

Translines



Secretary Miller moving on

End of an era

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**By Secretary
Deb Miller**

The best job I've ever had

*"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."
~Dr. Seuss*

I'm a bit overwhelmed as I write my final Translines column, trying to process all the highs, lows and not-so-illustrious moments I've experienced in the past nine years as Secretary of Transportation.

Because of the great staff I've been blessed to have, the good memories will far exceed the others. Seeing the T-WORKS bill passed by the 2010 Legislature in a very shaky economic climate was maybe the greatest thrill of all. Completing the Comprehensive Transportation Program as we faced one budget challenge after another now seems like a miracle. And I'm still gratified at all the safety legislation that was passed, including Graduated Driver's License, the texting ban and the seat belt law.

But there were some low points in this job that will always make me sad, no matter how many years pass. I'll never forget the days Scotty McDonald, Richard Cunningham and Ty Korte were killed while working along highways. Those were the worst days.

And then there are those occasions that I'll just call "in-

auspicious." They are numerous. In my defense, some were the result of just being new on the job. For example, wearing a dress and sandals, with a hard hat accessory, to tour a bridge project (no deck yet). Check out the photo and pick out the person who doesn't belong.

Also early on was the time Maggie Thompson-Doll and I tried in vain to figure out how to pump gas at the Ulysses office. We were so inept that someone in the office had to come out and pump the gas for us. She was nice enough to suggest that the problem might have had something to do with the heat. Nonetheless, I'm sure it didn't inspire much confidence in my ability to lead an agency based on engineering.

And, famously, there was the comment I made at the Engineering Conference a few years ago. I was trying to tell several hundred people in the audience that "we've had great success with our partners in the past year." That proved to be a tongue-twister and what I said was, "we've had great

sex with our partners in the past year." The audience howled and the people who were there won't let that go. Why would they?

After sorting through the ups, downs and in-betweens, I realize that the take-away impression I leave with is how privileged I've been to work with you throughout my entire 20-year KDOT career.

I'm so proud that in the past decade our public image has gone from "competent but arrogant" to that of an agency that's willing to work with Kansans to build

a transportation system that serves the needs of our state. We've built our great image with Kansans one person, one encounter and one conversation at a time and I sincerely believe that we have all contributed to that success.

I'm not sure I can adequately express just how much I appreciate and respect what you've done for KDOT, the state and me. So, I'll just leave it at this:

Thank you for making this the best job I've ever had.



Before I learned that one shouldn't wear a dress and sandals to tour a bridge project.



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Secretary of Transportation: Deb Miller
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On the...

COVER

After nearly nine years as the Kansas Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller plans to depart the agency on Dec. 16. She has fond memories of talking with employees (top left), being teased by Gov. Mark Parkinson (top right), participating in the Go Orange campaign with employees (bottom left) and working at KDOT in general. For more photos, quotes and stories, see pages 4-9.

Improving intercity bus service in Kansas

KDOT is conducting an online survey to better understand existing and future intercity bus system needs in the state and encourages everyone to participate.

“Information from this survey will help identify where changes can be made to provide the best intercity bus service possible,” said Stephanie Watts, KDOT Transportation Planner.

Intercity buses carry passengers over long distances with generally only one stop location per city. Currently, intercity buses operate 24 hours a day within Kansas and cover 1,400 route-miles with stops in 21 cities across the state.

The survey is part of a study to gather data, identify needs and develop ways to improve intercity bus service in Kansas. KDOT is responsible for issuing federal subsidies for intercity bus service.

Whether you have ridden a bus or not, input from all Kansans is important, Watts said. To participate in the survey, go to KDOT’s website, www.ksdot.org, and click on the KDOT Intercity Bus Study logo on the right. The deadline to participate is Jan. 31, 2012. **-K.S.**



KDOT Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger speaks to the media on Nov. 2 in Eudora after the announcement that cable median barriers would be installed on two sections of K-10.

KDOT announces measures to address K-10 safety concerns

By Sally Lunsford

Months of work by a local advisory group and KDOT representatives have resulted in KDOT decision to install cable median barrier along two 2-mile sections of K-10 in Douglas and Johnson counties.

The cables will be installed between the Church Street and East 2300 Road interchanges in Eudora and on either side of K-7 in Johnson County, both of which have experienced a high number of crossover median crashes.

The advisory group was formed last spring following two deaths in a crossover median traffic crash. In addition to the installation of cable along the two sections of K-10, Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger announced to a meeting of the advisory group on Nov. 2 that KDOT is in the process of conducting a statewide analysis of crossover crashes to help determine whether the existing cable median policy should be refined or updated.

Other announced actions to enhance safety include paving the shoulders and installation of rumble strips on the Douglas County portion of K-10, which is already under way. The Johnson County portion of K-10 already has these features.

Younger also said KDOT will recommend K-10 be designated as a highway safety corridor to provide for more enforcement and increased fines. Such designation would require legislative approval.

The advisory group expressed its appreciation to KDOT for working together to find solutions. In the words of Eudora Mayor Scott Hopson, “This is something that everyone in this community thought was kind of like David and Goliath. We were going up against the state of Kansas, and the state of Kansas basically shook our hand and said, ‘Hey, we’re going to work with you on this project.’ It proved everyone wrong, and we’re very thankful for that.”

KDOT

**Intercity Bus
Study**

Miller leaving KDOT

By Stan Whitley

She was instrumental in passage of three transportation programs and the first female and the longest-serving Secretary of Transportation – achievements she will always cherish. But for outgoing Secretary Deb Miller, none of those is her proudest accomplishment.

“I’m proudest of the cultural change this agency has witnessed,” said Miller, who will step down as Secretary on Dec. 16. “I think we untethered our employees, let them seize the opportunity and use their better instincts.

“Once we started using a different language and moving in that direction it just seemed our employees responded positively and quickly. How we engage with people across the state in transportation and how they respond has been a 180 degree change.”

Miller leaves the agency one month short of serving nine years. She will be joining Cambridge Systematics, Inc. The company provides

consulting services for local, state, national and international agencies in public and private transportation industries.

She will be working from home, but will be attached to



Announcements of T-WORKS projects took place across the state this summer. Once the T-WORKS bill was signed in May 2010, Secretary Deb Miller wrote to KDOT employees saying, “Passage of another program is truly remarkable ... I hope you know how thrilled I am to write this email!”



Through the years - above are portraits of Secretary Miller in 1986, 1996 and 2008.

their Chicago office. She said she will also visit company offices in Washington and Cambridge, Mass., to get used to the culture and people of the organization.

“I had a very nice offer from a firm I’ve had the utmost respect for,” said Miller. “One of the reasons they

asked me to work for them was not only my job in Kansas, but also the role I played in some of the national transportation issues. I thought it would be silly of me to think the shelf life for my reputation would go on, so the time was right to make the move.”

Miller started working for KDOT in 1984 as a Special Assistant. She also served as Director of Planning and Development, was closely involved in development of the state’s three largest public works programs in 1989, 1999 and 2010 and worked four years at HNTB providing strategic planning to state departments of transportation.

“Not in my wildest dreams did I think I would make a career in the field of transportation,” said Miller. “I would say I have been lucky and can’t even believe my good fortunate to have a career doing work I care about with people I



Former Director of Public Affairs Julie Lorenz, Secretary Miller and Kansas Turnpike Authority President/CEO Michael Johnston have fun during an event in 2006.

Continued on page 5



(Left) In 1993, Deb Miller, then Planning and Development Director, has a great time roasting Assistant Secretary Mike Lackey, left, at a United Way event with Secretary Michael Johnston and Rosie Ingram.



A 1995 photo of the Division of Planning and Development includes (front row) Marci Ferrill, Dennis Slimmer, Deb Weiler, (back row) Suellen Markley and Deb Miller.

Miller

Continued from page 4

respect and admire.”

Miller said she has been very proud of improvements made in the safety arena during her tenure at KDOT. Those include laws for child passenger safety seat, graduated driver’s license, texting and primary seat belt, in addition to fatalities being at an all-time low.

Miller said she will miss not being Secretary when several high profile projects are either completed or begun in the future.

“I would like to break ground for the South Lawrence Trafficway,” said Secretary Miller. “And be on hand to cut the ribbon for the K-61 project and the new intermodal facility.”

Becoming KDOT’s first female Secretary will hold fond memories for the departing Secretary.

“It’s a really good feeling to be the first female Secretary. When I went to school back in the 1970s it was a very empowering time for women. When I look back to what was previously available for females and what has happened to me as a female during my lifetime, it’s truly amazing.”



Secretary Miller and former Kansas Motor Carriers Executive Director Mary Turkington participate in events celebrating the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Federal-Aid Highway Act in Abilene in 2006.



Secretary Miller and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, center, pose with former Secretaries of Transportation (front row from left) Horace Edwards, Michael Johnston, John Kemp and E. Dean Carlson, along with several KDOT employees celebrating the agency’s 75th anniversary of responsibility for the State Highway System in 2004.

“We are grateful for the years of policy leadership Deb Miller has provided to all 50 states in making transportation planning more responsive to meeting community needs and to accelerating project delivery.”

John Horsley,
AASHTO Executive Director

“Thank you for being the kind of co-workers that make it hard to leave.”

- Secretary Deb Miller



Secretary Miller greets District One employees Brian Hoke and Tony Trower at a work zone safety event in 2010.



Secretary Miller talks with bridge staffers Jim Leaden, Justin Shaw and Matt Bleier after participating in an I-470 bridge inspection in 2010.



Secretary Miller talks with employees at the Altamont Subarea office during a meeting in 2004.



Al Cathcart and his wife Marilyn chat with Secretary Miller at his retirement reception in 2007.



Secretary Miller laughs with employees during the United Way event in 2008 in Topeka.



Secretary Miller speaks with employees who worked on the clean-up efforts in Greensburg after the F5 tornado in 2007.

KDOT staffers Mike Stringer, Scott Swanson and Scott King talk with Secretary Miller at the T-WORKS Summit in June 2011 in Topeka.



Larry Emig welcomes Secretary Miller back to KDOT at a reception in 2003.



Gov. John Carlin, left, and Deb Miller pose with employees receiving 40-year pins. Miller began work in the Governor's office in 1980.

“Deb was great for me as a staff person so it was no surprise when she developed into one of the most successful cabinet secretaries in the state’s history. I’m sure her public service career is far from over.”

John Carlin, former Governor of Kansas



Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and Secretary Miller display the new 2003-2004 official Kansas map.

“Deb Miller will be missed by the State of Kansas, but the country is fortunate that her work will continue. Deb is a gifted strategic thinker who has always understood the close connection between reliable transportation systems and the well-being of families, business owners, communities and the country.”

Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services and former Governor of Kansas

“In a word, Deb Miller is awesome. Too many highlights to choose from but two come to mind. She was the ultimate team player as we faced budget crisis after budget crisis. And, when there was a small window of opportunity, she succeeded in pushing a massive transportation bill during a horrible economic crisis. No small feat. She is simply awesome and the state is better for her service.”

Mark Parkinson, former Governor of Kansas



Above, Secretary Miller and others join Gov. Mark Parkinson, seated, after signing the T-WORKS bill in 2010. Below, Secretary Miller and Gov. Sam Brownback talk at his Cabinet announcement in December 2010.

“Lt. Governor Colyer and I want to express our deepest thanks and appreciation to Secretary Miller for her years of dedicated service to Kansas. Her dedication to serving Kansans and leadership are evident in our outstanding infrastructure and I’m thankful for her service in my cabinet.”

Governor Sam Brownback





KDOT's Executive Staff from 1995 - (seated) Mike Lackey, Michael Johnston, Jim Jones, (standing) Mike Rees, Warren Sick, Bill Watts, Deb Miller, Nancy Bogina, Gene Robben and Bob Haley.

“Deb Miller brought her great intellect and inexhaustible energy to the national transportation scene and changed its course to the benefit of all Americans.”

Pete Rahn, former director of the Missouri Department of Transportation and senior vice president at HNTB

“Deb Miller’s indelible legacy to our state is the way in which she worked with Kansas leaders and communities to provide vital transportation opportunities for her state and its citizens.”

Mary Turkington, Chair of the Kansas Turnpike Authority Board/former Kansas Motor Carriers Executive Director

Secretary Miller - in brief

Secretary Deb Miller was asked to briefly comment on five different areas at KDOT. Here are her responses.

- ♦ **The state of Kansas transportation today** – The system is in excellent condition. Our employees have been motivated and do such outstanding work. In the broader picture our stakeholders are working hard and the energy around transportation is high.
- ♦ **Kansas highways ranked No. 1** – Sheepish. The reason I say this is our highways are in very good shape, but there are so many ways to analyze a transportation system. I certainly like to brag about the state system, but I think in some ways that there was almost an inherent bias in the analysis towards a more rural system.
- ♦ **T-WORKS** – Orange, green and blue. I love that we wanted to brand T-WORKS and inside the agency we developed it. I love the T-WORKS name and I love what it implies. It’s fresh and modern.
- ♦ **Today’s changed KDOT culture** – It’s enormous and amazing. I do think the focus in the past was rigid and that our employees felt like they were the only people out there protecting something sacred. It used to be when people had a transportation problem they wanted to keep KDOT out of the room. Not anymore.
- ♦ **KDOT’s family** – It’s what this place has meant to me. I have seen this agency come together to support employees when they need it most. I can tell when I talk to employees that the statement “we are family” resonates with them. – *S.W.*

“What I admire about Deb most is not her intellect or her energy, but rather the fact that she is such a quality human being. In my book, it doesn’t get any better than that!”

Michael Johnston,
President/CEO of the Kansas Turnpike Authority

“As chairman of the House Transportation Committee I have worked with Secretary Miller on various issues and found her to be very professional with her testimony and always ready to answer any question that I might have or respond to any committee member. Deb has always shown her desire to maintain and keep Kansas highways as the best in the nation.”

Rep. Gary Hayzlett, Chairman, House Transportation Committee





Secretary Miller participates in a Liberal ground-breaking ceremony in 2006 with Jack Taylor, Ben Benbrook and U.S. Congressman Jerry Moran.

“I will miss sending Deb e-mails to compliment her on KDOT accomplishments and the occasional ribbing on issues. I know she will do well in her new career and wish her well.”

Former KDOT Assistant Secretary Mike Lackey

“Because Secretary Miller cared so much about KDOT, she pushed every one of us – every day – to be our best and the agency and its relationships are all the better for it.”

Former KDOT Director of Public Affairs Julie Lorenz

“If nothing else, Deb Miller should be remembered as a “Results Driven” Secretary of Transportation. When you are intimately involved with three highly successful highway programs, what better description defines Deb? More importantly, Deb was the most affable, approachable, and common-sense Secretary I have met.”

Bill Clarkson, Jr., Vice President of Clarkson Construction Company



Secretary Miller visits with Scott and Shirley McDonald and Mabel Cunningham at a work zone safety event in 2007.

“Deb has worked tirelessly for KDOT and for the citizens of Kansas. I wish her success in her new endeavor.”

Former KDOT Assistant Secretary Warren Sick

“One of Deb’s best leadership qualities is that she took the time and made the effort to build a real connection with KDOT employees.”

KDOT Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger



Secretary Miller speaks before a legislative committee meeting in 2008.

“We have had Deb as a speaker at our association’s annual business meeting for about 10 years straight, and our main concern now is we will have to devote a much longer time slot to future speakers we get to fill her void, as there is absolutely no one who can speak so quickly, yet clearly and eloquently as she can in the same given time.”

Kansas Contractors Association
Executive Vice President Dan Ramlow

Promotions/Transfers

Headquarters

Kyle Gonterwitz, Information Systems Manager I, Transportation Planning

Roger Moore, Manager of Enterprise Solutions, Computer Services

District Four

Matt L. West, Equipment Operator, Pittsburg

The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information to Translines.

Retirees

The following employees officially retired from KDOT on Nov. 1.

Headquarters

Kaye Jordan-Cain, Program

Consultant II, Transportation Planning

Bill Roth, Enterprise Architect, Computer Services

District One

Richard A. Deeds, Equipment Operator Senior, Emporia

Morris M. Hunt, Soil Survey Specialist, Topeka

Jay M. Nuzum, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Alma

District Two

Gary D. Simmons, Public Service Administrator I, Belleville

District Three

Edward E. Bridwell, Equipment Operator, Smith Center

Randy D. Conrad, Equipment Mechanic, Phillipsburg

District Four

Robert E. Jack, Public Service Administrator, Chanute

Dennis Kuykendall, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Iola

District Five

John D. Clayton, Public Service Administrator II, Great Bend

Stanley F. Bogdanovecz, Engineering Technician, Wichita

Pete D. Fuller, Equipment Operator, Winfield

Employees who choose to have retirement reception information shared on the Internet can be found at www.ksdot.org, under News and Announcements.

Calendar of Events

Dec. 13 – 11 a.m. KDOT Employees' Council Meeting, Third Floor, Eisenhower State Office Building.

Dec. 14 – 1 p.m. Construction Bid Letting, Fourth Floor West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.

Dec. 26 – State employees off for Christmas holiday.

Jan. 2 – State employees off for New Year's holiday.



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

Spencer Appelhanz, Engineering Technician, Design, National Guard

The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies military information to Translines.

Upcoming KDOT Training Courses

Classes at Headquarters

- ♦ BEST Week II, Nov. 28-Dec. 2
- ♦ Effective Customer Service, Dec. 15
- ♦ Leading with Emotional Intelligence, Jan. 5
- ♦ New Employee Orientation, Jan. 12
- ♦ Advanced Resource Training, Jan. 24-26
- ♦ PE Review, Feb. 27-March 1

Classes at District Offices

- ♦ You'll Catch On, Dec. 20-21, Hutchinson
- ♦ MBTI, Dec. 8, Hutchinson
- ♦ Difficult Conversations, Dec. 13, Topeka
- ♦ You'll Catch On, Dec. 19-20, Topeka
- ♦ On Second Thought, Dec. 21, Topeka
- ♦ Advanced Resource Training, Jan. 17-19, Salina

New online courses include:

- ♦ Who Moved My Cheese? (a course about adapting to change).
- ♦ Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Overview (information for all em-

ployees about the FMLA entitlement).

- ♦ Employees' Council Overview (information about the KDOT Employees' Council and their activities).
- ♦ Business Writing Basics (practical and positive approach to writing for the workplace).
- ♦ Generation Y: Y Did They Do That? (information for managers and supervisors of Generation Y employees).
- ♦ Political Activities of KDOT Employees (information for all employees about allowable political activities).
- ♦ KDOT in the Political Arena (Bureau Chief for the Office of Governmental Affairs describes her office and what they do).

Find these and other online courses in the Learning Center by using the Course Catalog link at the top of the Learner Home page and select the Online Courses category.



Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger and Secretary Deb Miller, center, pose with members of the Kansas Star Casino Effort Team during a ceremony on Nov. 10 in Topeka.

Team collaborates to meet quick deadlines

By Kim Stich

The Kansas Star Casino was approved for construction near the U.S. 81/K-53 intersection south of Wichita in November 2010. With the first phase scheduled to be finished and open to the public in February 2012, KDOT was put on a fast track to complete the design process.

KDOT employees and the consultant, Transystems, started the project Jan. 24, 2011, for the Kansas Turnpike Authority interchange and access widening on K-53 and U.S. 81 with a deadline of May 6.

“The speed required to accomplish the task made this an extraordinary achievement,” said Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger. “It was a large collaborative effort between KDOT and Transystems.”

The Kansas Star Casino Effort Team was honored for their work on this project and was recognized as an Example of Excellence for the third quarter of 2011. Secretary Deb Miller attended the ceremony on Nov. 10 in Topeka.

Some of the activities included acquiring right of way to build the widening, reviewing a traffic impact study and geometric approval of the widening, reviewing shoulder and ditch issues, overseeing traffic

engineering issues due to the new access lanes and additional traffic, approving materials for the additional lanes, coordinating with government entities and working on utility needs along the project.

Members of the team include Robert Cook, Thad Fowler, Andy Gisi, Brian Gower, Allen Grunder, Darrell Gwaltney, Heather Hall, Jeff Henry, Cheryl Lambrecht, Mike Moriarty, Kristi Pyle, Debbie Tanking, Jessica Upchurch and Bill Vicory.

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.

Hard copies of the form are still available by calling Transportation Information at 785-296-3585 and require the signature of one of the supervisors listed above.

The award is given quarterly, with nominations for the fourth quarter due to Transportation Information by Dec. 31.

KDOT
Employee
Recognition
PROGRAM

District News...

**Dwight D Eisenhower
Harry S Truman
PRESIDENTIAL HIGHWAY**

Highway signs unveiled

Highway signs designating a portion of I-70 in Kansas and Missouri as the Dwight D. Eisenhower – Harry S. Truman Presidential Highway were unveiled Nov. 18 at a ceremony in Kansas City, Mo. The Kansas portion of I-70 is 150 miles; the Missouri portion is 16 miles.

**District
One**

In 2011, the Kansas and Missouri legislatures each enacted a law creating the Eisenhower Truman Presidential Highway to be on I-70 between Abilene and Independence, Mo. KDOT, along with MoDOT and the Eisenhower and Truman Presidential Libraries, partnered on this event.

Speakers included Secretary Deb Miller; Missouri Highway Transportation Commissioner Steve Miller; Dr. Michael Devine, Director of Truman Presidential Library and Museum; Karl Weissenbach, Director of Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum; and Mary Jean Eisenhower, President/CEO of People to People International.

In Kansas, signs will be placed on westbound I-70 in Kansas City and on eastbound I-70 one mile west of the K-15 interchange in Abilene.

Road work wraps up

Ramp reconstruction at the Niles Road/I-70 interchange in Salina was completed in November. Work on the interchange began in September and will continue this winter, but the roadway will be open to traffic. Construction

**District
Two**

is scheduled to be finished next June.

The new K-61 expressway opened to four lanes on Oct. 22. However, southbound temporary lane closures have occurred



Rehabilitation work continues along U.S. 36 in Norton.

to remove the current temporary striping and placement of the permanent striping.

Four mill and overlay projects in Ellsworth and Lincoln counties are wrapping up for this season. Work will resume next March.

U.S. 36 gets a face lift

The Phillipsburg Office is in charge of a project that began Oct. 25 and includes rehabilitating two stretches of U.S. 36 in Norton County.

**District
Three**

The first begins at West Street in Norton and extends to the east city limits. The second stretch starts at the east U.S. 36/K-383 junction and ends at the Phillips County line. The two projects total 9.1 miles.

“The project in the city of Norton consists of a three-inch mill and inlay performed in two lifts,” explains KDOT Construction Engineer Jim Riener. “The other section beginning at the junction has a ½-inch profile mill, followed by a two-inch

overlay.”

Flaggers and a pilot car operation are guiding the one-lane traffic through both work zones during daylight hours.

“The portion in town was completed on Nov. 5,” Riener said. “The paving is under way on the eastern project, and will hopefully be wrapped up by Thanksgiving if the weather cooperates.”

The pavement repair project is funded by T-WORKS, the transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature in May 2010.

Bridge to be replaced

The last remaining Marsh Arch bridge on the state highway system in southeast Kansas is headed toward

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The Bee Creek bridge on U.S. 166 will be replaced in 2012.

District News

Continued from page 8

replacement under the T-WORKS program. Built in 1931, the Bee Creek Bridge is located on U.S. 166 in Montgomery County, a quarter-mile east of the Chautauqua-Montgomery county line. The estimated cost of constructing a new bridge is about \$1.6 million. Work is scheduled to begin in March 2012.

James Barney Marsh, an engineer and bridge designer known for reinforced concrete arch bridges, holds the patent for the Marsh Arch bridge. Hundreds of Marsh Arch bridges were constructed from the 1910s through the early 1930s. Once favored for their overall design and appearance, the bridges – like the bridge over Bee Creek – have since become too narrow for modern highways.

Although numerous Marsh Arch bridges were dismantled and replaced, a small number can still be found on county roads in District Four. Perhaps most noteworthy in the region is the Brush Creek “Rainbow” Bridge on Historic Route 66 near Baxter Springs. The Brush Creek Bridge and several other Marsh Arch bridges in Kansas are listed in the National Historic Register.

District Four

I-235 issues discussed

A public meeting in early November shared project concepts and designs on future projects addressing congestion and safety issues in the I-235 and U.S. 54/400 interchange area in west Wichita.

About 75 people, including public officials from Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita, viewed the plans, provided input and asked questions of the road design squad and consultant.

In May, Gov. Sam Brownback announced \$116 million of T-WORKS funding for the first phase of these improvements. The project includes partial reconstruction of the interchange including the rebuilding of a loop ramp and the elimination of two others by constructing an elevated one-lane flyover ramp and a two-lane flyover ramp.

District Five

One intersection is better

A recently completed project on the eastern edge of Garden City turned a pair of troublesome intersections into a single intersection better able to handle increasing traffic demands.

At one time, the junctions of K-156 with Mary



KDOT employee Rob Stork, center, looks at plans of the I-235 and U.S. 54/400 area with attendees at an informational meeting in November.

Street and Jennie Barker Road were quiet, rural intersections about 400 feet apart. Commercial development and increasing traffic led KDOT, the City of Garden City and Finney County to begin looking at possible changes several years ago. About 5,000 vehicles a day pass through the corridor, with many of them turning at the crossroads.

The final result is a single intersection that sits squarely with the highway, as opposed to the diagonal intersections the two roads made previously. The joint city-county-state project cost approximately \$3.7 million.

District Six



Before and after photos along K-156 on the east side of Garden City show improved site distance, access points and increased lanes for traffic to use.



Information for the District news briefs section is provided by the District Public Affairs Managers.

*Fun Facts
and Trivia*

Do you know?

**Kansas
Fun Facts**

1. Second only to Texas, there have been more of these found in Kansas than in any other state west of the Mississippi River.
A. Cow chips B. Prairie dogs C. Meteorites D. Yellow-stem wildflowers
2. Two miles northeast of Hanover is the site of only one of these left.
A. Three-story sod house B. Original Pony Express Station C. Santa Fe Trail wagon D. Helium ball
3. What is the oldest continuously operating restaurant west of the Mississippi River?
A. Hays House in Council Grove B. Hayward's Pit Barbeque in Overland Park C. Chicken House Café in Olpe D. Bourquins Old Depot Restaurant in Colby
4. What unique item is at the McPherson Museum?
5. The first national hamburger chain started in Kansas in 1921. What is it?
6. Goodland has the world's largest...
A. Snow gate B. Easel C. Tractor D. Stalk of wheat

Answers on page 16
Source:
legendsofamerica.com

**Welcome
new KDOT
employees!**

Headquarters
Dylan Shepherd, ET Series,
Transportation Safety and Technology

District One
Toni Jager, Administrative Assistant,
Topeka

District Four
Brian D. Ensminger, Equipment Operator
Trainee, Garnett
Clint D. Gulick, Equipment Operator
Trainee, Eureka

District Six
Cynthia Ribordy, Administrative
Assistant, Garden City

The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information to Translines.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Thank you Ron Munyan and Jerry
Graham (KDOT employees in Syracuse):**

We are the Missouri couple you stopped and helped. We were so thankful for your assistance. The world needs more thoughtful people like yourselves. We made it home safely but not

before an accident in Rockford. Should we say not our week? Again, thanks!
Barry and Judy Perry

Editor's Note: The Perrys had a flat tire on the U.S. 50 and U.S. 83 north junction in Garden City. Munyan and Graham saw them and stopped to help.

Dear Secretary Miller,

I thought you might be interested in this news release (on the completion of the Gypsum Creek Bridge) that I will be sending to our local newspaper and radio stations later today. Ron Seitz and Tod Salfrank stopped by the project on their way through the county earlier this week to see the project. I wasn't there but Terry Mattison from my office spoke with them and later told me that they both seemed well pleased and took photos. We can send you more if you'd like.

Thank you for your efforts in making the Federal Fund Exchange Program a reality. As I state below, the program allowed us to expedite the letting of this bridge as it wasn't scheduled for letting until September 2011 with federal funding. In other words, we would just now be

beginning construction if we went the fed fund route and here we are finishing with exchange funds!

As we all know, timing is everything and taking advantage of the fact that bridge builders needed work when we bid this project got us awesome bids. I sincerely believe this fact coupled with the fact that we do all of our design in house rather than using expensive consultants saved taxpayers a significant amount of money.

I believe Federal Fund Exchange is one of the best programs for local entities that has come out of KDOT for a long time. You need some kudos from the local jurisdictions every once in awhile!

Neil Cable
Saline County Engineer

Short I-435 closures beneficial for motorists

Constructing a major project and still accommodating traffic in one of the most heavily traveled sections of roadways in the state is a challenge that was recently met by KDOT.

In October, KDOT and the project contractor, Clarkson Construction, made several decisions to benefit motorists on Interstate 435 along an area near Quivira Road in Johnson County where \$102 million in roadway improvements are currently under way. During two weekends (9/30-10/3 and 10/14-10/17) KDOT first closed all eastbound lanes of I-435 and then all westbound lanes of I-435 to expedite construction activity.

“Closing I-435 was a short-term pain that resulted in long-term benefits for both motorists and the contractor,” said KDOT Metro South Engineer Burt Morey. “Normally we would not close

an interstate, but in this case it proved to be beneficial for many reasons.”

The closure allowed for the quick construction of a pair of concrete box bridge culverts under I-435 to carry storm water. One was constructed just east of Quivira Road and another just west of Quivira Road.

“Instead of carrying traffic through a highly constricted construction zone for up to 45 days we were able to expedite the project by working around-the-clock for two weekends. This greatly reduced long-term traffic congestion resulting from construction and more importantly improved safety for motorists and workers.”

I-435 was closed between U.S. 69 and I-35 in Overland Park. I-435 carries an average of 122,500 vehicles per day through this area.

KDOT also benefited motorists

by changing the original date for the westbound closure. The highway was scheduled to be closed October 7-10, but KDOT postponed the work to the following weekend to accommodate fans traveling to the NASCAR races at the Kansas Speedway.

Improvements being made at U.S. 69 & I-435 are part of KDOT’s T-WORKS program. Project work includes construction of southbound collector-distributor road network along U.S. 69 between 103rd Street and 119th Street, widening work on eastbound and westbound I-435 and construction of collector-distributor road network along I-435 between I-35 and U.S. 69.

Interchange improvements will be completed at I-435 & Quivira Road, I-435 & U.S. 69, U.S. 69 & College Boulevard and U.S. 69 & 119th Street.
— S.W.

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KDOT Computer Training

— from the KCTC

Outlook 2010

KDOT will upgrade to Outlook 2010 prior to rolling out the entire Office 2010 package to utilize Outlook 2010's enhanced shared calendar features. Executive Staff, Bureau Chiefs and District Engineers have begun using Outlook 2010 and the roll-out to other employees will continue. Brochures and two classes will provide users with detailed functions and features in Outlook 2010.

Several new features include:

- Calendar sharing and opening co-workers' calendars are easier
- Calendar control permissions work better
- Sharing several calendars at once is more convenient
- Compare schedules in your normal calendar view with the new Schedule View button
- Perform a set of actions in one click with the new Quick Steps
- Check-out the new People Pane
- Create a meeting from an email and include all email recipients
- Easy view of the Contact Card via an email address
- Search for an email with the new Search Tab, automatically active in the ribbon
- Use the Conversation View to track and manage related messages
- Check-out more ways to delete and clean-up emails
- And many more new features

There is no date set for the general Office 2010 suite roll-out, other than to expect it in the near future, minus InfoPath 2010.

Check out ongoing classes via the Outlook shared calendar - KCTC.
 Contact the KCTC kctc@ksdot.org or call Ingrid Vandervort 785-296-8993.

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M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in December

10 YEARS

Isaac Armstrong Garden City
 Keith Britt White City
 Michael Cook Oberlin
 James Ensley Topeka
 Darren Miller Kinsley
 Eric Nichol Topeka
 Brian Nutter Topeka
 Lance Reimer Garden City
 James Stegman Bucklin
 Trini Vega Morrill
 Tammy Wilson Topeka

20 YEARS

Oswald Dwyer Topeka
 Gerald Griggs Colby
 Stephen Rockers Lawrence

30 YEARS

Frances McAdoo Topeka

50 YEARS

Duane Zimmerman Topeka

State service anniversaries are compiled by Personnel Services. Employees and hometowns are included in this list.

Answers

1. C. Meteorites
2. B. Original Pony Express Station
3. A. Hays House in Council Grove, opened in 1857
4. The hide and head of the first MGM

Lion, Leo.

5. White Castle, in Wichita
6. B. Easel. It is 80 feet high, weighs 40,000 pounds and holds a giant replica of Vincent Van Gough's Sunflower painting.