayden spoke.



Eisenhower Building-  
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**Secretary of Transportation:** Deb Miller  
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### Calendar of Events

**April 9** - 9:30 a.m. - Highway Advisory Commission meeting.

**April 13** - 11 a.m., KDOT employees' Council Meeting, Third Floor, Eisenhower State Office Building.

**April 13-14** - Kansas Transportation Engineering Conference, Kansas State Student Union.

**April 21** - 1 p.m. Construction bid letting, Fourth Floor, West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.

# AAH observes 20 years of cleaner roads in Kansas

More than 31,000 bags of trash – that’s just an average of what Adopt-A-Highway groups in Kansas remove from along roadways each year.

This number is a rough estimate by KDOT, which sponsors the program, taking the number of groups and multiplying them by an average of 15 bags of trash per clean up three times a year. But it illustrates the positive impact the program has in Kansas.

“Most people don’t realize how much trash is along our roadways and what a serious problem littering is,” said Angel Fitzgerald, KDOT’s Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator in northeast Kansas. “Adopt-A-Highway groups in Kansas do an incredible job of helping keep our state clean.”

Those groups’ efforts have been taking place for a long time. In fact, Adopt-A-Highway is celebrating its 20th anniversary in Kansas this year.

“Take 20 years times 31,000 bags – that’s a lot of trash that is not polluting our environment, harming our wildlife or making our state unsightly,” Fitzgerald said. “Everyone who participates in the program should be proud of their hard work.”

New groups can always join - any non-profit group that does not discriminate based on race, religion or sex can adopt a section of roadway. Youth groups with members at least 11 years old are also eligible.

The annual Clean Up Kansas Campaign is taking place during the month of April. All Adopt-A-Highway groups are encouraged, but not required to participate in the statewide event.

For more information, contact the KDOT office in your area. **-K.S.**

## Big beam



*A seven-foot high, 144-foot long girder heads toward Atchison where it will be used for the new Amelia Earhart bridge. See story on page 8.*

## Projects cancelled after budget cut

The latest round of budget cuts, intended to balance the state’s 2010 budget, means KDOT construction spending in real dollars has dropped to levels below that of the 1970s.

Gov. Parkinson, in an effort to plug the gap between spending and state revenue collections, has recommended sweeping \$28 million from the State Highway Fund into the State General Fund. The Governor made his announcement March 5.

Because KDOT projects are paid for over multiple years, the cut required that \$87 million in mostly preservation projects be eliminated in order to come up with enough funds this year to transfer to the general fund. In response, Transportation Secretary Deb Miller issued the following statement:

*“There are few options left to balance the budget this late in the fiscal year, so I understand the steps the Governor has taken. But in this tough economic time, the \$257 million in cuts this year to the State Highway Fund are*

*beyond stunning.*

*The burden of balancing the state budget has fallen very heavily on the construction industry. Today I am suspending \$87 million – or 65 percent – of the \$133 million in state-funded projects we’d planned to have under contract for the remainder of the fiscal year. That will eliminate jobs for both contractors and suppliers. The saving grace is that the federal Recovery Act will fund \$112 million in new projects to be under way this summer. We will also continue as planned with projects that involve federal and local dollars.*

*KDOT’s construction spending in real dollars is lower than it was in the 1970s, which means Kansas citizens, communities and businesses won’t get the kind of services they’ve gotten in the past. Considering the winter that we’ve had, Kansans are going to see rougher pavement and more potholes, and we’re going to be very limited in our ability to address them.”*

On the...

COVER

*Gov. Mark Parkinson and former Gov. Bill Graves enjoy the remarks of former Gov. Mike Hayden at a March 15 event celebrating the top ranking of Kansas roads. See story and photos on pages 6 and 7.*



Members of the WinCPMS Project team pose with Secretary Deb Miller, third row on the left, at the Employee Recognition ceremony in Topeka.

## **WinCPMS project improves KDOT work flow**

**By Kim Stich**

Last fall, KDOT employees worked together to implement WinCPMS, the agency's program and project management system to replace the existing CPMS, which has been in place for the past 18 years. The new system eliminates obsolete technology, improves timeliness and accuracy of data input, reduces complex data entry screens and helps eliminate duplicate data entry.

Members of the WinCPMS Project team were recognized as an Example of Excellence for the four quarter of 2009. Secretary Deb Miller attended the event in Topeka on March 12.

The \$8.7 million new mission-critical system was completed in about two and a half years - on time and under budget. It has about 700 users and holds 6,500 active projects as well as 48,000 historical projects.

"This was truly a team effort that demanded a big investment of time and energy outside everyone's 'regular job,'" said Chris Herrick, Director of Planning and Development. "That investment has paid off with a result that will provide benefit and value to the agency for many years to come."

Members of the WinCPMS Project

team include Pam Anderson, Michelle Anschutz, Steve Baalman, Carol Baldry, Margie Baum, Paul Bayless, Dyann Berglund, Hugh Bogle, Brian Briggs, Crystal Brown, Shawn Brown, Kelly Broxterman, Lanny Campbell, Peter Carttar, Sondra Clark, Travis Combes, Patty Cortez, Frank Coufal, Sue Darling, Joel Davidson, Reed Davis, Richie Donohue, Tom Eisenbarth, Ethan Erickson, Kelly Ernst, Dominic Escobar, Marcia Ferrill, Terry Fleck, Bob Forster,

David Marten, Michelle Martin, Kellie McCain, Steve McGlasson, Janette McGrath, Chrishundra Mitchell, Anita Oliver, Scott Phillips, Julie Prather, Chuck Protasio, Kristi Pyle, Loren Risch, Larry Robinson, Steve Rockers, Karen Rogers, Mary Salazar, Wade Salley, Anthony Schlinsog, Glenn Scott, Rhonda Seitz, Scott Shackelford, Scott Shields, Terri Slater, Jill Smith, Dave Sommer, David Stoltz, Sue Swartzman, Mark Taylor, Brent Terstriep, Julie Tooley, Bill Vicory, Alan Vitt, Jaci Vogel, Cindy Wade, Don Whisler, Lyle Willets, and Rick Woodhead.

Do you know of a KDOT group, team, unit, or office that has gone above the call of duty? Then nominate them for the Example of Excellence award. All KDOT employees are encouraged to suggest ideas and can now fill out Form DOT 1204. Once it is filled out, the nomination is then sent to the selected Division Director, Bureau Chief, District Engineer, Area Engineer, or Subarea Supervisor who can then sign the form and submit the nomination to Transportation Information.

The award is given quarterly with second quarter nominations due to Transportation Information by June 30.



Linda Fritton, Ami Fulghum, Bob Fuller, Bill Gere, Brian Gower, John Grabauskas, Ron Hall, Jim Haugh, Mike Havenstein, Shawn Hennes, Mike Hickman, Kathy Hinman, LouAnn Hughes, Rosie Ingram, Gene Ingwerson, Martha Jones, Bob Kennedy, Tammy Kerwin, Scott King, Jim Kowach, Rod Lacy, Cheryl Lambrecht, Bonnie Lee, Susie Lovelady,

# El Dorado National impacted by stimulus funding

By Stan Whitley

Impact from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 can be witnessed firsthand at El Dorado National in Salina.

The business, which is the largest producer of mid-sized commercial buses in North America, received a boost from the federal Recovery Act funding last year and its production is continuing at a steady pace.

“There’s no question our business had a very positive impact from stimulus funding, especially the first six months after the Act went into effect,” said Sheldon Walle, President of El Dorado National Kansas Division. “We were able to sustain our main production level and probably saved 10 positions at a time of great uncertainty.”

Walle said before the Recovery Act money, business was slow for El Dorado National. Orders for mid-size buses and customized vans were dwindling, impacting both retail and public transit orders.

“Before the stimulus about 55-60 percent of our business was from public transit orders and the remainder from the retail side, such as car rental companies, hotels and churches,” said Walle, “After the stimulus, our public transit orders rose considerably to 75-80 percent, while retail orders were slowed by the recession.”

The 250,000-square-foot, state-



*Workers assemble a customized public transit bus at El Dorado National in Salina. The Kansas company has benefitted from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Photo by Kurt Weaverling*

of-the-art facility has 340 employees, 211 of which work in production. Walle said that every week an average of 55 custom buses and 15 custom vans are assembled at El Dorado National.

KDOT distributed \$30 million in public transit funds - \$16 million to urban providers and \$14 million to rural providers – through the ARRA. A portion of that funding has been used by Kansas providers to purchase public transit vehicles.

El Dorado National is

located on a 33-acre site west of I-135.

Several acres of the site are filled with bus chassis sent to the company from manufacturers. Fabrication, welding, customizing, assembly and painting are the key work stations inside the plant. Orders range from eight to 37 passenger buses to customized mini vans.

Orders being filled at El Dorado National reach much further than Kansas since every state received public transit funding through ARRA.

“We’re keeping busy and that’s good for the economy,” said Walle. “We’re filling orders from coast to coast, the Caribbean, Canada and the Pacific Rim.”



Dear Editor

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear KDOT:

Just before 2 p.m. yesterday (March 1), our family passed by a road work site just north of Hill City, in a funeral procession headed to the Lenora Cemetery.

During the few seconds that it took for our family to pass, it was a great honor (and tribute to and from the workers there) as they paused from their work and respectfully removed their hats as we passed through.

In a world that is so busy and focused on “our own busi-

ness,” it was beyond refreshing to have that kind of honor bestowed on our family as we passed through.

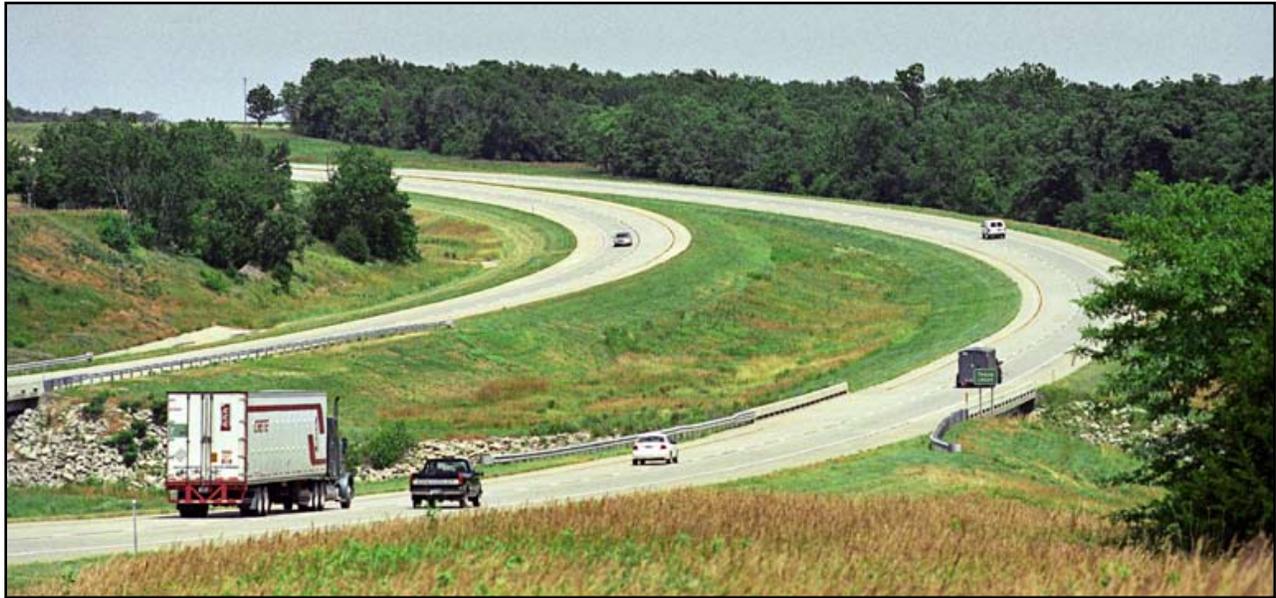
Please thank those who were there for demonstrating such respect, even though I don’t know that any of us are personally acquainted. Their actions did NOT go unnoticed!

From the family and friends of the late Rose Smith in Osborne,

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Stirler, Sioux Falls, S.D.

**Editor’s Note:** *The KDOT employees were from the Hill City Subarea and District Three Bridge Crew*



Roads such as I-35 in Osage County, shown above, helped Kansas achieve a number one ranking in a Reader's Digest study of state highway systems.

# Kansas highways ranked nation's best

By Steve Swartz

Three governors and past transportation secretaries gathered at Topeka's Gage maintenance complex March 15 to celebrate Kansas roads being ranked number one in the nation.

The number one designation is from a special report on the nation's highways published in the April edition of *Reader's Digest* magazine. The study factored safety statistics, pavement condition, bridge condition and congestion to rank the states. Rounding out the top five are Wisconsin, Montana, New Mexico and Utah.

The March 15 event featured the comments of Gov. Mark Parkinson, former governor and current Wildlife and Parks

Secretary Mike Hayden and former governor and current president of the American Trucking Associations Bill Graves.

Graves, who successfully pushed for passage of the 1999 Comprehensive Transportation Program, said the top ranking is the result of infrastructure investments Kansas have made over many years and the work of KDOT workers.

"My thanks to KDOT; to literally thousands of employees at KDOT over all those years who delivered for Kansas on that investment," said Graves.

Hayden, who championed the 1989 Comprehensive High-

See related story on page 2

Continued on page 7

*Gov. Mark Parkinson speaks of the need to continue adequate transportation funding at the March 15 event. Also attending were, from left to right, Assistant Secretary Jerry Younger; former Secretaries E. Dean Carlson, Michael Johnston and Horace Edwards; and former Assistant Secretaries Warren Sick and Mike Lackey.*



## Nation's best

Continued from page 6

way Program, said it took the “vision and courage” of state leaders to be willing to raise taxes to pay for much needed highway improvements.

“These roads aren’t free and they aren’t cheap,” said Hayden. “But if you’re going to invest in the future of your country and your state, you have to make that kind of commitment.”

Parkinson, who served as host of the event on a gray, chilly day, also stressed the need to adequately fund transportation.

“It’s critically important that we do that. Ten years from now I would love to be in the position that Gov. Graves is in – being able to have a press conference like this and look at the great things that we have accomplished. Twenty years from now it will be wonderful to be in the position that Gov. Hayden is,” said Gov. Parkinson. “I don’t want to be in the position because we failed to act in 2010 we let all this great work begin to deteriorate.”

A video presentation of the March 15 event can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/9Kjng5>.



*From left to right, Mike Lackey, E. Dean Carlson, Horace Edwards and Transportation Planning Bureau Chief Dennis Slimmer chat after the event.*



*Former Gov. Bill Graves catches up with Mary Turkington, former Executive Director of the Kansas Motor Carriers Association. Both Graves and Turkington have a long history of transportation experience in Kansas.*

## KDOT Computer Training

– from the KCTC

### Focus: Before you call the Help Desk

Tips to help resolve computer and monitor problems faster.

#### Possible problems/things to check:

- 1) Re-booting your computer is a fix to a lot of issues and recommended as one to try first.
- 2) Nothing happens when the power is turned on. Check: Is the fan running? Are all plug-in connections secure? Is there power to the wall outlet?
- 3) There is no video on the screen. Check: Is the monitor turned on? Is the intensity or color turned down? Is the monitor securely plugged to the computer and power source?
- 4) Printer will not print. Check: Is the printer turned on? Is it plugged in? Is it on-line? Is it jammed or out of paper?
- 5) Email/Internet is down. Check: Are other network users having this problem? Are you logged on to the network?

If none of the above solves the problem, knowing how to identify an error message and your computer will help the Help Desk diagnose the issue quickly.

#### Error messages and hardware ID:

1) How to use the Print Screen (upper right on keyboard) to capture the error message electronically. Make sure the window with the error message is open and click the Print Screen button, then open a new email placing your cursor in the body of the email. Right click your mouse and paste. The image is now in an email. You can send it to #HelpDesk.

2) Hardware ID that helps: Know the model and serial number of your computer and/or monitor. This is on a small sticker on the back and includes a barcode. Each computer has a DT number for identification as well. Go to My Computer and right click on it. Click Properties and the Computer Name tab of System Properties. The DT number is listed next to Full Computer Name.

Check out the shared calendar: KCTC for on-going classes.  
Contact the KCTC at [kctc@ksdot.org](mailto:kctc@ksdot.org).

# District News...

## Massive delivery

Currently arriving – beams, beams and more beams – 128 to be exact. Each beam, individually transported on its own semi truck, is being accompanied from the manufacturer in Lincoln, Neb., by a special escort from the Missouri State Highway Patrol for delivery on the Missouri side of the new Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge project. Eventually, some of these beams will also be transported through Kansas to the Atchison (Kansas) side of the project.

**District One**

The concrete beams range in length from 120 to 144 feet, are about 7 feet tall, and weigh more than 58.5 tons on average. Once the beams arrive, KDOT field inspectors look for cracks and spalls on the beams and ensure that each beam is the correct size, before the beams are hoisted up and placed onto the bridge piers. There are eight beams installed between each of the bridges' 16 piers. As of early March, 40 beams had been installed. (See photo on page 3)

## Interchange construction plans taking shape

It's still over a year away, but District Two will take a different approach to replacing the bridge and ramps at the Niles Road/I-70 interchange scheduled for letting in August of 2011. Plans call for the project to begin with Niles Road and the ramps being closed Oct. 1. Ramps should re-open around Thanksgiving with the project scheduled for completion in early May of 2012.

**District Two**

This schedule will minimize the impact to area farming by avoiding summer harvest and planting, the majority of cattle relocation and much of the fall harvest. An additional benefit of this schedule for local fire and EMS is the avoidance of the fire season.



From left, District Engineer Jeff Stewart and District Construction Engineer Travis Scott answer questions from the public during the K-23 open house.

## K-23 project begins

An informational open house took place in Gove on Feb. 23 to present the upcoming American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project to reconstruct a portion of K-23 in Gove County.

Contractors plan to close K-23 at the end of March from the Lane County line north to the southern city limits of Gove. The detour will utilize K-4, U.S. 83, U.S. 40 and I-70. Rebuilding both lanes at one time requires the detour, however, the process saves time and money.

**District Three**

Using the practical improvement approach, the 16-mile section will be reconstructed, saving more than \$11 million in project costs. It will be reconstructed by removing the existing surface, restoring the base and resurfacing with seven inches of new asphalt. It will be widened to 12-foot driving lanes with new two-foot shoulders and rumble strips. The roadway should be re-opened by Labor Day.

## Shaw Road to be improved

Reconstruction of the eastern 3.6 miles of 160th (Shaw) Road in Neosho County started in mid-March. The \$3.4 million project, the second phase of the Shaw-Elk Road im-

provement effort, benefits from \$500,000 in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

The western section of Shaw Road was rebuilt several years ago. The third and final segment of reconstruction, to begin later this year, is replacing the narrow truss bridge over the Neosho River. Shaw Road runs east from Elk Road to U.S. 59 and is a major connector linking the Chanute area with communities to the southeast. The reconstruction will also elevate the roadway, eliminating closure due to high water.

**District Four**

Venture Corporation of Great Bend is the prime contractor on the ARRA-financed project, which extends from U.S. 59 west to Marshall Road in the town of Shaw. Work should be completed by the end of 2010, weather permitting.

**Continued on page 9**



A view of Shaw Road from U.S. 59 where reconstruction work will take place. Photo by Priscilla Petersen

# New passenger rail service alternatives in Kansas outlined

Four alternatives for state-sponsored passenger rail service between Kansas City, Oklahoma City and Fort Worth are in a study released on March 11 by Amtrak and KDOT.

Start-up costs of the alternatives, which are in 2009 dollars and based on 100 percent on-time performance, range from \$156 million to \$479 million and the annual operating support ranges from \$3.2 million to \$8 million. Annual ridership estimates of the four alternatives range from 65,900 to 174,000.

Each of the options in the study, which was prepared for

KDOT by Amtrak with BNSF Railway Co. input, restore passenger rail service to Wichita and five other cities in Kansas and Oklahoma that lost Amtrak service during federally-mandated cuts in 1979.

"I am pleased that we have completed this first step. With this study in hand, we can begin to have the kind of meaningful dialog that is necessary for Kansans to make a decision about how to proceed with passenger rail in our state," said Secretary Deb Miller.

"Growth in state-supported corridors is an important part of our future at Amtrak," said Michael Franke, Assistant Vice President, Policy & Development, noting Amtrak is the passenger rail operator of choice of 15 states. "We look forward to working with leaders of Kansas to provide Amtrak service as a mobility choice that is dependable, convenient, safe, economical and environmentally friendly."

The study, which includes details of the four alternatives, can be viewed on the KDOT Web site at [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org).

## District News

Continued from page 8

### ARRA funds local bridges

Several local bridge replacement/rehab projects, funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), are scheduled in District Five.

- ◆ Hutchinson has a project that will rehab the Forth Avenue Bridge over Monroe Street. Bridges, Inc., of Newton is the prime contractor for this \$387,749.20 project.

- ◆ Harvey County will replace a bridge on Kansas Avenue. Kansas Avenue was originally a part of U.S.

81 before I-135 was constructed. King Construction of Hesston is the prime contractor for this \$626,001.70 project.

- ◆ Barber County will replace a bridge two miles east of Hazelton on County route 1381. L & M Contractors of Great Bend is the prime contractor for this \$253,659.05 project.

- ◆ Butler County will replace the County route bridge over Whitewater Creek. Dondlinger Construction of Wichita is the prime contractor on the \$717,874.68 project.

- ◆ Comanche County will replace a bridge one mile west of Coldwater on County Road 1. L & M Contractors of

**District  
Five**



Work is under way on the 4th Street Bridge in Hutchinson. Photo by Martin Miller

Great Bend is the prime contractor for this \$277,799.00 project.

- ◆ Wellington will replace a bridge on Hillside Street. J&J Construction of Iola is the prime contractor for this \$273,268.20 project.

### Gerber helps students

Steve Gerber, Equipment Mechanic Sr., in Garden City, teamed with his Knights of Columbus group in participating in Disability Mentoring Day, an activity hosted by the Center for Independent Living. The event helps high school students with disabilities transition into adult life by teaching basic

skills such as applying for jobs, learning the activities of daily living as well as tips on cleaning and cooking.

Gerber scheduled an activity session for the students at the Knights of Columbus building that included the City of Garden City bucket truck demonstrations and the Kansas Highway

**District  
Six**

Patrol's seat belt convincer. A local dealership gave the students rides in classic cars. He also demonstrated how the snow plow works and even allowed students to control the plow themselves. The students had a great time and left with great hope for their futures, Gerber said.

*Fun Facts  
and Trivia*

**Do you know?**

**Severe Weather  
Terms**

**Severe Thunderstorm**  
– Thunderstorms that are currently producing or are capable of producing winds of 60 mph or stronger and/or hail one-inch in diameter or larger. Oftentimes, severe thunderstorms may be much stronger than this minimum criteria, so it is a good idea to take severe thunderstorm warnings seriously.

**Funnel cloud** - may or may not be attached to the base of a thunderstorm and it does not come in contact with the ground, whereas a tornado descends from the base of a thunderstorm and is in contact with the ground.

**Flash Flood** – Flooding that occurs rapidly, usually within six hours of heavy rainfall. Flash flooding may occur along creeks, rivers or streams. It can also occur in low lying or urban areas with poor drainage. Flooding can occur in the winter, when rain falls on existing snow packed and causes it to melt rapidly. Flooding is the number one severe weather killer in the U.S.

*From the National Weather Service, the Kansas Emergency Management Association and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management 2010 information packet*



*A 249-foot-long super load weighing 681,000 pounds maneuvers through southeast Kansas bound for the Conoco-Phillips refinery in Ponca City, Okla.*

**Super load crawls through SE Kansas**

**By Priscilla Petersen  
District Four Public Affairs Manager**

In February, a 249-foot-long super load made a five-day crawl over southeast Kansas highways. One truck pulled while a second truck pushed the 681,000-pound load – consisting of a vessel bound for the Conoco-Phillips refinery in Ponca City, Okla. - along the route.

The northbound super load entered Kansas from Tulsa, Okla., on U.S. 169, traveling 20 miles per hour and slowing to less than five miles per hour as it crossed various bridges. The load was forced farther north in Kansas in order to avoid the Bee Creek Bridge, a marsh arch structure with width and height restrictions on U.S. 166.

The permitted route took the super load north and west on several different highways to U.S. 54, then west to K-99, south to U.S. 166 at Sedan, and finally west to K-15 and south to Ponca City.

“It was always something that hindered progress,” said Independence Area Superintendent Marcus Leck. When the load took five hours to make a turn at Coffeyville on

Saturday, Feb. 13, Leck shut down the operation until the next Monday so that KDOT crews would be available to replace the signs and traffic signals along the route.

The load sustained a couple flat tires and a fan clutch breakdown took it out of commission for several hours on U.S. 54 west of Yates Center. K-99 proved to be a challenge since the semi trucks leaving the quarry at Moline found it difficult to maneuver around the super load, Leck said.

And it was one cold trip for some of the crew. Owing to a broken steering remote, the crew had to steer from the rear axles. One employee was required to ride in the seat in back of the trailer for the entire trip.

“These boys were from Louisiana,” Leck noted. “They had never seen temperatures in the 20s so when it was 14 degrees that first morning with a 25-mile-per-hour wind, they did not like it and were ready to go back south.”

The company owner told Leck that his crew “bought out everything” in the way of boots and insulated coveralls at Tulsa tractor supply stores prior to the chilly Kansas trip.



*KDOT would like to recognize its employees who have returned home from military service. Employees are listed by district and their branch of service.*

**Robert Childs**, Assistant Communication System Administrator, Construction and Maintenance, Army

*The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies military information to Translines.*

## Retirees

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT in April.

### Headquarters

- Michael P. Appelhanz**, Equipment Operator Senior, Topeka  
**Corky Armstrong**, Engineering Manager, Design  
**Suzanne R. Domme**, Administrative Assistant, Transportation Safety and Technology  
**Dwight L. Garman**, Human Resource Professional II, Personnel  
**Joseph E. Plankinton**, Chemist II, Materials and Research  
**Marilyn S. Ross**, Senior Administrative Assistant, Inspector General  
**Donald E. Verge**, Assistant Relocation Officer, Right of Way
- ### District One
- Gary J. Grollmes**, Engineering

- Technician, Holton  
**Deborah K. McCaskill**, Engineering Associate II, Topeka  
**Jerry B. Lay**, Engineering Associate III, Shawnee

### District Two

- Kathy M. Bernhardt**, Administrative Specialist, Marion  
**Josephine A. Koppes**, Administrative Specialist, Clay Center  
**Robert D. Loveless**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Salina

### District Three

- Douglas R. Driggs**, Highway Maintenance Superintendent, Phillipsburg  
**J.D. Fawver**, Public Service Administrator, Phillipsburg  
**Milton L. Jamison**, Equipment Operator Senior, WaKeeney  
**Gary L. Shearer**, Engineering

- Technician Specialist, Norton
- ### District Four
- David A. Arbogast**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Louisburg  
**Paul L. Buckle**, Engineering Technician Senior, Pittsburg  
**Frank E. Tichenor**, Technology Support Consultant II, Chanute

### District Five

- Thomas R. Eddington**, Equipment Operator Senior, Hutchinson  
**Robert W. Penrod**, Public Service Administrator I, Wichita  
**Calvin D. Showalter**, Engineering Technician Senior, Great Bend

*Employees who choose to have retirement reception information shared on the Internet can be found at [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org), under News and Announcements.*

## Deaths

Condolences to the family and friends of two former KDOT employees who recently passed away.

**Paul W. Baker**, 74, died Feb. 20 in Wayside. He worked for KDOT for 30 years as a mechanic at the Independence Area Office until his retirement in 1997.

In lieu of flowers the family has suggested memorials to the Montgomery County 4-H Premium Livestock Sale. Memorials may be sent in care of the David W. Barnes Funeral Home, 306 N. Cline, Coffeyville, 67337.

**Robert A. Bergman**, 62, died Dec. 28 in Topeka. He worked for KDOT 44 years before retiring in 2009. He is survived by his wife, Marsha, two sons, three daughters, one sister, and five grandchildren.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Coal Creek Cemetery or the Onaga VFW in care of the Tessendorf-Chapel Oaks Funeral Home, P.O. Box 300, Onaga, 66521.

# M I L E S T O N E S

## KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in April

### 10 YEARS

- Gayle Allen . . . . . Minneapolis  
 David Cartwright . . . . . Syracuse  
 Amy Coon . . . . . Tecumseh  
 Dennis Graves . . . . . St John  
 Bradley King . . . . . Topeka  
 Bradley Krob . . . . . Ludell  
 Brett Maris . . . . . Trenton  
 Scott Marquis . . . . . Topeka  
 Timothy Micek . . . . . Colby  
 Dennis Miller . . . . . St Marys  
 Kevin Palic . . . . . Baileyville  
 Albert Plante . . . . . Phillipsburg  
 Eric Smith . . . . . Haven  
 Karen Stefek . . . . . Wilson  
 Steve Taylor . . . . . Garden City  
 Richard Wyatt . . . . . Kansas City

### 20 YEARS

- Peter Carttar . . . . . Lawrence  
 Albert Davis . . . . . Lawrence  
 James Haug . . . . . Topeka  
 Bruce Heerts . . . . . Lindsborg  
 Cheryl Hendrixson . . . . . Topeka  
 Lou Ann Hughes . . . . . Topeka  
 Huey Long . . . . . Topeka  
 Billy Morgan . . . . . Cambridge  
 Harvey Roush . . . . . Lincoln  
 Gale Taylor . . . . . Hill City  
 James Templin . . . . . Anthony

### 40 YEARS

- Gregory Doyle . . . . . Topeka  
 James Jasper . . . . . Troy

### 30 YEARS

- Glen Cunningham . . . . . Iola  
 Joyce Paynter . . . . . Tecumseh  
 Carla Wilson . . . . . Liberal

*State service anniversaries are compiled by Personnel Services. Employees and home towns are included in this list.*

# Welcome new KDOT employees!

## District Four

Heath A. Redding, Equipment  
Operator Trainee, Ottawa  
*The Bureau of Personnel Services  
supplies information to Translines.*

## Upcoming KDOT Training Courses

### Classes at Headquarters

- ♦ You'll Catch On, April 1-2
- ♦ New Employee Orientation, May 6
- ♦ SMART - Day 1, 2, 3; May 11-13
- ♦ Transition to Leadership/Ethics,  
May 24-26
- ♦ You'll Catch On, May 27-28
- ♦ Transition to Leadership/Ethics,  
June 8-10
- ♦ You'll Catch On, June 15-16
- ♦ You'll Catch On, June 29-30

### Classes at District Offices

- ♦ Transition to Leadership/Ethics,  
Hutchinson, April 5-7
- ♦ You'll Catch On, Hutchinson,  
April 14-15
- ♦ SMART - Day 1, 2, 3; Hays, April  
6-8

### Online Training Opportunity

The Performance Management Process for Supervisors and Managers online course is now available. The course can be accessed through the Learning Center at [http://kdot-training/KDOTTraining/cst\\_Main-HomeFrameset.html](http://kdot-training/KDOTTraining/cst_Main-HomeFrameset.html) using course number HRS9910021.

Your computer will need to have the pop-up blocker turned off and the Google toolbar uninstalled to launch the online training.

**Kansas Department of Transportation**  
*Bureau of Transportation Information*  
Eisenhower State Office Building  
700 SW Harrison, Second Floor, West  
Topeka, KS 66603-3754

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**NOTE:** This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, KS, 66603-3754, or (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired - 711.

### National Guard honor



*Communication System Administrator Ed Geer, right, receives the Patriot Award, which recognizes employers for their support of National Guardsmen and Reservists, from Robert Childs, Assistant Communication System Administrator from Hutchinson. Childs, a member of the Kansas Army National Guard, nominated Geer for the award after returning from a deployment to Afghanistan.*