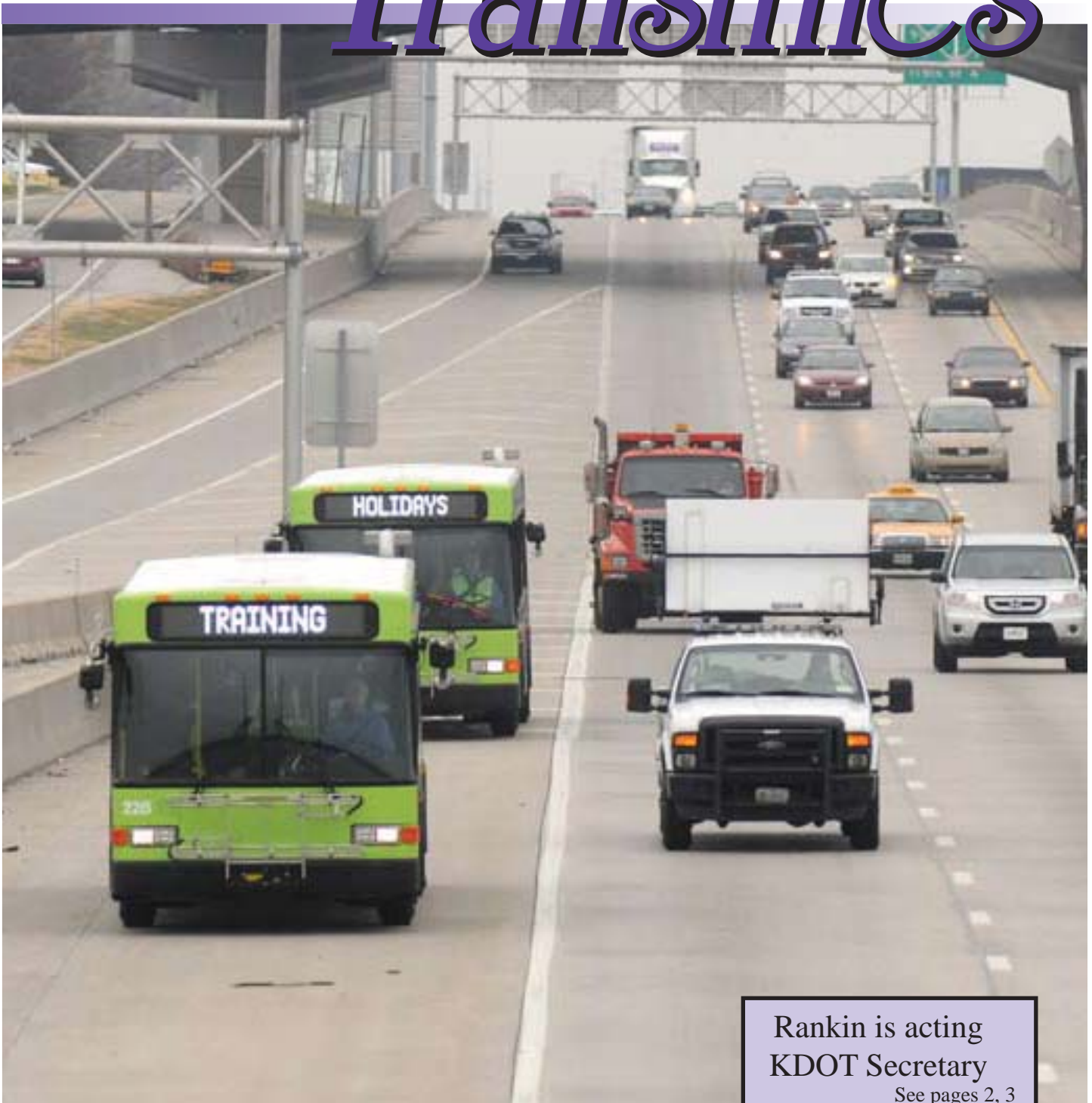


Translines



Rankin is acting
KDOT Secretary

See pages 2, 3

Inside...

- ◆ Tommer takes over as new Bureau Chief
- ◆ Employees receive Orange Hero awards

- ◆ U.S. 169 expansion project celebrated
- ◆ WICHway website helps motorists
- ◆ New K-156 alignment improves traffic flow



By Acting Secretary Barb Rankin

Following a legend

There's a line I've heard in a sports context that goes something like this: "I don't want to be the guy who replaces a legend; I want to be the guy who replaces the guy who replaces the legend."

Well, I find myself in that first role as I begin serving as the Acting Secretary of Transportation. Following up on the magnificent job Deb Miller did as Secretary for the past nine years is more than a little daunting. So I'll just say it now: I can't replace Deb Miller.

That's not meant to sell myself short. It's just that I don't know of anyone who could replace Deb and the way she managed KDOT.

But the good news for me and the rest of us is that neither I nor anyone else has to replace a legend for KDOT to continue to be successful. That's because the reputation this agency has earned for being innovative, responsible and responsive is due to the great work each of you do every day. Deb would be the first to agree. Whether it's plowing snow, working with citizens on installation of cable median barrier or planning a \$100 million expansion project, you've built and maintained a transportation system of which Kansans are rightly proud.

So what can you expect from me?

Job No. 1 is filling our open positions, especially those in the field. Governor Brownback recently granted our request that we be allowed to replace up to 35 percent of the losses from the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program. That effort is already under way and I encourage those who are doing the hiring to be aggressive in filling positions.

Job No. 2 is continuing our implementation of the T-WORKS program. The Governor has assured me he is fully committed to T-WORKS. To that end, we will work with the Governor's office to navigate through the 2012 legislative session with our funding intact. There has already been talk from some legislators of an attempt to roll back the sales tax that will provide much of the funding for T-WORKS starting in fiscal year 2014.

While the Governor expects us to be proactive in looking for efficiencies in how we utilize taxpayer resources and deliver services to the state, he also wants us to carry out our mission to maintain a highway system that provides safe travel for Kansas families, facilitates the smooth flow of commerce and supports the state's economic goals.

And Job No. 3 is to get a safety corridor initiative through the Legislature this session. The legislation would establish up to 11 safety corridors in Kansas with the goal of reducing fatalities and crashes.

Sometimes when a new secretary comes into an agency he or she makes staff changes and brings in new people. That's not my role as acting secretary. What I'm most concerned about is having a staff that can deliver the best transportation services possible for the people of our state. And that staff is already in place.

I'm honored to be selected by Governor Brownback to serve as acting secretary and humbled to be the successor to Deb Miller. While the challenge of building on KDOT's past success is great, I'm confident that together we can do just that.



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Governor: Sam Brownback
Acting Secretary of Transportation: Barb Rankin
Chief of Transportation Information: Steve Swartz
Editors: Stan Whitley and Kim Stich

Tommer takes over as new Bureau Chief

By Kim Stich

After 35 years in KDOT field offices, Sandy Tommer is heading to Headquarters as the new Chief of the Bureau of Construction and Maintenance.

Tommer began in the Gage office in Topeka in 1976 and was promoted to Construction Engineer in 1981. Seven years later she was named the



Sandy Tommer

Area Engineer in Wamego and worked there until she was selected as the District One Construction Engineer in 2000.

When Tommer started at KDOT, things were much different.

"There was maybe one other female engineer in the department," she said. "I had never been out in the construction field so I had no idea what to expect. I worked two summers for KDOT in Road Design and thought that was what I was going to do after college."

The Engineer in Training program gave Tommer a chance to work in various areas.

"My first assignment on the first day was to go out to the field and I was scared to death," Tommer said. "But I loved it so much I stayed out in the field after I got done with my rotation."

Tommer plans to visit KDOT staff in all the Districts soon and be ready to participate in the 1R tours across the state in the spring.

Tommer said she'll miss carpooling with her husband Bill who retired from the District One Materials Lab in November after 43 years, "especially this winter, I was used to being dropped off at the door," she joked.

She and Bill keep busy in their spare time with their two daughters, two sons and six grandchildren.



Way wide load

A superload crosses the Mud Creek bridge (left) and travels along U.S. 56 near Marion (below) in mid-November. The load, a deisobutanizer vessel, is 280 feet long, 16 feet wide and nearly 10 feet tall.



Rankin is acting KDOT Secretary

Gov. Sam Brownback has named Barb Rankin to be the acting Secretary of KDOT.

Rankin is general counsel for the agency. She takes over for Secretary Deb Miller, who left KDOT to take a job in the private sector.

"I'm extremely honored to have been asked by Governor Brownback to fill this important position as the search continues for a permanent secretary," Rankin said. "I look forward to working closely with Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger and KDOT's very experienced executive staff as we continue to deliver projects under the 10-year

T-WORKS transportation plan passed by the Legislature in 2010."

Rankin joined the agency in June and participated in the T-WORKS roll-out, the agency's reevaluation of its cable-median barrier policy and the expansion of KDOT's use of social media.

Rankin came to KDOT after a long career in the banking and financial services sector. A native of Wellsville, she graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Washburn University School of Law in 1982. Rankin and her husband have two sons and live in Topeka.

On the...

COVER

Johnson County Transit bus drivers train on the shoulders of I-35 in anticipation of the new Bus On Shoulder (BOS) operations that are scheduled to start in early January 2012. See story on page 6.

U.S. 169 expansion project celebrated

By Priscilla Petersen

The approximately 50 citizens and officials who gathered on Dec. 8 were in general agreement of the U.S. 169 expansion, as voiced by Secretary Deb Miller, that the finished project was “a long time coming.”

Secretary Miller, Sen. Dwayne Umbarger, Rep. Virgil Peck and Coffeyville Mayor Pam Jones were on hand at the highway dedication and ribbon-cutting in the parking lot of the Coffeyville Walmart. With the expanded roadway in the background, each thanked the partners who made the project possible and spoke of the various challenges that cropped up during the project.

The 5.3-mile expansion widened U.S. 169 to a four-lane upgradeable expressway from the east U.S. 169/166 junction north to Angola Road. The project included a new grade-separated interchange at U.S. 169 and U.S. 166, two major intersections; new overpasses above railroad tracks to the Coffeyville Industrial Park and Claymore Creek; and replacement of the Potato Creek Bridge on the north end.

The U.S. 169 expansion was a System Enhancement project selected



Secretary Deb Miller and other officials participate in the U.S. 169 expansion ribbon-cutting on Dec. 8 in Coffeyville.

for funding in 2000 under the Comprehensive Transportation Program. The challenges, which included a scoping change and major flooding during the summer of 2007, were among factors that pushed the start of construction back to early 2009.

“But we all hung in there,” Miller noted, “and found a way to meet the challenges together ... we can celebrate a huge improvement that will truly make

a difference for the people of Coffeyville, Montgomery County and the thousands of travelers who use this important route every day.”

She thanked local residents and those who work in the Coffeyville Industrial Park for their patience during construction. Sherwood Construction Co. of Wichita was the primary contractor on the \$42.7 million expansion.

KDOT selects KLINK projects for 2013

Thirty-seven projects totaling \$15.4 million in overall cost and \$6.8 million in state funds have been selected for funding under KDOT’s 2013 KLINK resurfacing program.

“These are important projects to communities statewide providing funding to address roadway surfacing needs on city connecting links of the State

Highway System,” said Secretary Deb Miller. “Projects range in scope from surface replacement and overlay to minor patching and joint repair.”

Through the Local Partnership Program, the state’s participation in the cost of the project is 75 percent for cities with a population of less than 10,000 or 50 percent for cities with a population of 10,000 or greater, up to a maximum of \$200,000.

The selected KLINK projects and amount of funding are listed in a news release on KDOT’s website at www.ksdot.org.

Snowy state

Kansas' first big snowstorm on Dec. 19 and 20 left up to 15 inches of snow



Above, visibility was poor on U.S. 50 east of Garden City. Below, KDOT employees Bruce Heerts in the motorgrader and Richard Eggers in the snowplow clear K-4 west of Lindsborg.



Top photo: KDOT employee Dwain Murphy fills up the brine tank to go out and treat U.S. 50. Middle photo: Snow sprays higher than the truck while clearing I-70 near Salina takes place. Above: A stranded car is almost covered by snow along U.S. 50/400 in Hamilton County. At left: KDOT employee Jerry Hardten plows along U.S. 56 west of Great Bend.

Thanks to everyone who took or submitted photos

District News...

Improvements to the existing guard rail, signs and pavement markings were made to I-35 to allow for Bus On Shoulder operations to begin in January in Johnson County.



BOS service begins

In January, the Johnson County Transit (The JO) will start operating the JO Xpress service allowing bus drivers to use the I-35 shoulder to bypass congestion and create more consistent travel times for transit commuters. The Bus On Shoulder (BOS) will operate on I-35 between 95th Street and Lamar Avenue.

BOS operations mean that buses can travel on the shoulder when traffic on I-35 has slowed to less than 35 miles per hour. Buses can't travel more than 10 mph faster than the traffic on the highway and won't exceed 35 mph.

The JO and KDOT have been working together for the past 18 months to safely implement BOS operations as a way to move people more efficiently through traffic. Bus service currently runs along I-35, but the enhanced bus service will feature BOS operations during the morning (5:45 a.m. to 9 a.m.) and afternoon/evening (3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.) rush hours. Initially, there will be about 8-10 buses per day that may use the shoulder.

District One

I-70 work winds down

Work on I-70 in Ellsworth and Lincoln counties is winding down with only minor lane reductions still affecting

traffic.

In Geary County, an I-70 patching project to remove and replace deficient concrete has been completed and traffic has been restored to four lanes.

Several supervisor positions have been filled including Carl Wolf, Superintendent, Ellsworth; Mike Schraag, Supervisor, Junction City Subarea; Kade Cooper, Supervisor, Belleville Subarea; Brad Anderson, Supervisor, Abilene Subarea; and Dean Baldwin, Supervisor, McPherson Subarea.

District Two

Preparing for winter

District Three had its annual pre-season snow and ice meeting with employees and external partners.

The meeting serves as a tool to share information with KDOT supervisors as well as local law enforcement, the Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) and Emergency Managers in northwest Kansas.

Several topics were reviewed, including the I-70 snow gates and how they continue to be manned during closures, the question of plowing during all hours of the night, comparing our policies to border states like Colorado and Nebraska, and existing vacancies on crews and filling positions.

Snow and ice operations continue to be an instrumental service that KDOT provides for the public. When winter weather conditions necessitate any highway closures, it's important to keep the line of communication open between the agency and its external partners.

Continued on page 7



As part of a Veterans Day commemoration at Garnett Elementary Center, Brad McGregor presents a flag flown in Afghanistan to Marcia Spring's third grade class. Brad's son Conner is holding the flag on his right. See story on page 7.

District News

Continued from page 6

McGregor presents flag

Brad McGregor, Equipment Operator at Garnett and tank crewman with the U.S. Army National Guard, spent most of this past year in Afghanistan, where he provided security for a military agri-business development team (ADT). Arriving back in the states in late October, he brought home an American flag that had been flown in Afghanistan on May 1. McGregor presented the special flag to his son Conner's third grade class at Garnett Elementary Center on Veterans Day.

District Four

McGregor and the ADT helped the Afghan people find ways to better use their land for farming and general agricultural practices. The team offered suggestions to make work more productive and assisted with long-term plans, enabling the Afghanistan farmers to double their output during McGregor's time there.

McGregor's deployments prior to Afghanistan were Kosovo from 2004 to 2006 and Iraq in 2008 and 2009. He told the Anderson County Review: "There's a lot of people in Afghanistan who really want this [war] to end. They're almost there but not quite – and they are the only ones who can truly make a difference for their country."

Smith reaches goal

Eric Smith, newly-promoted Engineering Technician (ET) Senior in the Hutchinson Construction Office, is the first field Engineering Technician to be promoted through the "District Construction" path of the ET Progression Program. He was also the first to reach the ET Senior Midpoint through this program.

District Five

Eric started working for KDOT as summer help in May 1996 and was hired on full-time in 1997. He became an ET Senior in October 2000, but left KDOT in April 2004 to work for a traf-



Eric Smith, newly-promoted Engineering Technician (ET) Senior, left, inspects a bridge being constructed on the U.S. 50 four-lane expansion project in Hutchinson.

fic control contractor. When he returned to KDOT in November 2006, he was rehired as an ET.

He saw the District Construction ET Progression Program as an opportunity to get to the ET Senior level again and signed up for the program as soon as it was offered in July 2008, reaching the program midpoint in September 2010, and completing all requirements in November 2011. He had the opportunity to work on a number of complex projects, such as the K-61 project, as he progressed through the system.

Big building boom

An addition that will feature three drive-through bays, designed to accommodate all of the Subarea's trucks when they're fully equipped to fight a

snowstorm, is more than half-finished at Garden City. This extension, which is approximately 60 feet wide by 100 feet long, is the second one being built in

District Six

District Six.

The first Subarea addition of this design was completed in Dodge City earlier in 2011. After several months in the upgraded building, Dodge City Subarea Supervisor Willy Phelps says, "Having the room to put all the trucks inside is great. We have a heated place to pull in a truck and trailer if we need to work on it. It's so much nicer than before."

A similar expansion project has just gotten under way in Meade.

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



Progress continues on the new 60-foot by 100-foot extension to the Garden City Subarea's truck bay.



Secretary Deb Miller is joined by other dignitaries for the K-156 ribbon-cutting in Garden City on Nov. 29.

New K-156 alignment improves traffic flow

By Kirk Hutchinson

A ribbon cutting on Nov. 29 marked both the completion of a \$5.6 million intersection realignment project in Garden City and one last opportunity for Secretary Deb Miller to visit southwest Kansas in an official capacity.

The project realigned what had been two skewed intersections with K-156, Mary Street and Jennie Barker Road. Now a single, multi-lane intersection, which local officials hope will improve traffic flow and encourage future commercial development, has replaced the old alignment.

Garden City Mayor John Doll told the crowd at the ribbon cutting, "From simple lines on a small map to the new roadways in front of us, this intersection is the culmination of the hard work and dedication of KDOT, county and city employees over the past 12 years."

Secretary Miller added, "As a result of your work and the strong partnership we've forged, we now have a

great improvement that enhances the safety of the families who shop in this commercial corridor, the truckers who deliver the goods and the travelers passing through your corner of southwest Kansas."

Construction began in February 2011, and the new corridor was opened to traffic in October. Smoky Hill, LLC, of Salina was the primary contractor.

Noting that Secretary Miller was in her last few weeks as Kansas Secretary of Transportation, Mayor Doll went on to say, "Garden City and Finney County have been exceptionally fortunate with the level of communication and inclusion provided to us by KDOT under the direction of Secretary Deb Miller these past nine years."

Addressing Secretary Miller directly, Mayor Doll concluded, "Garden City and Finney County are not alone in exhibits of your leadership; all of southwest Kansas has evidence of your tenure."

New, improved traveler services now available

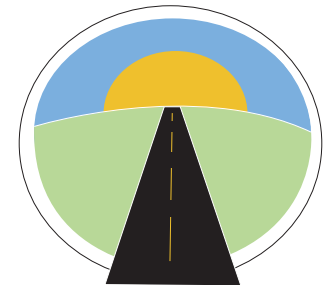
KDOT has new features on the 511 map page for KanDrive (www.kandrive.org), the traveler information gateway for Kansas and surrounding states.

RSS links in the lower left corner show text reports for roadwork projects and weather-related road conditions. GeoRSS feeds provide the same information as the RSS feeds but show a geographic location, such as a Google map. In order to view, users must have a GeoRSS reader.

Live motion camera views have been added for many cameras along I-70 between Goodland and Topeka. Click on the camera icon to view a still (snapshot) image and then click on the "motion camera" link. Eight new cameras and nine new electronic message signs have recently been added on highways.

A new link, "Metro Traffic Sites" provides drop down links to metro traffic information websites for Kansas City (KC Scout) and Wichita (WICHway). More details on WICHway are on the following page.

KDOT also encourages travelers to use the 511 Mobile site at <http://511mm.ksdot.org> or to call 511 from anywhere in Kansas or 1-866-511-KDOT (5368) from anywhere in the U.S. for route-specific road conditions and travel-related weather information.



KanDrive

hwy • phone • web

WICHway website helps motorists

A new website using up-to-the-minute information will help travelers in Wichita efficiently navigate area highways. WICHway.org will share travel speeds and camera views on select routes, messages posted on roadside signs and other helpful information for drivers.

The website is just one component of a KDOT Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) project that monitors 22 miles of Wichita's highway system.

Phase 1 of the project covers U.S. 54/400 (Kellogg Avenue) from Ridge Road to Woodlawn, I-135 from Harry Street to the North Junction (I-135/I-235/K-96/K-254), and the I-235/K-96/Meridian Avenue interchange.

This initial phase includes 28 cameras, 21 dynamic message signs and 36 traffic sensors.



A Sedgwick County 911 dispatcher monitors traffic on metro highways for WICHway, Wichita's Intelligent Transportation System. WICHway's Traffic Management Center (TMC) is co-located with the 911 communication center and KDOT contracts with the County for TMC console coverage 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Partners include KDOT, Sedgwick County, City of Wichita, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Turnpike Authority, Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and the FHWA.

New memorial highway



Crews work to install a Dwight D. Eisenhower/Harry S. Truman Memorial Highway sign along I-70 in Kansas City. A total of 166 miles of I-70 in Kansas and Missouri were designated.

Calendar of Events

Jan. 10 – 11 a.m. KDOT Employees' Council Meeting, Third Floor, Eisenhower State Office Building

Jan. 16 – State employees off for Martin Luther King Day

Jan. 18 – 1 p.m. Construction Bid Letting, Fourth Floor West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building

Employees receive Orange Hero awards

Employees from across the state were presented Orange Hero awards at each District's farewell event for Secretary Deb Miller and at Headquarters beginning in late November. The award honors employees and their efforts to go above and beyond the call of duty. The 2011 Orange Hero winners were:

Speed Kings and Queens award.

Mike Floberg, Richard 'Griz' Mahoney, Jimmy Clark, Kerry McDonald, Matt Sloyer, Joyce Poitevint, Jaci Vogel, Jake Bausch, Jim Frye, Dale Musick, Jason Bernasek, Don Koehler, Dean Jackson, Robert Turner, Leon Mitchell, Jim Adee, Dave Bergman, John Fleming, Josh Wingle, Steve Andreson, Thad Looper, Bob Nienke, Scott Allen, Gary Chambers, Don Ummel, Brent Little, Doug Hecker, Bob Cotten, Kenny Withington, Patrick Webber, Kurtis Kearns, Gary Ward, Norvel Schnichels, Kevin Ryan, Dwayne Yarrington, Al Loveall, James Johnson, Curtis Graham, Fred Hummer, Jason Fogleman, Sammi Ford, Dave Lechner, Dan Acridge, Jim Koerner, Tony Robertson, Allen Ralstin, Alan Mantooth, Nathan Talcott, Sam Wilmore. From selecting the roads to increase to 75 mph, to getting all the overlays made and distributed, to having all the signs changed and installed on June 30 and July 1 to meet the deadline, this was a big team effort by employees from across the state.

Sky Kings award. Ed Young, George Laliberte, Jesse Romo. Between developing the Kansas Airspace Awareness Tool and creating other unique programs and endeavors, these guys scored all year long.

The Tara Mays award. Tara Mays. Tara made the Southeast Kansas Economic Summit a success by handling interviews, setting up the website and many other tasks.

Come, Let Us Reason Together award. Scott Swanson. Scott facilitated

meetings with the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and KDOT, which has greatly improved partnering efforts.

The Amazing Ouch award. Deanna Johnson. Deanna logged thousands of miles delivering 70-and-counting sessions of Ouch! That Stereotype Hurts. She trained more than 2,800 employees and conducted 57 supervisory sessions, training 669 supervisors.

T-Riffic award. Maggie Thompson-Doll, Amy Link, Lindsey Douglas, Alicia Johnson. This group put in long hours scouting, planning, writing and staging a four-day, five-city tour of T-WORKS announcements.

T-MVP award. Mark Taylor - the



MVP of the T-WORKS announcement process. He played an integral part in the local consultation and selection process, and in material development for the announcements.

Web Gem award. Gene Ingwerson. Gene worked hard to have the T-WORKS website ready to launch at the same time projects were announced.

Auto Drive award. Barb Blue. Barb's attention to detail helped make it a smooth transition to a fully-automated system for 511/KANDrive.

Eco Devo Dude award. Pete Van Sickle. Pete became proficient with the economic modeling tool TREDIS to determine the economic benefits of possible T-WORKS projects.

Map-Making Marvel award. Rick Bruner. Rick quickly created many spe-

cial purpose maps for T-WORKS, the K-10 Safety Committee, the Governor's Office and lots of KDOT bureaus.

Data Darlings award. Rex McCommon, Roger Moore and Matt Soper. This trio reconfigured ways to process accident reports to protect citizens' personal information and eliminated a backlog of unprocessed accident reports.

VRIP VIP award. Colleen Chandler, Karla Thies, Lelia Linder, Alice Burney, Liz Harper, Mishelle Burke, DeeDee Becker, Jaci Novak, Donna Tollerton, Jamie Fischer, Kathy Meierhoff, Tracy Walker, Shawna Lang, Denise Schwab, Corene Smith, Deb McConnell, Evelyn Larson, Bobby Gassmann, Sheila Brown, Alice Myers, Christine Belknap. Human

Resources staff across the state only received 15 minutes advanced notice of the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program before it was sent out to the employees. Between answering questions, providing information and processing paperwork for employees and spouses, it was a busy time.

Highways and Byways award. Sue Stringer and Scott Shields. Sue and

Scott have increased public awareness of the Kansas Byways program on a state-wide and local level.

Go Orange award. On behalf of the team, Kim Stich accepted the award for all the efforts done to promote work zone safety through the Go Orange effort in April.

Good Samaritan award. Rick Reigle and Des Prockish. Rick and Des worked together to notify law enforcement and help motorists run off the road by an erratic driver Rick saw on U.S. 24 near Wamego.

Local Hero award. Clay Adams. As co-chair of the K-10 Safety Committee, Clay enhanced KDOT's reputation as a government agency willing to work with

Orange Hero

Continued from page 10

locals to find solutions.

Spark Plug award. Chuck Kincade. Chuck is the guy who gets the crew fired up on a task and sees it through with them. He's like E.F. Hutton: when he explains a job, everyone listens.

Decent Exposure award. George Brown III and Greg Handley. George and Greg developed a mechanism to unveil the list of T-WORKS projects at events this summer. It produced a perfect unveiling each time.

All the News That's Fit to Post award. Kim Qualls. From press releases, traffic alerts, flooding reports and website, Twitter and Facebook posts, she communicates around the clock.

Step Up to the Plate award. Dennis Chopp, Ritchie Farrell, Claudette Noble, Kevin Dolton. With retirements depleting forces, Engineering Technicians such as these employees have received their CDL so they can help clear roads this winter.

I'll Be There award. Joe Palic. Joe made himself and his staff available to help plan and stage the T-WORKS event at McPherson.

Iron Man award. Gerry Mai. Gerry has been working at KDOT more than 51 years and is still going strong.

CSI: Northwest Kansas award. Brad Prester, Doug Hecker. In late 2009, Brad and Doug found and turned in a wallet with credit cards. This spring, they were asked to appear in a court case. Their testimony helped build the

prosecution's case that led to a murder conviction.

X-Ray Vision award. Kent Huss. Kent noticed what appeared to be a crack in a mast light tower on I-70 east of Hays. He confirmed an 18-inch-long crack had developed. If the tower hadn't been removed, the high winds forecasted the next day may have toppled the pole onto I-70.

I'll Be There award. Darrin Petrowsky, Kristy Kelley - for help coordinating the Southeast Kansas Economic

Smartest Guy in the Shop award. Kent Davis. Kent designed and fabricated a special attachment hardware for the platform that attaches to the front of a truck and from which a crew member can dispense and retrieve traffic cones, making it safer and more efficient for employees.

Earl of ARRA award. Earl Bartlett. Earl did a fantastic job as the I-135/47th street ARRA project manager, partnering with groups, anticipating problems before they arose and leading a team of inspectors throughout the project.

Quick Response award. Scot Addison, Willy Phelps, Dale Borger and their sub-area crews. These crews furnished and installed 'No-Pass' and 'Pass with Care' signs on a U.S. 50 project in Gray County when the contractor was unable and the traffic markings weren't on the new surface. The crews quickly put up signs needed to assist traffic.

No Fire, No Way award. Mark Davis. Because of dry conditions, Mark put a KDOT water truck in front of a surface recycle operation on U.S. 283 to minimize the chance of fire, a good example of partnering to benefit the public.

Inventory Hawk award. Jolene Watson. Jolene worked with Mark Davis to significantly reduce area inventory. This saves money and makes KDOT more efficient in its operating budget.

Don't Even Think About Calling In Sick award. Isaac Armstrong. Being the only computer tech, Isaac handled District-wide IT trouble the day after the other tech retired, remaining calm and resolving the issue.



Jerry Younger and Secretary Deb Miller (on each end) pose with KDOT employees who were presented the Speed Kings and Queens award as part of the Orange Hero celebrations at Headquarters and each District. The Headquarters members of the team include, from left to right, Kerry McDonald, Joyce Poitevint, Matt Sloyer, Mike Floberg, Jimmie Clark and Griz Mahoney.

Summit; Priscilla Petersen - for all the efforts during the T-WORKS announcement at Fort Scott; Mike Stringer - for his and his staff's hard work on these events.

'Fairly' Good award. Dan Ochs and his crew. At the State Fair, Dan and his crew again assisted the Kansas Division of Emergency Management at Kansas Preparedness Day, showing a great working relationship with another state agency.

The Power of Positive Thinking award. Brenda Cikanek. Brenda helped maintenance supervisors set improvement goals through assessment and reassessment of reviews and performance improvement plans.

Bridge reopens in Wichita

By Tom Hein

A quiet Friday afternoon in Wichita turned hectic on Nov. 18 when a truck driver forgot to lower a trash container “slide-off” rail and it struck a U.S. 54/400 bridge support beam at Seneca Street. The driver was not injured but the bridge did not fare so well.

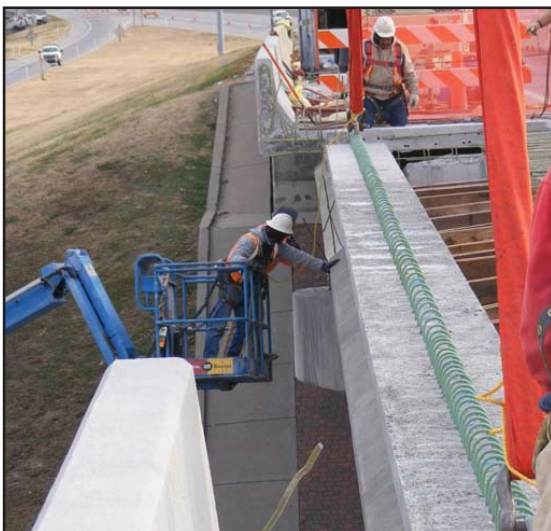
KDOT and City of Wichita crews worked fast to close lanes under the bridge as well as two lanes on a section of U.S. 54/400 that is used by approximately 92,500 vehicles each day.

An emergency repair operation was soon under way. A new bridge beam was lifted into place on Dec. 2 and concrete pours were made to replace the highway shoulder and bridge side wall after proper cure time for the beam.

Traffic on Seneca and U.S. 54/400 was back to normal in less than a month with only the highway shoulder closed after Dec. 16 – an amazing emergency repair.



Crews began repair work on the U.S. 54/400 bridge at Seneca Street after it was hit on Nov. 18.



Above and left, the new beam is installed on the U.S. 50/400 bridge.

Promotions/Transfers

Headquarters

Kelly Cool, Professional Civil Engineer I, Design

Eric Nichol, Professional Civil Engineer II, Transportation Safety and Technology

Mark Hoppe, Professional Civil Engineer II, Design

District One

Gerald Cox, Public Service Administrator I, Alma

Patrick Finan, Public Service Administrator I, Blaine

Rusty Miller, Public Service Administrator I, Wamego

Dale Shirley, Equipment Mechanic

Specialist, Bonner Springs

District Two

Dean Baldwin, Public Service Administrator I, McPherson

Kade Cooper, Public Service Administrator I, Belleville

David Marshall, Equipment Mechanic Senior, Salina

Leonard Schragg, Public Service Executive I, Junction City

Carl Wolf, Public Service Administrator II, Ellsworth

District Three

Bradley Reeh, Public Service Administrator I, Colby

Richard Shipley, Public Service

Administrator I, Hoxie

Trevor Thornton, Public Service Administrator I, Osborne

District Four

Angela Jack, Administrative Assistant, Chanute

David Ross, Public Service Administrator I, Columbus

Michael Simmons, Equipment Mechanic Specialist, Independence

James Stahl, Equipment Operator Specialist, Yates Center

The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information for promotions/transfers to Translines.

Dear Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear John Crawford and staff,

I wanted to take a short moment and thank you for your generous donation of time and effort to make the Sherman County Touch-A-Truck a success. Because of your generosity we were able to make a large donation to Genesis and Toys-4-Tots. Without your support this event wouldn't have been possible. We look forward to making this an annual event and would love to see you there again.

Sincerely,
Deputy Jason Showalter

Dear KDOT:

I am pleased to write to you to congratulate you on one of your outstanding employees, Vincent Grier.

I am a lawyer, practicing in Jefferson County. On Oct. 24 I had a blowout of my passenger rear tire on K-92, three miles from my office. I was dressed in my lawyer costume, having just left court in Oskaloosa.

As I was removing the jack from my minivan, Mr. Grier pulled up behind me in a KDOT pickup, and smilingly said, "Hey, you don't look like you're dressed for this kind of work." Mr. Grier proceeded to put on his safety vest, and in his friendly and efficient manner, requested that I allow him to help. He removed the deflated tire from my van, and because the bracket holding my spare was not operating correctly, the spare was unavailable. Mr. Grier took me to a tire store in Meriden where I purchased a replacement tire. Mr. Grier placed the new tire on my minivan, smiled, shook my hand and continued his trip.

I found Mr. Grier to be an intelligent and cheerful man of good character, who was caring, helpful and efficient. We need state employees of his type. I thought you would like to know that I appreciate Vincent Grier, and his kind and helpful manner.

Respectfully,
Dennis Hawver, Osawkie

Projects earn KAPA honors

The 55th Annual Asphalt Paving Conference took place Dec. 1 on the campus of the University of Kansas. Special programs included presentations on current asphalt paving issues and projects.

Deputy Secretary/State Transportation Engineer Jerry Younger, left, and Chris Spray, Kansas Asphalt Paving Association Board President, right, presented paving awards in the photos below. Younger is on the left each time and Spray is on the right.



Matthew Withington, second from left, District Three, and Bob Holt, Venture Corporation, accept the first place Directors Award for U.S. 83 in Decatur County.



Ethan Beeman, second from left, and Andrew Davis, third from left, District One, accept the first place Overlay Award for I-35 in Lyon County. Jeff Dunham, second from right, accepted on behalf of APAC Kansas Shears Division.



Tyler Ummel, second from right, District Three, and Jeff Barnes, Venture Corporation, accept the second place Full Depth Paving Award for U.S. 283 in Graham County.



Travis Scott, second from left, District Three, and Randy Hattesoehl, APAC Kansas, Shears Division, accept the second place Overlay Award for K-23 in Gove County.

*Fun Facts
and Trivia*

Do you know?

**Kansas
Fun Facts**

1. What are the main animals hunted in Kansas? Name five, you're good; name nine, you're great.
2. The First State Bank in Norton is home to this unique gallery of what?
3. What is unique about the Fromme-Birney barn in Mullinville?
4. What percentage of general-aviation aircraft produced in the U.S. is made in Wichita?
A. 30 percent B. 50 percent C. 70 percent D. 90 percent
5. Why was the world's largest hand-dug well built in Greensburg?
6. When was the earliest reported earthquake within Kansas' borders?
7. William Purvis and Charles Wilson of Goodland invented this in 1909.
A. Helicopter B. Motorcycle C. Aerosol spray can D. Wheat and milo mixture called whilo

Answers on page 16

News Briefs

ASCE honors KDOT

KDOT was selected as the national winner of the 2011 American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Superior Employer Recognition Award for Support of Younger Members in the Public Sector.

This program acknowledges employers who support members' participation in ASCE activities.

One public and one private employer was chosen for this national award. This is the second time KDOT has won.

Airspace tool a winner

KDOT's Division of Aviation and Burns & McDonnell have received an Engineering Excellence Award from the Kansas Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) for development of the Kansas Airspace Awareness Tool (KAAT).

The tool enables Kansas communities to evaluate the impacts of facilities and vertical structures on the airspace surrounding local airports and provides a visual representation of the 3-D airspace.

The idea began with Aviation staff who then worked with Burns & McDonnell to develop the tool.

"The KAAT allows Kansas to be a credible participant in the broader airspace discussion. Ultimately, it helps us protect the millions of dollars in infrastructure and planning that is already in place at Kansas airports," said Director Ed Young.

Tiger III funds awarded

KDOT was awarded a \$6.56 million federal Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery III (TIGER III) grant to help with rail improvements between Solomon and Downs.

Major infrastructure enhancements will be made on 84 miles of rail line including installation of 50,400 cross ties and improvements to 24 highway crossings.

"This project will generate significant economic development benefits for area farmers as they gain access to enhanced transportation options," said Secretary Deb Miller.

Poor cross tie quality has prevented the Kyle Railroad from handling modern

286,000-pound rail cars and trains must travel at 10 miles per hour. After the improvements are made, rail cars will be able to carry 23,000 more pounds and reach the modern standard. Trains will also be able to travel up to 25 miles per hour.

Total cost of the project is \$8.2 million with 80 percent federal funding. The project is expected to be let for construction bids by KDOT in the spring of 2012 with work being completed by the summer.

Miller lauded by SKS

Secretary Deb Miller received the Dr. Dennis Cooley Award of Excellence from Safe Kids Kansas.

"We recognize Secretary Miller for her leadership and vision in the area of child safety on Kansas roadways" said Cherie Sage, State Director for Safe Kids Kansas. "We are grateful for her support of Safe Kids Kansas and her contributions toward our shared mission, to prevent accidental injuries and death to Kansas children."

Secretary Miller accepted the award at a presentation on Dec. 9 in Topeka.

Accord to Safe Kids Kansas, Secretary Miller's actions and support helped to pass the Booster Seat Law, the Primary Seat Belt Law and the Graduated Driver's License Law.

Zimmerman hits 50 at KDOT

Duane Zimmerman, Engineering Technician Specialist in Design, celebrated 50 years of service to KDOT on Dec. 1.

Zimmerman started in December 1961, when it was the State Highway Commission of Kansas. In 1964, he went to Olathe. He came back to Topeka one year later and has spent the rest of his career in Design developing plans for highway construction.

"December 1 was on a Friday and the first project I worked on was K-268 near Pomona," he said. "It was cold enough we had a foot of frozen ground, so we had to use a hammer and chisel to chip down to where we could use the hand auger."

He and his wife Cheryl were married in 1964 on her parents' 25th wedding anniversary. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Fond farewell



Top left: Secretary Deb Miller hugs retired State Transportation Engineer Mike Lackey at a farewell reception for her on Dec. 16 in Topeka. Top right: Assistant Secretary Jerry Younger presents Secretary Miller a coveted orange truck. Below: Secretary Miller laughs during the reception along with her husband Jim McLean (left) and Gov. Sam Brownback (right).



Upcoming KDOT Training Courses

Classes at Headquarters

- ♦Leading with Emotional Intelligence, Jan. 5
- ♦New Employee Orientation, Jan. 12
- ♦Advanced Resource Training, Jan. 24-26
- ♦PE Review, Feb. 27-March 1
- ♦New Employee Orientation, March 8
- ♦Best Week 1, March 12-16
- ♦You'll Catch On, March 27-28

Classes at District Offices

- ♦Advanced Resource Training, Jan. 17-19, Salina
- ♦Ouch! That Stereotype Hurts, Jan. 4, Salina
- ♦Dealing With Difficult People, Feb. 7, Salina
- ♦Difficult Conversations, Feb. 7, Salina
- ♦Transition to Leadership/Ethics March 20-22, Topeka

M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in January

10 YEARS

Brian Bosak Shawnee
 Shawn Brown Topeka
 Jennifer Distlehorst Lawrence
 Shawn Flemming Pratt
 Gary Fox Ottawa
 Curtis Haehn Hugoton
 Elsit Mandal Lawrence
 Marc Mayfield Garden City
 Robert Nienke Lorraine
 Ryan Peltier Concordia
 Adam Pritchard Topeka
 Matthew Soper Topeka

20 YEARS

Richard Reigle Belvue
 James Richling Horton
 Daniel Romine Osage City

30 YEARS

Jack Stiles El Dorado

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

Welcome new KDOT employees!

Headquarters

Joseph Bowen, ET Class Series, Design

Deloyne Huffman, Applications Developer III, Computer Services

District One

Nelson Cordova, Chemist I, Topeka

District Four

Philip Scheckel, Equipment Mechanic Senior, Garnett

District Six

Garrett Parker, Mechanic, Garden City

Personnel Services and Districts supply information to Translines.

KDOT Computer Training

– from the KCTC

Favorite keyboard shortcuts

The KCTC likes to kick off the New Year with helpful computer tips. Trainers Karen Ellis and Misty Rodriguez recommend these keyboard shortcut favorites.

1. Ctrl W and Ctrl F4 both work to close an active document and avoid closing an entire application program
2. F12 opens up the Save As window
3. Shift + click taskbar button – you click the taskbar button to open a program, but you open a separate window of that same program with this shortcut
4. Alt Print Scrn copies only the active window/dialog box so you can paste it into an email or document
5. Ctrl Enter (in Internet Explorer) prevents you from having to type in www. and the .com when typing in an internet address; example: type yahoo, then hit ctrl Enter – the rest is filled in for you
6. Windows + Tab – press down on these to aero flip through any open windows
7. Shift F3 – to change the sentence case of letters in a word, select the word to change and apply shortcut
8. F8 (in Excel) turns extend mode on or off; in extend mode the arrow keys are used to extend a selection
9. Shift F8 (in Excel) enables you to add nonadjacent cell(s) to your selection – ESCAPE turns this option back off
10. Ctrl and roll your mouse roller to zoom in and out (works in most programs)

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

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

Denver Donovan, Equipment Operator Specialist, District Six, Army

The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies military information to Translines.

Answers

1. Deer, turkey, squirrel, rabbit, turkey, quail, pheasant, prairie chicken, antelope.
2. The “They Also Ran Gallery” – it consists of portraits of unsuccessful contenders for the office of President of the United States starting in 1796.
3. It is round.
4. C. 70 percent
5. To provide water for the Santa Fe and

Rock Island railroads

6. April 24, 1867. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, plaster cracked, objects were thrown from shelves, and doors and windows were shaken at Lawrence. The tremor was felt over an area of 300,000 square miles in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and possibly Ohio.
7. A. Helicopter

Retirees

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT on Jan. 1.

Headquarters

Marcia S. Stambaugh, Public Service Executive I, Support Services

District One

Williams S. McAdoo, Public Service Administrator I, Topeka

District Five

Edward L. Cantwell, Equipment Operator Specialist, Derby