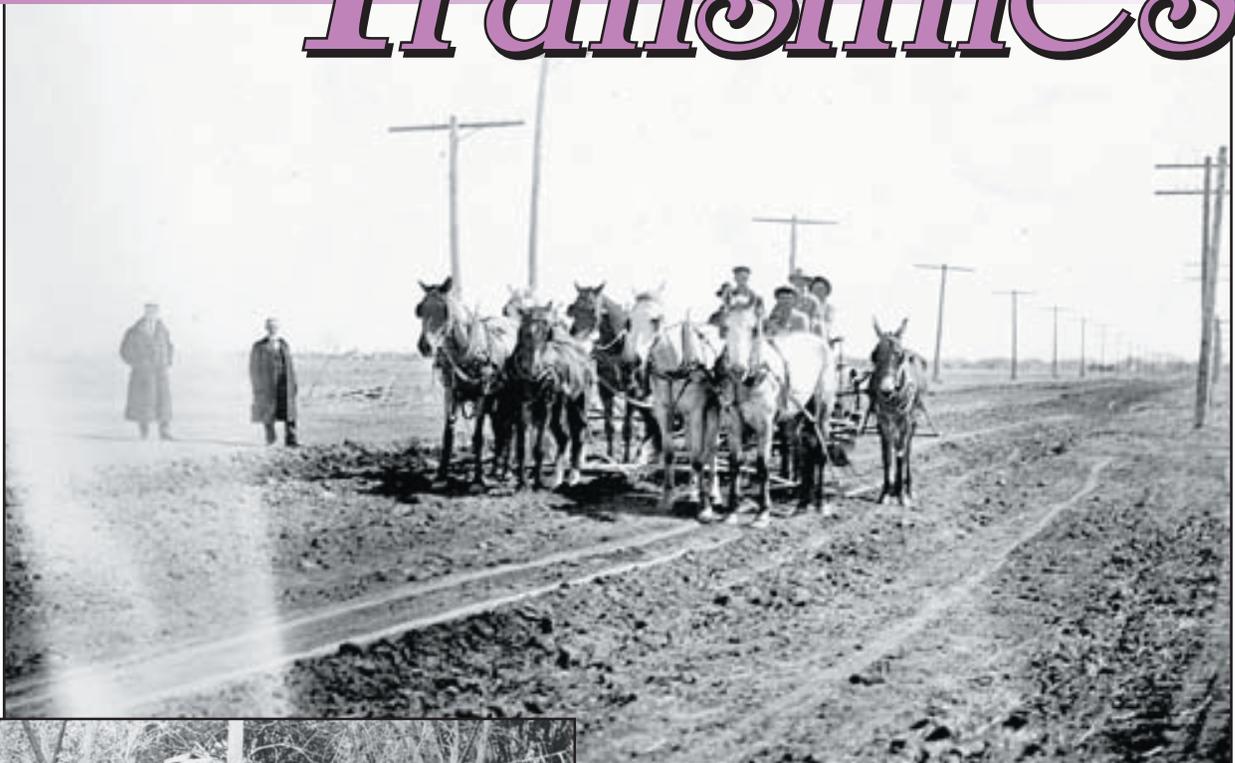


# Translines



## LOOKING BACK

See pages 12-13



## Inside...

- ◆ Governor-elect reappoints Secretary Miller
- ◆ Texting fine will go into effect beginning Jan. 1

- ◆ Partnerships key to award-winning Kansas project
- ◆ Employees receive Orange Hero awards
- ◆ Historical Kansas trivia questions



By Secretary  
Deb Miller

## Good deeds provide their own rewards

One of my favorite duties as Secretary of Transportation is to present the annual Orange Hero awards. On Dec. 7, I had a great time handing out nearly a hundred awards, the most ever. Actually, some of them were handed out in the districts by other presenters, but I got to announce all the winners. (See pages 10 and 11 for a list of the winners.)

Every year I am so impressed with the winners and the great work for which they are recognized. The opportunity to work with such talented, creative, hard-working people is truly what makes my job so great.

The downside of the Orange Hero (and all other awards) is that you can only give out so many of these awards or they lose their meaning. And that's unfortunate because there are a lot of people who don't always get the recognition they deserve for doing the things that give KDOT a reputation of being responsible and responsive. For example:

■ Russell Subarea Supervisor John Boxberger pulled off the "needle in a haystack" feat of locating a Michigan woman's missing diamond among the rock salt scattered on a rest area sidewalk. The woman had no idea where the diamond had fallen out of her wedding ring and was hoping against hope that maybe it had been at one of the rest areas where she'd stopped. She asked if we could look. "Words cannot express how grateful I am to John and the Hays area

employees who took the time to search for my lost diamond," she wrote.

■ The team of people in District Three who reunited an inconsolable, 4-year-old Colorado girl with the teddy bear she'd left at the Colby rest area on the trip home from Michigan. A few days after our crew found the teddy bear, it arrived by mail at the girl's home. "I felt like it was this beautiful miracle to have people helping us. We were all so touched by their efforts," the girl's mother wrote to us.

■ Salina Public Service Administrator David Boyle, who was en route home with his wife after work when he stopped to help a woman whose car had a flat tire. "He must have been anxious to get home after working all day, but he put that aside in favor of stopping to help a stranded traveler," the woman wrote. "I cannot thank him enough for changing my tire and getting me back on the road."

■ El Dorado Equipment Operator Richard Corbin, who stopped his tractor, removed his hat and placed it over his heart as a funeral procession passed. One of the people in the motorcade was so moved by the gesture he stopped on the way back from the cemetery to express his gratitude to Richard. He later wrote, "For Richard to take time from his duties to show respect to another is the true meaning of America's Heartland. I learned from Richard Corbin that day."

■ The dedicated people who sacrificed time with their families during the 2009 Christmas Eve blizzard to keep our roads passable. An Air Force sergeant who was trying to get home to see his family one last time before deploying to Iraq had given up hope of seeing them after traveling on the worsening, snow-covered roads in neighboring states. But when he crossed into Kansas, he was stunned to see that our roads were clear and would allow him to reach his family, after all. He wrote: "Please thank the men and women who work thanklessly and tirelessly every day to keep the Kansas roads safe and clear."

There are a lot more of you I could mention here, but I've run out of space. While not all of you will receive a funny-looking statue for your great work, I hope you take satisfaction from knowing that you consistently do the right thing for all the right reasons. Thank you.



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## Calendar of Events

**Jan. 14** – 9:30 a.m. - Highway Advisory Commission meeting.

**Jan. 17** – State employees off for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

**Jan. 19** – 1 p.m. Construction Bid Letting, Fourth Floor West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.

# Texting fine goes into effect beginning Jan. 1

A new state law banning drivers from reading, writing or sending text messages will get some “teeth” beginning Jan. 1.

The Kansas texting law was passed by the 2010 Legislature and went into effect July 1 with a six-month warning period for motorists. Beginning the first of the year, drivers caught writing, sending or reading a text message while driving on a public road or highway will be issued a \$60 fine.

Kansas joined 27 other states in banning a practice that the U.S. Department of Transportation calls “alarming” and experts say makes serious crashes four times more likely.

Secretary Deb Miller said texting is a particularly dangerous activity because it takes the driver’s eyes off the road and hands off the wheel.

“Studies show that, on average, drivers who are texting take their eyes

off the road for about five seconds per message,” said Secretary Miller. “At 55 miles per hour, a vehicle would travel further than the length of a football field, plus its end zones – a total of 134 yards – in those five seconds. That should be all anyone needs to know about the danger of texting and driving.”

While all distractions can endanger drivers’ safety, texting is most alarming because it involves all three types of distractions:

**Visual** – taking your eyes off the road  
**Manual** – taking your hands off the wheel

**Cognitive** – taking your mind off what you’re doing

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly 6,000 people died in 2008 in crashes involving a distracted driver, accounting for 16 percent of traffic fatalities, and more than half a million were injured.—S.W.



*Fines for texting and driving in Kansas will be issued starting Jan. 1.*

## Bodyk receives Safe Kids honor

Pete Bodyk, KDOT Traffic Safety Program Manager, was recently presented Safe Kids Kansas highest honor the Doctor Dennis Cooley Award of Excellence.

The award was presented to Bodyk on Dec. 7 in recognition of his excep-



*Pete Bodyk*

tional contribution in the field of childhood injury prevention in Kansas. He has been instrumental in passage of a statewide booster seat law, primary seat belt law and graduated driver’s licensing requirements, as well as other traffic education and enforcement issues. Bodyk has served in his current capacity at KDOT the past seven years.

“Everybody in the office of Traffic Safety works hard to keep children safe on the road,” Bodyk said. “They do all the hard work.”

The Dr. Dennis Cooley Award of Excellence is named after Topeka pediatrician Dennis Cooley, a longtime advocate for children’s safety.

Safe Kids Kansas, Inc., is a coalition of more than 70 statewide and regional organizations and businesses dedicated to preventing unintentional injuries to Kansas children.

## On the... COVER

*Top: Work takes place on the new Santa Fe Trail west of Kinsley in Edwards County in 1910. Bottom left: a family travels by covered wagon in Johnson County in 1908. Bottom right: Wagons cross the Cimarron River in Grant County in 1914. See pages 12 and 13 for related articles.*

## Aviation study given Engineering Excellence award

The Kansas Aviation Economic Impact Study has received an Engineering Excellence award from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Kansas.

The study provided economic data to local communities to assist in understanding the importance of the airport in the community. It also showed detailed surveys of on-airport manufacturing and service facilities, airport users, visitors

and medical facilities.

As a result, the study determined that on-airport economic activity in Kansas is \$10.4 billion and the aviation industry in Kansas generates \$20 billion.

A Federal Aviation Administration grant funded the study and was administered by KDOT’s Aviation Division with help from Wilbur Smith Associates.

The award will be presented in June in Wichita during an ACEC meeting.

*Secretary Deb Miller and Governor-elect Sam Brownback share a conversation at his Dec. 7 Cabinet announcement at the Kansas Statehouse in Topeka.*



# Governor-elect reappoints Secretary Miller

**By Steve Swartz**

When Governor-elect Sam Brownback was selecting members of his cabinet, he didn't have to look far for a Secretary of Transportation. On Dec. 7, he reappointed Deb Miller to the job she's had for the past eight years.

Secretary Miller becomes part of the new governor's Economic Growth Team, which also includes the secretaries of Labor, Commerce, Revenue and Agriculture and the Governor's Budget Director.

She was first selected as Secretary of Transportation by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius in 2003, becoming the first woman to lead the agency. Over the past eight years she managed both implementation of the Comprehensive Transportation Program and the effort that led to passage of the innovative follow-up program T-WORKS.

In that time she also became a national transportation leader, serving as chair of the Transportation Research Board, head of AASHTO's Standing Committee on Planning, chairwoman of a panel that oversaw the development of the

"Commuting in America III" report and as a member of the AASHTO Climate Change Program Steering Committee.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to help continue the important work we've begun under the new transportation program T-WORKS," Secretary Miller said in a statement released at the time of her reappointment.

"Under the program, which had strong bi-partisan support in the Kansas Legislature, we have the opportunity to make strategic transportation investments that will support economic development, create tens of thousands of jobs and spur our state's economic recovery."

Secretary Miller's role as KDOT's CEO is her second tour of duty with the agency. From 1986 to 1997 she was the Director of the Division of Planning and Development. Before being named Secretary by Gov. Sebelius, she spent four years with HNTB where she provided strategic planning and public communication assistance to state departments of transportation and municipalities.

## What they're saying. . .

### Local, industry leaders weigh in on Secretary Miller's reappointment

■ *"We believe that Deb's reappointment ensures continuity in putting the new Kansas transportation program of T-WORKS into motion. We look forward to working with Deb and the other members of the Governor-elect's cabinet in making it better for Kansas."*

**Edward DeSoignie, executive director, Heavy Constructors Association of Greater Kansas City**

■ *"It's refreshing to see an appointment based on performance – and oh, what performance!"*

**Kathleen Holt, co-chair of the Gray County Economic Development Council**

■ *"Secretary Miller's reappointment is a testament to her dedication to the citizens of Kansas, as well as the national reputation she has earned as a true transportation professional. This was an excellent decision by Governor-elect Brownback."*

**Pete Rahn, senior vice president, HNTB, and former director of the Missouri DOT**

■ *"The reappointment of Secretary Miller is by far one of the most important appointments that in-coming Governor Sam Brownback has made and will make."*

**South Hutchinson Mayor Weldon Cook**



*Governor-elect Brownback announces the reappointment of Deb Miller as Secretary of Transportation. Next to Secretary Miller is Lt. Gov.-elect Jeff Colyer. At right is Secretary of Revenue designee Nick Jordan.*

■ *"She has worked tirelessly to ensure transportation funding remained in place with the new bill and reaffirmed my vote for Gov. Brownback with his non-partisan selection, when most thought it would never happen due to political bias."*

**Reid Bell, executive director, Pratt Airport Authority**

■ *"We are very pleased that Secretary Miller has been reappointed to continue her collaborative leadership at the Kansas Department of Transportation. We believe the continuity she will provide is extremely important given the recent passage of T-WORKS and the important role KDOT and the T-WORKS program can have in helping in the state's economic recovery."*

**Dale L. Houdeshell, director of Public Works, City of Manhattan**

■ *"Deb Miller has done an outstanding job in leading KDOT these past eight years. She has outstanding people supporting her and through her leadership, she has helped citizens of Kansas better understand the challenges of a state department of transportation. We are fortunate to have an outstanding transportation program that makes all Kansans proud."*

**H. Dean Mann, past president of the U. S. Highway 69 Association, chairman of Citizens Bank, Fort Scott**

■ *"This is such good news and a wise one at that. The architect of T-WORKS will get to implement the program for the benefit of all Kansans."*

**Jim AuBuchon, executive director, U.S. Highway 69 Association**

# District News...

## I-435 repair major task

A repair and resurfacing project on I-435 from 87th Street to Antioch Road in Johnson County was completed in

**District One**

late November. Last year's winter weather took its toll on this section of I-435 which needed permanent repairs to patch potholes.

Work began in June and included concrete pavement patching, mill and asphalt overlay work, ultra thin bonded overlay work and new pavement markings.

To complete repairs during this season, crews worked round the clock, seven days a week with multiple lane closures in both directions, no small feat with an average of 70,000-100,000 commuters daily. Due to the amount of additional repairs that were needed, almost 45 percent more pavement patching was added to the project with only a 20-day project extension.

Superior Bowen was the primary contractor on the \$3.9 million project. The work was completed just in time for this winter and will now provide motorists a much smoother driving surface.

## Traffic on new lanes

As part of the planned construction of the new alignment for K-61, work has been completed on the southbound lanes of the new alignment in McPherson County.

Traffic was transferred from the old K-61 to the new southbound lanes on Dec. 15. Northbound and southbound traffic will be carried on the new lanes. Barriers and signing have been placed to assist drivers in the transfer onto the new highway.

**District Two**

On Dec. 13, Dakota, 11th and Chisholm streets were permanently closed to K-61 from the east. These roads are already closed from the west.

With traffic transferred, work can

begin on the northbound lanes. All work is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2011.

## Boards alert motorists

District Three is in the process of installing a new eastbound permanent message board seven miles east of the Colorado/Kansas State line along I-70.

The new sign is one of several message boards being installed through money made available to KDOT by a combination of federal Amber Alert

sign," Withington says.

Road information including winter weather advisories, road closures and other messages be displayed as well as Amber Alert postings for missing/abducted children. A camera will also be installed at the new sign location. Views from the camera will be available on KDOT's website, [www.kandrive.org](http://www.kandrive.org), after construction and testing are completed.

Phillips Southern Electric Co., of Wichita, is the prime contractor in charge of the \$503,361 signing job.



*The newly reconstructed eastern leg of Shaw Road in Neosho County is open to traffic. ARRA funds helped pay for the project.*

funding and state funding. Other sign locations include: Liberal, Garden City, Pittsburg, Belleville, McPherson and the BETO (Burlington, Emporia, Topeka, Ottawa) Junction.

Atwood Area Construction Engineer Mathew Withington, who is managing the statewide signing contract, said that District Three's sign should be up after the first of the year.

**District Three**

"We started on our project around Oct. 11, and so far contractors have done the boring and trenching under the Interstate, drilled the pole holes, and poured the concrete footings for the

## Shaw Road opens

With help from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, the second phase of the Shaw Road improvement in Neosho County is complete and open to traffic.

**District Four**

Reconstruction of the eastern 3.6 miles of 160th (Shaw) Road began in March 2010. The \$3.4 million project received \$500,000 in ARRA funding.

The final piece in reconstructing this well-traveled county connector is

**Continued on page 7**

## District News

Continued from page 6

replacement of the truss bridge over the Neosho River at the community of Shaw. Shaw Road will again be closed to through traffic during the bridge project, which is scheduled to start in 2011.

Venture Corporation of Great Bend was the primary contractor on the eastern project, which extended from Marshall Road at Shaw to U.S. 59. The western section of Shaw Road, running from Elk Road east to the Neosho River Bridge, was rebuilt in 2007-2008.

## New memorial highway

To honor the service of two soldiers who lost their lives while serving in Iraq, a section of highway along K-2, K-14 and U.S. 160 from north of Anthony to north of Harper was dedicated as the Sergeant First Class David Berry and Sergeant WillSun Mock Memorial Highway.

**District  
Five**

A sign unveiling ceremony took place at Chaparral High School on Nov. 17. Speakers at the ceremony were Deputy Secretary for Engineering & State Transportation Engineer Jerry Younger, and State Rep. Pat Maloney. Rep. Malo-



*A recently completed geometric improvement project in Cimarron provides a five-lane section with a center turning lane on U.S. 50/400 to better serve businesses on Cimarron's eastern edge.*

ney spearheaded the effort with David's and Will's families and friends to pass legislation and raise money for these signs. Will's mother, Ann Mock, and David's widow, Kathleen Berry, unveiled the sign at the ceremony.

Also attending the ceremony for KDOT was District Engineer Bob Cook, Winfield Area Engineer Allen Grunder, Winfield Maintenance Superintendent Greg Dixon, District Public Affairs Manager Martin Miller and the Anthony Subarea Crew.

After the indoor sign unveiling the soldier's families, friends, local law enforcement, ceremony dignitaries and Patriot Guard members drove to Harper and then to Anthony to view the signs

along the highway. As this group left Chaparral High School, the Anthony Subarea Crew took the sign from the ceremony and installed it near Anthony before the procession passed by.

## U.S. 50 sees updates

Two recently-completed projects in Cimarron extend an effort to rebuild U.S.50/400 through town. Both projects replaced aging pavement with full-depth concrete.

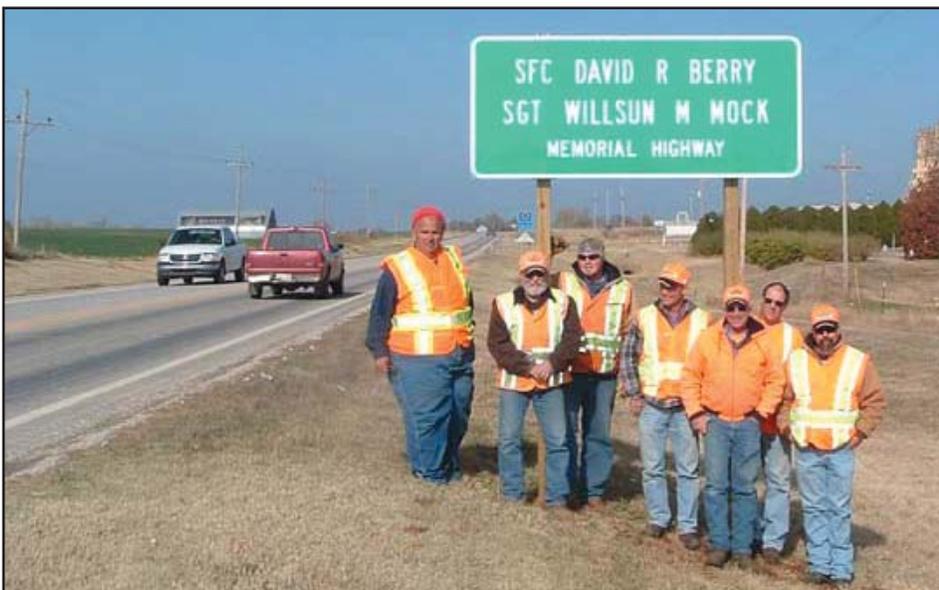
The first project, from 5th Street to 7th Street, was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) at a cost of \$711,000.

**District  
Six**

The second segment, from 7th Street to the eastern edge of Cimarron, was a Geometric Improvement project that replaced the pavement, added a center turning lane and rebuilt the curb and gutter and entrances on this .2-mile stretch.

The east side of Cimarron has seen a growth in commercial development in recent years along the south side of U.S. 50/400 and the city anticipates future development along the north side. Widening the roadway should serve the community well into the future.

J-A-G Construction Company of Dodge City completed both projects at a combined cost of less than \$1.5 million.



*Anthony Subarea crew members stand next to the sign they installed in time for attendees at the highway dedication ceremony to see after the event.*

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

# Majors in new role at KDOT as Performance Measures Manager

By Stan Whitley

A new position and a new transportation program make Dana Majors excited about the future in her role as KDOT's Performance Measures Manager.

Majors, a 1995 graduate of Kansas State University with a degree in mechanical engineering, started in her new job on Nov. 29. She comes to KDOT from Martin Tractor in Topeka where she was a project manager for 3½ years focusing on continuous improvement. She also served 12 years in Florida and Chicago as a technical writer.



Dana Majors

"I'll be reviewing our current performance measures to assess areas of overlap and look for gaps in meeting our measurement objectives," said Majors. "Coming from outside the agency, I'll be bringing a fresh set of eyes to examine our current state and look for ways to grow what we've started."

During the Partnership Project, a top to bottom review of KDOT that began in 2003, six performance measurement areas were identified to help the agency provide better customer service and become more efficient.

Majors will be KDOT's first Performance Measures Manager and she said the job is currently "a work in progress." She will be meeting with bureau chiefs, division directors, engineers, technical staff and personnel in the field to gain insight into the agency.

"I want to hear what areas we've been doing well in and what areas we can further develop," said Majors. "We want to engage employees in the decision making process and then work to communicate our results both internally and to the public."

Majors said her primary responsibilities will be to develop, implement and direct KDOT's performance measures plan based on the goals and strategic direction of the agency.

"Performance measures help us gauge our past and present performance so we can make smart decisions for the future," said Majors. "They allow us to improve our management effectiveness by making sound, data-driven decisions that align with what is important to the agency."

Majors said performance measures are also important so the agency can better allocate resources into the areas of greatest need and demonstrate that we are "responsible stewards" of public funds.

## Upcoming KDOT Training Courses

### Classes at Headquarters

- ♦Ouch! That Hurts Training, Dec. 21
- ♦PE Review, Jan. 9-13
- ♦Art Day 1,2,3, Jan. 18-20
- ♦Ouch! That Hurts Training Jan. 20
- ♦Transition to Leadership/You'll Catch on/Ethics, Jan. 24-28
- ♦Ouch! That Hurts Training, Feb. 15
- ♦New Employee Orientation, Jan. 6

### Classes at District Offices

- ♦TTL and Ethics, Dec. 7-9, Hutchinson
- ♦Ouch! That Hurts Training, Dec. 7-8, Pittsburgh/Independence
- ♦You'll Catch on, Dec. 14-15, Hutchinson
- ♦Diversity Training, Feb. 25, Chanute

## M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in January

### 10 YEARS

- Bobby David . . . . . Garnett
- Michael Ingalls . . . . . Lawrence
- Dennis Kennedy . . . . . Mankato
- Jennifer Kern . . . . . Denison
- Mitchell Kline . . . . . Norton
- Ian Stringham . . . . . Osawatome
- Karla Thies . . . . . Tecumseh
- Benjamin Tush . . . . . Garnett
- Danny Vervynck . . . . . Lawrence
- Cody Ward . . . . . Glade

### 30 YEARS

- Michael Hollis . . . . . Rolla
- Michael Popp . . . . . Wichita
- Noel Simpson . . . . . Garden City

### 20 YEARS

- Roger Anderson . . . . . Wamego
- Randall Billinger . . . . . Wellsville
- Chris Herrick . . . . . Topeka
- Sherry Martin . . . . . Garden City
- Dean Teal . . . . . Topeka
- Donald Ummel . . . . . WaKeeney
- Thomas Ware . . . . . Moline

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

## Retirees

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT in January.

### Headquarters

**Richard M. Bauman**, Public Service Executive, Support Services

**Reed W. Davis**, Financial Economist, Financial and Investment Management

**Wilbur H. Entz**, Chemist I, Topeka

**Ronald H. Heiman**, Engineering Technician, Topeka

**Steven R. Magee**, Assistant to the Director, Support Services

**Kathy Rangel**, Senior Administrative Specialist, Engineering and Design

### District One

**Steven R. Harries**, Equipment Operator Senior, Marysville

**Ronald D. Parrett**, Engineering Technician Senior, Holton

### District Three

**Ronald R. Rogers**, Equipment Operator Senior, Hoxie

### District Five

**Gerald B. Collins**, Equipment Operator Specialist, Lyons

**Danny E. Miller**, Storekeeper Specialist, Hutchinson

The following employees officially retired from KDOT in December.

### District One

**Martin R. Cook**, Equipment Operator, Shawnee

### District Five

**Darrell H. Robinson**, Engineering Technician Senior, Wichita

### District Six

**Ernest M. Munoz**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Garden City

*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.*



*Partnership efforts between many groups helped meet deadlines to make funding and construction possible on the K-18 expansion project.*

## Partnerships key to award-winning Kansas project

The K-18 highway expansion project that will accommodate the rapid growth of Fort Riley, as well as the development of a national agro-defense facility nearby, has been awarded the 2010 National Partnership for Highway Quality (NPHQ) Making a Difference Silver Award for partnering.

The award recognizes the strong partnership forged by KDOT, the Army, the federal government, Union Pacific Railroad, consultant HNTB, the Cities of Ogden and Manhattan, Riley County and other local stakeholders. The partnership was essential for state transportation leaders to meet the strict deadline necessary to qualify the K-18 expansion project for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

In 2008, KDOT decided to advance the complex road/drainage plans to their final stage to have partial improvement plans in place when funding became available. With the schedule accelerated by more than six months to meet ARRA deadlines, partnering was a key to meet these deadlines.

“Given the proximity of the con-

flicting uses, communities and user groups, it is remarkable how well KDOT and its partners were able to coordinate everything and communicate the results to us in a timely and comprehensive fashion,” said Peter Rombold, attorney for the City of Ogden, which is located on K-18.

“By means of an innovative and open design process, KDOT was able to simultaneously provide greater access, flood control and development to this small Kansas town,” he said.

Funded by \$80.3 million in ARRA money, the project will convert about two miles of K-18 between Fort Riley and Manhattan into a four-lane freeway with multiple bridges, an intersection, flood control measures and rail and utility location. The entire 7.3-mile stretch between the fort and Manhattan is one of the fastest growing corridors in Kansas.

The K-18 project is expected to be completed in late 2012.

NPHQ is a national coalition that combines public highway agencies and private industry expertise to lead the advancement in highway quality, safety and service to the highway users.

# Employees receive Orange Hero awards

Employees from across the state were presented Orange Hero awards on Dec. 7 in Topeka and in District offices. The award honors employees and their efforts to go above and beyond the call of duty.

The 2010 Orange Hero winners were:

## ***“The Ready For My Close-Up Award”***

Seven employees played key roles in making available to the public live streaming video of key Kansas highways, a project that required a high degree of interdisciplinary cooperation under demanding time constraints: Jeff Neal, Bill Kritikos, Shayne Casey, Travis Combes, Mark Clements, Heather Hall, Lane Wiley.

## ***“The Kansas Connection Award”***

The Communications Group delivered statewide radio interoperability on time and on budget: Ed Geer, Darren Miller, Robert Childs, Vicki Shanley, Rusty Bryan, Craig Morton, Mike Hernandez, Jerry Villines, Richard Smith, Scott Jensen, Ted Vogan, Steve West, Doug Thirkell, David Fischer, Mike Gaydusek, Jason Flax, Jeremy Belleau, Bryan Hardwick, Paul Kwek, Perry Nolan, Mark Rabe, Mike Minnis, Jason Bryant, Joe Dillion, Marc Mayfield, Ken Rishel, Harold Sauvage, Tyler Blanchard, Loren Jones, Tim Hatch, Paul Freeland, Marcia Chapman, Bob Carter.

## ***“The Performance Powerhouse Award”***

Elsit Mandal’s leadership in KDOT’s adoption of challenging new reporting standards for Federal Highway Administration data earned her a letter of commendation from FWA.

## ***“The Lots of Learning, For Less Award”***

Two years ago, KDOT offered no online training at all to our employees, but Leslie Fisher has overseen the agency’s launch of more than 45 internal training courses. KDOT employees have completed more than 7,000 such courses since the program’s inception.

## ***“The Money Talks, Red Tape Walks Award”***

Sondra Clark was a key figure in KDOT’s innovative and very difficult adoption of the Federal Fund Exchange program, which permits local governments to exchange federal dollars for less-restrictive state dollars and offers substantial new flexibility to local government planners across the state.

## ***“The Brains of the Operation Award”***

Amy Link in the Office of Public Affairs routinely transforms rambling, wonky policy notes into direct, understandable and visually appealing documents, and—remarkably—she does it over and over and over and over, without complaint. Secretary Miller says she’s so dependent on her work that she’s thinking of cancelling Amy’s annual leave.

## ***“The Making a Difference Award”***

For five years, KDOT’s Outreach Engineers have represented their profession at events and activities throughout

Kansas, acting as ambassadors for the engineering profession and for careers in civil service. Thanks to these engineers, there’s a generation of kids excited about engineering: Kelly Carlton, Kelly Cool, Aaron Frits, Kelly Hovey, Matt Hinshaw, Paul Kulseth, Shelby Miller, Charlene Morris, Jeff Sims, Ryan Sims, Andrew Jenkins, Kevin Koester, Anthony Menke, Kristi Pyle, Kendra Stevenson.

## ***“The Mighty Maintenance Award”***

KDOT’s maintenance crew in District One, Area One, performed splendidly, sometimes in adverse weather, in maintaining the steel grid deck of the old Missouri River bridge in Atchison: Robbie Weishaar, Jim Pike, Tony Zeltner, Joe Snyder, Josh Hughes, Jim Delzeit, Tyler Molt, Jacob Wilburn, Tony Brey, Linus Grollmes, Matt Watkins, Chuck Oswald, Kevin Strube, Charlie George, Doug Foye, John Moore, Mark Scott, Brad Holzhay, Jim Richling, Leroy Koehn, Brian Feldkamp, Wesley Duncan.

## ***“The Right Response Award”***

Tom Hein, KDOT’s Public Affairs Manager in Wichita, set up and participated in a safety conference for local residents after two fatality accidents on K-254 occurred on the same weekend.

## ***“The Heroic Effort Award”***

Michael “Tony” Trower, a Supervisor at the KDOT shop in Topeka, was one of the first responders after a violent bridge rail crash on U.S. 24. He used his KDOT truck to help establish traffic control until the arrival of police and other emergency responders, and helped remove one of the accident victims from a burning vehicle.

## ***“The Social Butterfly Award”***

Kim Qualls was among KDOT’s leaders in adopting Twitter to push road/weather/traffic information to motorists in



***Fiscal Services Bureau Chief Ronda Seitz, right, accepts an Orange Hero award on behalf of the entire bureau for their effort to launch KDOT’s new accounting system.***

## Orange Heros

Continued from page 10

northeast Kansas, and her work with the office of U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood was instrumental in establishing a standardized list of national transportation-related Twitter hashtags.

### *“The Get Smart Award”*

Rhonda Seitz and the Fiscal Bureau worked tirelessly in the difficult launch of KDOT’s new accounting system and overcame significant obstacles, including less-than-ideal training materials, to implement the system in all of KDOT’s Districts.

### *“The Golden Opportunity Award”*

Joe Erskine and his management and budget team designed and launched the creative financing package that made possible the Kansas City Intermodal project in Edgerton.

### *“The It’s Never Gonna Happen . . . But It Did Award”*

Lindsey Douglas, Terry Heidner and Kyle Schneweis of KDOT’s Governmental Affairs Office worked long and hard to ensure legislators had all the information they needed as they debated the T-WORKS bill.

### *“The Kansas Shift Award”*

Mike Longshaw, Joe Palic and Jeff Henry introduced the Kansas Shift after three fatality crashes in a six-week period during a road improvement project on U.S. 50 between Emporia and Newton. Kansas Shift uses cones and other channeling devices to route traffic off the roadway and onto the shoulder in work zones, reducing crashes and enhancing the safety for flaggers.

### *“The Picture Perfect Award”*

Kristen Brands had the forethought to shoot before-and-after photographs of the Ellis County Bridge rebuilding project. The two images provided a startling contrast, and such photographs are now commonly used by the agency for infrastructure projects.

## Step Back in Time



*Workers make repairs on the U.S. 24 bridge at Perry in 1952.*

# KDOT engineer gains younger member insight into ASCE

By Josh Powers

### Public Involvement Liaison

The Transportation and Development Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers conducted a roundtable in Los Angeles recently to poll its “Younger Members” on how the Institute might better meet their needs.

KDOT Engineering Associate Kelly Hovey was one of only eight invited transportation professionals under the age of 35 from west of the Mississippi to attend the gathering on behalf of the Kansas Section Younger Member Group of ASCE.

“We’re trying to increase what we do for technical in our ASCE,” said Hovey. “In the past we’ve done a lot of outreach with local schools, like having egg drop competitions and building gum drop bridges with students, but we’re lacking in structuring technical and professional development presentations, so I wanted to attend the roundtable to see how, on a national level T&DI can

help us bring that technical aspect into our YM group.”

Hovey first became involved with ASCE while earning her bachelor of



*Kelly Hovey*

science in civil engineering degree at Iowa State University. After joining KDOT in 2007 as part of the Rotational Training Program for new Engineering Associates, she served first as the social chair and then as Vice President (President-elect) of the Kansas section

YM group.

She is currently pursuing a master of science in civil engineering degree with emphases in transportation at the University of Kansas, and serves as the President of the Kansas Section YMG.

“Because I don’t know a great deal about the Transportation and Development Institute side of ASCE, I’m hoping to learn about their products and bring something useful back for our section,” Hovey said. “I’m also very much looking forward to meeting the other ASCE Younger Members and seeing what they’re doing in their sections.”

# Celebrating 150 years of statehood in Kansas

By Kim Stich

Several events in January in Topeka will recognize Kansas' sesquicentennial anniversary.

Jan. 29, 2011, will mark the 150th anniversary of Kansas becoming the 34th state admitted to the Union.

A ceremony for the first day of issue for the 150th anniversary Kansas stamp will be Jan. 27 at 10 a.m. at the Kansas Museum of History, 6425 S.W. 6th Ave. On Jan. 28, a Kansas Day celebration will take place at the State Capitol.



Kansas Day at the museum is scheduled for Jan. 28 and Jan. 29 with various activities taking place.

Information on these events and oth-

ers taking place across Kansas in 2011 is available on the Kansas 150 website at [www.ks150.org](http://www.ks150.org). The event calendar allows people to share their ideas and resources with each other, said Mary Madden, Kansas State Historical Society, Director of Education and Outreach.

Also, several items such as books, key chains, shirts and ornaments commemorating the 150th anniversary can be purchased at the museum gift shop.

For more information, contact Madden at 785-272-8681, ext. 417.

## Historical Kansas trivia questions

Test your Kansas knowledge with this trivia game on Kansas history. The answers are on page 14.

1. What is the name of the site where a major Civil War battle in Kansas was fought? a. Baxter Springs Battlefield b. Trading Post Kansas Battlefield c. Marais de Cygnes Battlefield d. Mine Creek Battlefield
2. Which city was struck by tornadoes consecutively in 1916, 1917, and 1918 on May 20? a. Hesston b. Garden City c. Codell d. Liberal
3. What is the name of the sinkhole located near Ashland that has never been known to be dry? a. Buffalo Bill's Well b. Elm Springs c. The Big Well d. St. Jacob's Well



4. How many oxen did it take to pull the 6,000 pound oversized wagon load used on the Santa Fe Trail? a. 4 b. 6 c. 8 d. 10
5. Which frontier explorer said of the west, "these vast plains of the western hemisphere may become in time equally celebrated as the sandy deserts of

Africa?" a. Zebulon Pike b. William Clark c. Meriwether Lewis d. Kit Carson

6. Kansas was the first state to raise what kind of military unit? a. National Guard b. African-American Infantry Regiment c. Plains Calvary Unit d. Special Forces Unit

7. Which frontier army scout who guided military units in Kansas was described by Colonel Custer as the "most famous scout on the plains?" a. James "Wild Bill" Hickok b. William "Buffalo Bill" Cody c. Kit Carson d. William Bent

8. Which Kiowa war chief was known as "The Orator of the Plains?" a. White Plume b. Satanta c. Geronimo d. Sitting Bull

9. During the years of the Santa Fe Trail, which Kansas river served as the border between the United States and Mexico? a. Kansas River b. Neosho River c. Arkansas River d. Smoky Hill River

10. What tribe of American Indians did Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado meet in the Quivira Region of Kansas? a. Pawnee Indians b. Cheyenne Indians c. Kansa Indians d. Wichita Indians



# Kansas will recognize 150th anniversary on state map

By Kim Stich

Kansas will commemorate the 150th anniversary of statehood in 2011. In connection with the celebration, the new 2011-2012 Official State Transportation Map will focus on 150 years of transportation across the state.

The overall appearance of the map has an antique look to it and shows a variety of historical and recent transportation photos.

"In keeping with celebrating the sesquicentennial, I drew inspiration from maps created 150 years ago - hence the more ornate font for the word Kansas above the legend, the barbed wire fence border around the state and the old parchment paper background," said Elaine Bryant, GIS Developer in Transportation Planning.

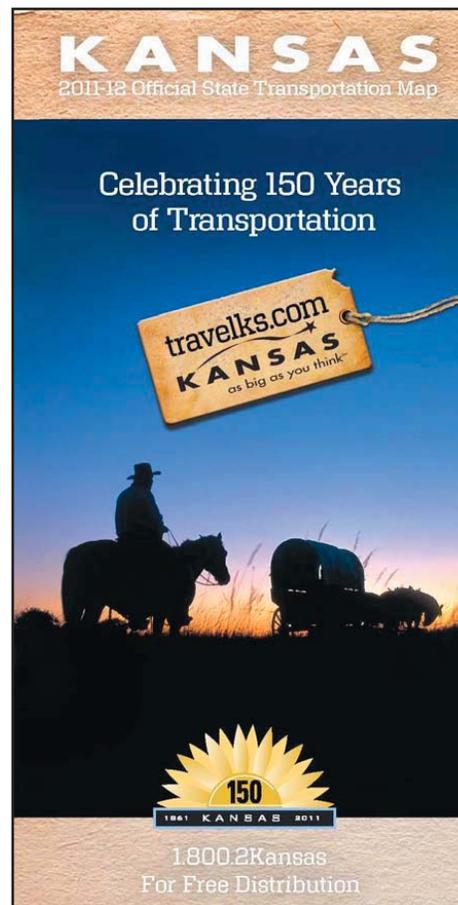
This is KDOT's first state map to be created completely in GIS and it is

one of the first ones in the nation to be produced in this manner.

"Producing the map in GIS allows us to pull data from various sources which are updated regularly - meaning we are showing the most current data we have for a road or feature in the state," Bryant said. "Using one version enables us to produce maps more efficiently and accurately than we have in the past."

According to Cartography/GIS Manager Brian Logan, between 800,000 and one million copies of the maps will be printed in the next two years with the first copies completed at the end of January.

Maps are available at Kansas Travel Centers, at KDOT Headquarters and District offices and at various hotels, attractions and other locations across the state.



*The cover of the 2011-2012 Official State Transportation map*



*From left to right, KDOT Transportation Planning employees Rick Bruner, Brian Logan and Elaine Bryant review the new Kansas map with State Printer employee Steve Lindsay at the State Printer's office in Topeka. Copies of the map will be ready in time for the 150th celebration of Kansas statehood in late January.*

# KDOT projects earn honors from KAPA

KDOT earned five awards at the annual Kansas Asphalt Paving Conference on Dec. 2 in Lawrence. The conference focuses on the latest technology and research in the areas of asphalt paving and asphalt mixtures and emulsions.

Deputy Secretary/ State Transportation Engineer Jerry Younger presented the awards in the photos at right.



*Travis Scott from District Three, right, accepts a second place Director's Award for a K-23 project with Phil Horsfall, center, from Venture Corporation.*



*Travis Scott from District Three, center, accepts a first place Director's Award for a U.S. 36 project with Bob Manka, right, from Venture Corporation.*



*Greg Adams, right, from District Six accepts a second place Overlay Award for a U.S. 160 project with Jim Castelli from APAC-Kansas, Shears Division.*



*Glenn Fager from District One, right, accepts a second place Overlay Award on a K-10 project with Jerry McMahon from APAC Kansas City Division.*



*Glenn Fager from District One, right, accepts a first place Overlay Award on a U.S. 69 project with Kyle Harbour from APAC Kansas City Division.*

**Answers to Kansas trivia questions on page 5**

1. c. Mine Creek Battlefield
2. c. Codell
3. d. St. Jacob's Well
4. d. 10
5. a. Zebulon Pike
6. b. African American Infantry Regiment
7. a. James "Wild Bill" Hickok
8. b. Satanta
9. c. Arkansas River
10. d. Wichita Indians

Photos on page 5: bottom left, Satanta; middle right, James "Wild Bill" Hickok. Photos courtesy of the Kansas State Historical Society

## Fire cuts cruise short for KDOT employee, wife

An engine fire that cut power to the Carnival Splendor cruise ship off the coast of Mexico, made for a short but memorable trip recently for KDOT employee Chris Davidson and his wife, Carrie.

The Davidson's, along with 4,500 passengers and crew members on board the cruise ship, became stranded at sea on Nov. 11. They made it back to U.S. soil Nov. 14 when the Splendor was pulled by six tugboats into San Diego harbor.

For three days, the Davidson's and others on the ship survived on sandwiches, Pop Tarts and fruit, spending as much time as possible on the Splendor's deck while the ship was without power.

Chris, a Project Engineer for KDOT in Topeka, provided details of what he and his wife experienced while aboard the Splendor as it drifted at sea.

He said the Splendor took off from Long Beach, Calif., for what was to have been a seven-day cruise into what is known as the Mexican Riviera, visiting such ports of call as Cabo San Lucas, Puerto Vallarta and Mazatlan.

"The first night was everything a cruise should be," he said. "We had a wonderful dinner and saw a show."



*KDOT employee Chris Davidson and his wife Carrie had an unusual twist to their vacation off the coast of Mexico.*

But things changed about 6 a.m. Monday, when, Davidson said, he was awakened by the ship shaking and the smell of smoke.

Davidson said before announcements were made to the entire ship over the intercom, he and his wife made their way to the top deck to see what was happening. A short time later, the ship's other passengers were instructed to go to the decks for fresh air.

When it became evident power was out, save for some emergency generators, Davidson said he knew the voyage was over.

"At that point," he said, "it was just a matter of how long it was going to take to get back."

The effects from the power outage included no hot food on the ship, as well as no running water or working toilets

for much of the ship for almost two days.

Cold food on hand was used at first, and the ship's bars were open with free drinks available for the duration of the trip. A U.S. Navy aircraft carrier and military helicopters dropped off supplies, including food items.

Looking back, Davidson called the shortened voyage "a once-in-a-lifetime" experience.

Like other passengers, the Davidson's will receive a full refund from Carnival, along with reimbursement for transportation expenses, as well as a free cruise in the future.

Despite their experience aboard the Splendor, the Davidson's are planning to take another cruise in January.

**Editor's Note:** Information for this article came from a story that was published in the Topeka Capital-Journal.

## Deaths

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

**William F. "Bill" Shields**, 57, an Equipment Operator Senior at Altamont, died Dec. 19 at Altamont. He is survived by his wife, Mary.

Memorials are suggested to the American Heart Association or the First Baptist Church in Altamont. These may be left at or mailed to Bath-

Forbes-Hoffman Funeral Home, P.O. Box 325, Altamont, 67330.

**Kenneth J. Slocum**, 45, an Engineering Technician at Horton, died Nov. 25 in Circleville. He had been a KDOT employee the past 20 years. He is survived by his wife, Barb, his mother, two sons, one daughter, two sisters and one brother.

Memorials may be given to the Kenny Slocum Memorial Fund to be designated later in care of the Mercer

Funeral Home, Box 270, Holton, KS 66436.

**Darrell L. Pruner**, 79, died Sept. 16 in Augusta. He worked for KDOT 37 years before retiring in 1992. He is survived by his wife, Lorene, two daughters, one brother, four grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Memorials may be given to the Augusta American Legion, 9932 SW Eugene Road, Augusta, 67010.

# KDOT Computer Training

*- from the KCTC*

Thanks from the KCTC!

The beginning of a new year often causes us to reflect on events or challenges of the past 12 months and then of course, to welcome opportunities that lie ahead. We would like to say thank you to our KDOT customers and share a few thoughts of the past year and of what might be ahead.

In 2010, the KCTC enjoyed delivering its normal schedule of classes to the KDOT population at the ESOB and in the districts. Student attendance by people from our sister state agencies was strong and on the rise. It surprised even us. We also had the pleasure of continuing regular classes for the KDOT retiree population. However, it was the faith in the KCTC for us to learn and teach material new to us but previously outsourced to independent training vendors for which we are most thankful. We are well aware that tighter budgets have made everyone look within for training solutions.

Here are a few 2010 highlights: Planning - GIS software, Design - CADconform software and recently, we resurrected and improved the Adobe Shared Review class working closely with Construction & Maintenance, Design and Local Projects.

We look forward to 2011! We are currently working closely with BCS on projects such as the Windows 7 roll-out. Our effort continues to transfer all of our courseware to custom developed and in-house printed manuals. This again will save the agency money and offer a more current and KDOT specific product. Thanks to Support Services for helping us reach some often crazy deadlines! As always, we seek your feedback on ways to improve and welcome you in the classroom.

**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.

## Promotions/Transfers

### Headquarters

**Ami Fulghum**, Accountant III, Fiscal Services  
**Thomas Green**, Electronics Technologist, Transportation Planning

**Thomas Heigert**, State Auditor III, Fiscal Services  
*The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information for promotions/transfers to Translines.*

**Welcome  
new KDOT  
employees!**

### Headquarters

**Cliff Ehrlich**, Environmental Scientist II, Bureau of Design  
**Michael Goodell**, Applications Developer II, Computer Services  
**Dana Majors**, Performance Measures Manager

**Tara Gillum-Mays**, Legislative Liaison, Governmental Affairs  
**James Hill**, Applications Developer Supervisor  
**Michael Rissen**, Applications Developer Supervisor, Computer Services  
**Clark Volker**, Engineering Associate III, Design  
**MJ Willoughby**, Attorney II, Chief Counsel

### District Four

**Guy Wall**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Mound City  
*The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information to Translines.*