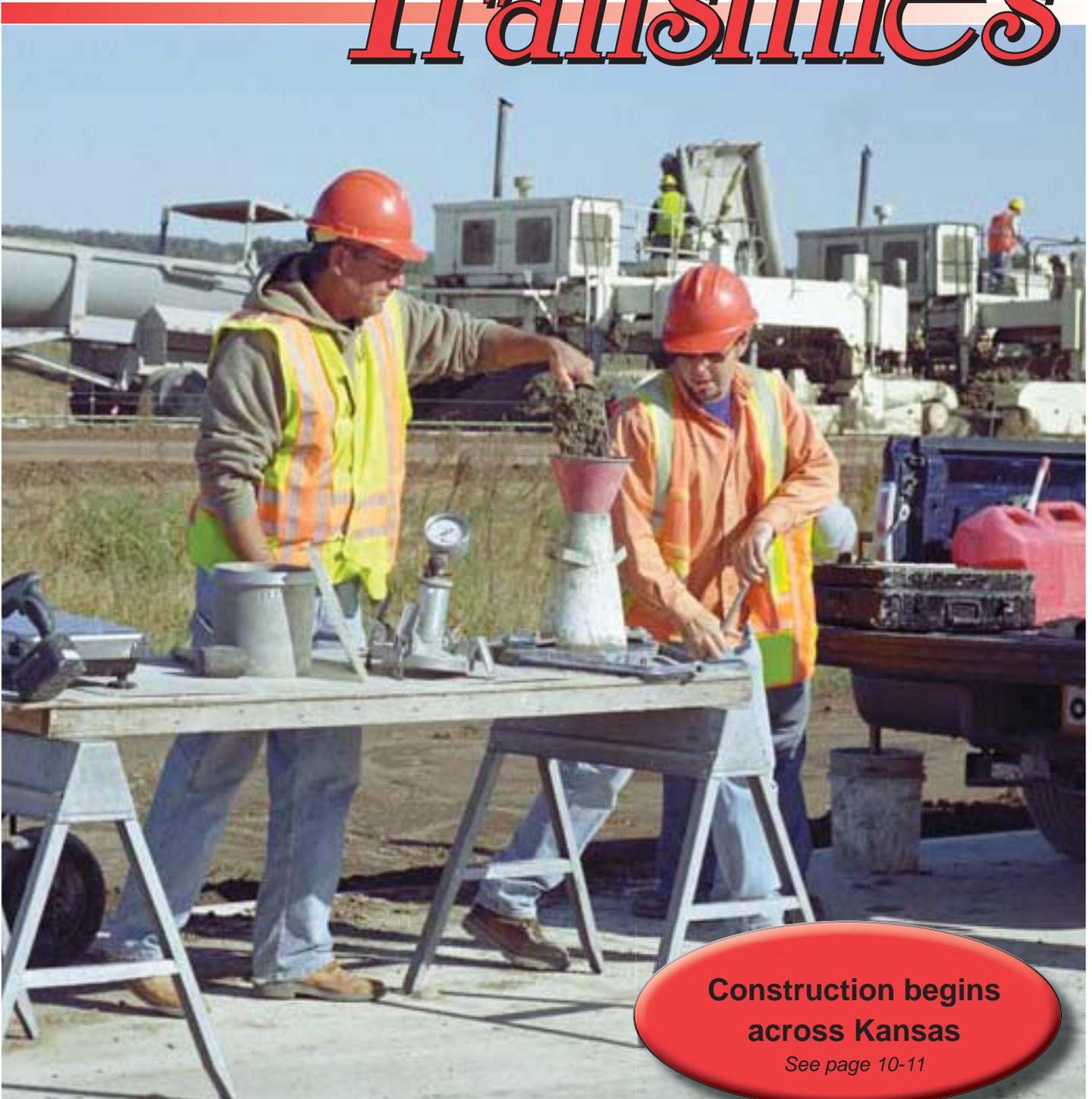


# Translines



**Construction begins  
across Kansas**

*See page 10-11*

## **I**nside...

- ◆ Team solves erosion problem near K-7
- ◆ Gov. Brownback announces major road projects
- ◆ Dixon named new Chief Counsel
- ◆ KDOT's response to storms draws praise
- ◆ KDOT unveils nation's first Airspace Awareness Tool



By Secretary  
Deb Miller

## Performance measures key to agency credibility

*“The only man I know who behaves sensibly is my tailor; he takes my measurements anew each time he sees me. The rest go on with their old measurements and expect me to fit them.”*

- Playwright George Bernard Shaw

The credibility of our agency may be greater now than it’s ever been.

In just over 20 years, two major transportation programs have been successfully completed, our highway system has been ranked the nation’s best and last spring the Kansas Legislature passed T-WORKS.

As a close observer of last year’s debate over the T-WORKS bill, I can tell you that if we hadn’t firmly established our credibility, neither the Legislature nor Governor would have given us the chance to take on an \$8.2 billion transportation program. And the fact that they passed the bill in a difficult economic climate says even more about the perception of KDOT and what transportation can do for economic recovery.

The thing about credibility is that it takes years to establish, but not long to lose. That’s one of the main reasons we’re stepping up our performance measures program. The performance measures initiative we started about six years ago hasn’t been as successful as I had hoped. But that’s already changing and in the next few months, the program

will become better known to all of us and easier to track.

In November, Dana Majors was hired to be KDOT’s first Performance Measures Manager. Since then, she has conducted a thorough review of the existing measures, met with the measures “owners” and compiled their information into a framework. She has completed a comprehensive review of other states’ measures and surveyed stakeholders to get feedback on the proposed framework, which has also been discussed with bureau chiefs, district engineers and executive staff.

She is now solidifying specific measures, identifying individual owners for each measure, determining measurement method, frequency, and availability, and developing rough outlines for the accompanying descriptions. Soon, she will be working with the Bureau of Computer Services to build a data collection system designed to simplify the reporting process for the measure owners. And, design of a performance measurement website is under way. The performance measures website is being developed in conjunction with the T-WORKS website, as the two sites will work together to communicate agency performance and accountability. Look for the website to be launched early this summer.

It’s important to understand that the setting of performance measures isn’t a one-time thing. Since the ultimate goal is continuous improvement, the measures will be reviewed on an on-going basis and revised as necessary. Through wise use of benchmarks and targets, along with a robust measurement system, we will be able to identify areas within the agency that may need additional resources or focus to meet the growing needs of our transportation system.

The revitalized performance measures program gives us an opportunity not only to make sure we’re spending our precious resources wisely, it allows us to let the Legislature, travelers and Kansans know how we’re doing.

As the state continues to struggle with the slow-moving economy, every agency is under the microscope and it is unwise for any of us to think our funding is safe. A transparent performance measures system will allow us to quantify our good work, proactively tell our story and remind Kansans and our leaders why spending dollars on transportation is a smart investment in the state’s future.



Kansas Department of Transportation

**Governor:** Sam Brownback

**Secretary of Transportation:** Deb Miller

**Chief of Transportation Information:** Steve Swartz

**Editors:** Stan Whitley and Kim Stich

Phone/TTY: (785) 296-3585 ♦ FAX: (785) 296-0287

Eisenhower Building-  
2nd Floor West,  
700 SW Harrison,  
Topeka, Ks 66603-3754

## Calendar of Events

**March 16** – 1 p.m., Construction Bid Letting, Fourth Floor West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.

**April 5-6** – Traffic Safety Conference Hyatt Regency in Wichita.

**April 12-13** – Traffic Engineering Conference, Kansas State Union in Manhattan.

## Dixon named new Chief Counsel

KDOT's new Chief Counsel Nancy Dixon is excited to be back in Kansas and working at KDOT.

"The idea of government service really appeals to me, and of the various agencies in Kansas I think transportation is the most interesting because it serves a function so important to everyone," she said.

Dixon was born and raised in Topeka, then graduated from the University of Wisconsin and the University of Kansas School of Law. After working in both corporate and private practice in Kansas, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Ohio, Dixon and her husband, Paul, decided they wanted to move back to Kansas.

KDOT is a large and diverse agency, Dixon said, which makes it interesting from a work perspective. "You can get involved in lots of different activities such as design, construction, or financial arrangements, and from a lawyer's perspective there are a lot of different areas of practice associated with those activities including litigation, contracts, environmental and employment to name just a few," she said.

Dixon wants to continue the office's practice of maintaining excellent service to customers and stakeholders, and those can be internal or external. She also wants to continue making processes as efficient and effective as possible, "and that not only makes the output better, but it also makes it more enjoyable for the people who work on those processes," she said.

"I'm fortunate in that I landed in a legal group that is already well organized, functioning smoothly and has really talented and dedicated legal professionals."

Dixon and her husband have four grown children. In her spare time she enjoys exercising, reading and quilting.  
-K.S.



Nancy Dixon



From left to right, Gov. Sam Brownback, Secretary Deb Miller and Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer are happy to announce three major road projects on Feb. 11 in Overland Park.

## Gov. Brownback announces major Kansas road projects

Three road projects that will have an estimated economic impact of more than \$1 billion were announced by Gov. Sam Brownback on Feb. 11 in Overland Park.

The projects, which have an estimated cost of \$250 million, will be built in Overland Park and Reno and Riley counties. They are the first major expansion projects to be announced under the transportation program T-WORKS, which was passed by the Kansas Legislature last May.

"These projects provide safety enhancements, improve commute times and make infrastructure improvements that will support economic growth. They will create jobs during and after construction and help put Kansas on the road to growth," said Gov. Brownback.

"Among the factors analyzed by

KDOT in the selection process was the economic impact these project will have on the economy. This is the first time economic analysis has been one of the selection factors for major Kansas transportation projects, and in all three cases, there will be an excellent return on the state's investment," the Governor said.

The projects are: U.S. 69 and I-435 in Overland Park, K-18 near Manhattan and U.S. 50 at Hutchinson

"These projects were among those that consistently rose to the top during extensive public meetings across the state. We're making this announcement now so we can get these projects started quickly and save the state money by taking advantage of low bid prices," said Secretary Deb Miller.

Details are available on KDOT's website, [www.ksdot.org/t-works/](http://www.ksdot.org/t-works/).

On the...

## COVER

John Gatz, left, and Jeremy King, KDOT employees from the Pratt Area office, put concrete in a slump cone for a test while construction takes place behind them on U.S. 54 in Kingman County last fall. Construction for this year is gearing up. See pages 10 and 11 for construction highlights in each District.



Members of the Block Crew team pose with Secretary Deb Miller (seated second from left) and Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger (far right, middle row) at the ceremony recognizing their efforts as an Example of Excellence.

# Team solves erosion problem near K-7

A section of right of way along K-7 in Doniphan County had a persistent ditch erosion problem since it was realigned in 2007. Several attempts to address the issue have been tried unsuccessfully, but with teamwork and a new approach, the problem was solved.

The Block Crew team was recognized as an Example of Excellence for the fourth quarter of 2010. Secretary Deb Miller attended the ceremony in Horton on Feb. 21.

The previously-placed rip rap was removed and a new profile survey was conducted, according to District Engineer Clay Adams.

“Once the site was to grade, then employees from Area One and each subarea within Area One were tasked with hand placing concrete blocks to line the drainage ditch,” Adams said. There were approximately 11,000 bricks placed by hand, and each one of these bricks weighed 60 to 80 pounds.

It is believed this is the first installation of this type done by KDOT maintenance forces, Adams said.

“The various crews from throughout Area One worked extremely well together to place the heavy blocks in a timely manner,” he said. “They all also worked together with Road Design, District Surveyor, District Heavy Crew and the concrete block vendor to accomplish this unique project.”

Members of the team include: Michelle Anschutz, Mark Baker, Terry Baker, James Brennan, Tony Brey, George Brown III, Larry Burdick, Jim Clary, Bob Carrier, B.J. Christensen, Stan Cook, Jim Delzeit, Wes Duncan, Randy Fassnacht, Brian Feldkamp, Doug Foye, Charlie George, Linus Grollmes, Mike Hays, Bill Holthaus, Josh Hughes, Gale Hunninghake, Pat

Jasper, Leroy Koehn, Rick Kostman, Carl Kostman, Gary Kramer, Alan Lierz, Gary Melcher, Mike Mitchell, Tyler Molt, John Moore, Kris Norton, Jim Olberding, Chuck Oswald, Jim Pike, Duane Roeder, Kenny Slocum (posthumous), Steve Smith, Terry Smith, Terry E. Smith, Joe Snyder, Kevin Strube, Trini Vega, Matt Watkins, Robbie Weishaar, Doug Welch, Jake Wilburn, Steve Willett and Tony Zeltner



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

The award is given quarterly with nomination for the first quarter due by March 31. -K.S.

## Upcoming KDOT Training Courses

### Classes at Headquarters

- ♦ Best Week 1, March 7-11
- ♦ Best Week 2, April 11-15
- ♦ Ouch! Supervisor Training, March 16
- ♦ ART Day 1,2,3, March 22-24
- ♦ Business Writing I, April 28
- ♦ Business Writing II April 28
- ♦ Transition to Leadership/ You'll Catch on/Ethics, March 28 thru April 1
- ♦ Ouch! That Stereo Type Hurts Training, May 5
- ♦ New Employee Orientation, May 12
- ♦ Ouch! That Stereo Type Hurts Training, May 17
- ♦ ART Day 1,2,3, May 24-26

### Classes at District Offices

- ♦ Ouch! That Stereo Type Hurts Training, March 1, Great Bend
- ♦ Ouch! That Stereo Type Hurts Training, March 2, Area 4 at Gage
- ♦ Ouch! That Stereo Type Hurts Training, March 22, Hutchinson
- ♦ Ouch! That Stereo Type Hurts Training, March 30, Salina
- ♦ Ouch! That Stereo Type Hurts Training, March 31, Osage City
- ♦ Dealing With Difficult People, April 5, Hutchinson
- ♦ Ouch! That Stereo Type Hurts Training, April 6, Horton
- ♦ Ouch! That Stereo Type Hurts Training, April 20, Salina
- ♦ Leadership Basics, May 24-26, Hutchinson

## Commemorating 150 years of statehood



*(Top photo) A big crowd gathered on Jan. 28 outside the Capitol for the Kansas Day Ceremony celebrating 150 years of statehood for Kansas. (Left photo) Gov. Sam Brownback tells about many accomplishments of Kansans through the years. (Above photo) George W. and Diane Bernheimer portray Kansas' first Governor and first lady, Gov. and Mrs. Charles Robinson.*

# District News...

## Trower receives award

Michael "Tony" Trower, Supervisor, Gage Subarea, Topeka, was presented the Patriot Award from the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) for his support of the Kansas National Guard on Jan. 27. Trower was nominated by Gordon Cole, Equipment Operator, for his support efforts as both Cole's employer and direct supervisor at KDOT. Cole was deployed to Afghanistan in early spring 2010, where he is currently serving in the Kansas National Guard.

**District One**

"Tony has never once complained or given me a hard time about having to attend drill or A.T. (Annual Training). Tony would still smile and say, 'you gotta do what you gotta do, the highways will still be here come Monday when you get back,'" Cole said in his nomination letter. "Tony may not have served, but he has always stood by soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. Tony keeps in touch with my family to ensure that everything is going OK for them. I feel that Tony is a true patriot of the United States of America, and is a true supporter of the United States Armed Forces."

ESGR was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reservists and their civilian employers.

## Staff readies for race

The District Two, Area One staff is preparing to help with the ninth annual Eisenhower Marathon on April 9 in Dickinson County. The crew will set up barricades, clearing the path for the runners while providing a detour for area traffic. Area traffic control will be provided by the Kansas Highway Patrol, the Dickinson County Sheriff's Department and the Abilene Police Department along with amateur radio operators and marathon volunteers.



*Gregory D. Simms, Kansas Area 7 Chairman, ESGR, (right) presents Tony Trower the Patriot award on Jan. 27.*

The race, from the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, will begin and end on south Buckeye in Abilene between the Catholic Church and the Eisenhower Center, and travels south to 2000 Avenue, east through Brown's Park, then south on Hawk Road to 1900 Avenue and back west to K-15. Once on K-15 runners will travel south to 1400 Avenue and then west 2.2 miles to the turnaround point.

**District Two**

More than 750 runners from 40 states and several foreign nations will participate. Additional races taking place include the half-marathon, 10K, 5K and community walk (two miles).

## Bridges dismantled, then re-used

Members of the Bridge and Hot Mix Crews have been busy the past couple months removing three bridges on old alignment along U.S. 36 in Smith County.

Located between Bel-laire and Lebanon, the two box structures north of the highway and one concrete bridge south of the highway, posed several concerns for the district. They created concerns for

**District Three**

man hours when logging, rating and checking them for inventory; and had deteriorated to the point where they were not safe.

Materials used to build the bridges in 1929 will be recycled and re-used as the old concrete is being shipped out to Subarea offices throughout the District. The Subareas plan to place the concrete rip rap along eroding ditches and around structures which have drainage issues. "This gives us a chance to implement reusable materials in existing problem areas," explains District Three Maintenance Engineer Michael Terry.

**Continued on page 7**



*This bridge on U.S. 36 in Smith County is being dismantled so that some of the materials can be recycled and re-used. Photo by Gregg Wicker*

## District News

Continued from page 6

### It all adds up to fun

The team from Chanute's Royster Middle School took top honors in the regional MATHCOUNTS competition Feb. 5 at Pittsburg State University. Fifty-three students from seven middle schools in southeast Kansas participated in the competition, designed to improve math skills in U.S. students.

#### District Four

Helping conduct and grade the competition were Area Engineers Wayne Gudmonson (Independence), Darrin Petrowsky (Iola), and George Dockery (Pittsburg); Chris Pross, Engineering Associate II at Pittsburg, and his wife Amanda Pross.

The team from Royster, second place Pittsburg and third place Louisburg advance to state competition at Salina in March. State level winners will attend the national competition in Washington, D.C.

### Kids thank Subarea

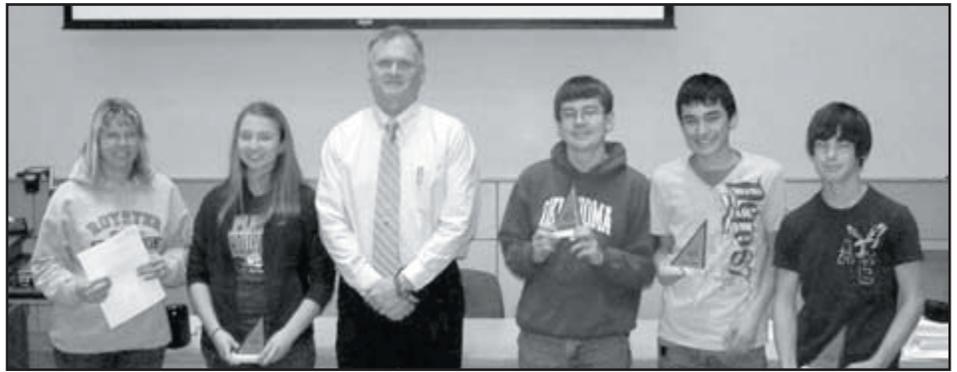
School children from the third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade classes of Flinthills Intermediate School in Rosalia showed their appreciation for the work that the El Dorado Subarea does in clearing the Kansas highways of snow and ice by sending 33 thank you cards. The employees taped the children's artwork on the wall in their break room.

"I've been with KDOT 18 years and we've never received something like that. It makes you feel good to be appreciated and especially by the kids. It made the whole crew feel good," said Jim Gray, El Dorado Subarea Supervisor. "The cards will stay in the break room where everyone can see them."

#### District Five

### Triple your fun

Winter hasn't stopped work to replace three bridges on U.S. 183 in Clark County, all within five miles of the Oklahoma state line. Two projects were



Royster Middle School Mathletes team members pose with Area Engineer Wayne Gudmonson, third from left. They are, from left: Coach Heidi Bolt, Bailey Herzberg (who also took sixth place in individual competition), Gudmonson, Michael Churning, Daniel Benavides and Jake Galemore. Photo by Priscilla Petersen

tied together for bidding with A. M. Cohron & Son, Inc., of Emporia getting the contracts for a total of \$7.9 million.

One project replaces two bridges less than a half-mile apart, one over the main channel of the Cimarron River and the other over an overflow channel, known locally as Day Creek. The existing bridges were built in 1959 on what was then a new alignment. The replacement bridges and new roadway are being built on the original, pre-1959, alignment, allowing traffic to continue unrestricted through construction.

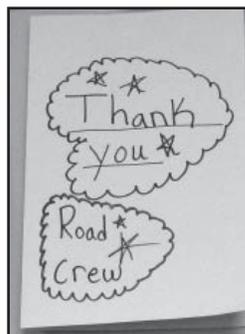
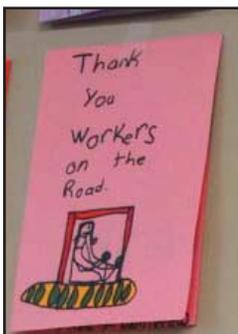
The third bridge, over Snake Creek, is less than two miles from the Oklahoma state line. The new structure will replace a bridge built in 1951 and is also being built on an older alignment. This project also includes widening the roadway to 32 feet, with four-foot shoulders. While A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc., also holds the contract for this bridge, L & M Contractors, Inc., of Great Bend is handling construction.

Work started last year and should be completed later this summer.

#### District Six



Above, thank you cards from the Flinthills Intermediate School are displayed behind (front row) Jack Stiles, Sheila Ward, Manny Valadez, Jim Gray, Karen Vogts, Rod Robert (back row) Jim Fulkerson, Dave Wiggins, Patrick Hill, Shane Thurmon, Richard Corbin, Matt Lambky and Chris Pruitt.



# KDOT's response to winter storms draws public praise

Mother Nature has not been kind to both KDOT workers and the driving public thus far this year. Only five weeks into 2011 and there already has been plenty of snow, ice and even blizzard conditions.

First and foremost the hard working and dedicated KDOT employees in the field have played a critical role in enhancing roadway safety. Their long hours of work under adverse conditions are commendable.

Then add to the mix electronic technology such as the Kansas 511 Traveler Information System, 511 road condition map on the internet, intelligent transportation system cameras, road weather information system cameras, permanent dynamic message signs and Twitter and the agency has been doing everything possible to inform the public.

The commitment of KDOT's field crews certainly hasn't gone without notice. On these two pages is a sampling of the many messages of praise the agency received during the first and second weeks of February. – S.W.

♦ “Thank you for leaving your families at home, working long hours, and doing so much overtime in the freezing cold. Thank you for risking your life so the general public is safe.”

♦ “All the men and women who clearly worked so hard at clearing the highways have done a phenomenal job and they should be commended. I know a lot of people had to work very hard for many hours and I just want them to know that their efforts did not go unnoticed. Please pass along my appreciation and gratitude.”

♦ “I really wanted to thank the KDOT crews for the fantastic effort they display whenever we have a snowstorm. I was amazed at the excellent condition the roads were in and had no trouble at all. Thanks for the excellent service and keeping motorists safe and our roads in great condition.”

**Continued on page 9**



*A KDOT road grader clears K-120 in Doniphan County.*



*Snow plowing on U.S. 77 west of Riley.*

**Continued from page 8**

- ♦ “Just wanted to send out a heartfelt thank you for all the plowing and road-clearing efforts! My husband and I moved here 10 years ago from Minnesota and I can honestly say this is the best snow-clearing we’ve seen since we moved. Keep up the amazing work!”

---

- ♦ On Twitter: “If my morning commute’s completely cleared of snow, I’ll name my 1st born KDot. . . KDot Huff.”

---

- ♦ “We wanted to send a shout out to the road crews and thank them for the fine job they did clearing the roads and making it safe for our families. My husband appreciated the great road conditions this morning at 6:30 a.m. while he was driving to work. Quite an impressive job for such a big storm. Keep up the good work!”

---

- ♦ “I traveled between Bartlesville, Ok. and Coffeyville, Ks. during this storm. The difference in the two state’s highways was like driving from a blizzard in Oklahoma into the sunshine state. Your people are to be commended for their work.”

---

- ♦ “Highway 10 east of Lawrence was completely clear this morning This

was the best job ever! Fantastic! I’ve never seen a better job of clearing a road.”

- ♦ “We are truly thankful for KDOT and their efforts. I’m amazed at the quality of the work performed - not because it’s not expected but because this was a significant event and the results were exceptional. All that I can say is: Applause, Applause, Applause!”

---

- ♦ “I wanted to comment on the job done by your crews last night. I live off of K-10 in Johnson County. K-10 I would give an “A”. No way I expected the full road to be clear. Overall, I

would rate KDOT’s performance last night as outstanding. Thank you.”

- ♦ “I left Johnson County this morning heading to McPherson. Having been on I-435, I-35, U.S. 50 and U.S. 56, I can say it was all smooth sailing. KDOT you are doing a great job.”

---

- ♦ “I want to compliment all the state workers that braved the harsh conditions to get roads cleared and open for travel. I work on an ambulance crew and sure can understand the value of their efforts.”

---

- ♦ “KDOT did an amazing job clearing the roads. I drove on I-70 from Hays to Oakley and U.S. 83 south to Garden City and the roads were almost completely clear of snow. Thank you KDOT for making my trip a safe and easy one.”

---

- ♦ 511 Call – “This is an excellent thing to do for people. You have answered all of my questions and it was very concise and good. Thank you so much!”

---

- ♦ 511 Call – “Thank you so very much. My husband’s a long-haul truck driver and your weather updates are fantastic on this 511 line. Thank you again very, very much! Job well done, guys and gals.”



*Working during whiteout conditions on K-171 in Crawford County.*

# Construction begins across Kansas

## ●District One

◆**Project:** K-18 Expansion Project in Riley County, 5.4 miles.

**Scope of Work:** Expanding the four-lane 5.4 miles, which will complete the corridor from Ogden to Manhattan. The project will also add three interchanges and drainage improvements From Wildcat Creek Road to Seth Child Road in Riley County.

**Cost:** \$96 million.

◆**Project:** U.S. 69 and I-435 improvement - U.S. 69 in Overland Park from 119th Street north to the I-435 interchange and west on I-435 to west of the Quivira Road interchange.

**Scope of Work:** Add auxiliary lanes to I-435 between

I-35 and Quivira Road to southbound I-35 from 95th Street to I-435; adds the westbound I-435 collector-distributor roads; completes the I-435/Lackman interchange and adds a new interchange at I-435/95th Street; and adds a new flyover ramp from northbound I-35 to westbound I-435.

**Cost:** \$115 million.

## ●District Two

◆**Project:** U.S. 50 overlay, 23 miles.

**Scope of Work:** For both projects the scope is a three-inch HMA overlay. From U.S. 77 east to the Marion/Chase County line a 1.5-inch overlay.

**Cost:** \$9.4 million.

◆**Project:** I-70 mill and overlay, 16 miles.

**Scope of Work:** Mill six inches of asphalt and replace it with six inches of concrete.

**Cost:** 34.2 million.



*The K-61/56th Avenue interchange bridge is currently under construction in Reno County. Photo by Martin Miller*

## ●District Three

◆**Project:** Pavement replacement, I-70 in Sherman County from the Colorado/Kansas state line to Caruso (Exit 12), 12.7 miles.

**Scope of Work:** Pavement and sub-grade replacement and upgrading all the slopes, bridge handrails, and guard rail to current standards. RCB bridge structures will receive extensive deck repairs. New signs and right-of-way fencing will be placed throughout the project. All interchanges will be lit, and Exits 17 and 19 will receive improved lighting. A pavement reconstruction of the Ruleton rest area as well as the weigh station near the state line will also be included in the scope of the work.

**Cost:** Approximately \$45 million.

**Completion:** It is a calendar completion date project which will begin this summer, with completion in 2013.

◆**Project:** Bridge replacement near Waldo located along U.S. 281/K-18 in northern Russell County.

**Scope of Work:** Replacing an old span-bridge over Wolf Creek. Grading and seeding will be included in the scope.

**Cost:** Approximately \$750,000.

**Completion:** Fall 2011.

## ●District Four

◆**Project:** K-47 in Wilson and Neosho counties.

**Scope of work:** Tied projects to reconstruct 10 miles of K-47 from U.S. 75 on the west to U.S. 169 on the east. The existing roadway is 23 feet, four inches wide with no shoulders. The new roadway will be 40 feet wide with eight-foot shoulders. K-47 will be closed during the project and traffic detoured on state routes.

**Cost:** Approximately \$21 million.

**Completion:** September 2012.



*This section of K-47 will be reconstructed starting later this spring. Photo by Priscilla Petersen*

utility relocations – most occurring during construction phases of the ARRA project.

**Cost:** \$16.4 million  
**Completion:** Fall 2011.

● **District Six**

◆ **Project:** Resurfacing project on U.S. 283.

**Location/Length:** Hodgeman County, from Best Street in Jetmore to the Hodgeman-Ness county line, 12.15 miles.

**Scope of work:** Resurfacing section that was reconstructed in 1990 under the Comprehensive Highway Program; calls for a four-inch cold recycle and 1.5 inch asphalt overlay; includes a harvest recess from June 14 to July 9.

**Cost:** \$2.4 million.

**Construction**

**Continued from page 10**

◆ **Project:** K-101 in Labette County, 2.3 miles south of the U.S. 160/K-101 junction.

**Scope of work:** The project will replace three corrugated metal pipes with a box culvert. A rock shoo-fly detour will carry traffic around the site.

**Cost:** Approximately \$783,000.

**Completion:** Fall 2011.

● **District Five**

◆ **Project:** K-61 in Reno County.

**Scope of work:** Expansion of K-61 from two to four lanes in an 8.6-mile section from Hutchinson to the Reno-McPherson county line. Earth work is complete, bridges will be completed in early 2011 and concrete paving will start spring 2011. This project is part of the 23 mile K-61 four lane construction from Hutchinson to McPherson.

**Cost:** \$41.1 million.

**Completion:** Summer 2012.

◆ **Project:** I-135 and 47th Street South (U.S. 81) in Wichita (Sedgwick County).

**Scope of work:** Phase Three of the two-year project includes the rebuilding of a bridge over the interstate, one over a nearby creek and the completion of two lanes of a city connecting link in a heavily commercialized area of Wichita. Reconstruction of a six-lane urban intersection is included as well as extensive

◆ **Project:** Bridge replacement on offset alignment on K-23.

**Location/length:** Meade County, half-mile north of Oklahoma state line, 1.25 miles in length

**Scope of work:** Replace “fracture-critical” bridge built in 1965 on new alignment and re-align roadway to remove curve.

**Cost:** \$3.99 million.



*The second year of construction begins on the I-135 and 47th Street South project in Wichita. Photo by Tom Hein*

# Miller offers suggestions to cut project costs, speed delivery

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A major highway project can take 15 or more years to complete, resulting in additional construction costs – not just from inflation but also from lost productivity caused by prolonged congestion and traffic accidents, Secretary Deb Miller told a House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee Feb 15.

Miller, testifying on behalf of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, told the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit that “state and local governments are overburdened with the excessive paperwork and the process it takes to advance even the least-controversial projects with no environmental impacts. Any effort to expedite project delivery should focus on making the process more efficient, without compromising environmental protection or opportunities for public participation.”

Miller recommended making refinements to existing federal programs

designed to expedite project delivery, including expansion of a pilot program that empowers federal agencies to experiment with innovation.

“This pilot program could allow federal agencies to waive existing procedural requirements for projects that result in improved environmental and transportation outcomes. Miller said. “We need to focus on outcomes, not rigid processes.”

She also acknowledged the efforts by Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez for his Every Day Counts Initiative, which has been fully supported by AASHTO.

Miller concluded her remarks by saying, “it is essential to find ways to deliver a better product, faster, cheaper and with better environmental results. We need more tools and ideas to stretch our precious resources and to enable us to deliver the best possible value to our customers for their transportation investments.” -S.S.

## Promotions/Transfers

### Headquarters

**Steve Garrett**, Accountant II, Fiscal Services

**Melinda Marlar**, Right of Way Property Appraiser II, Right of Way

## MILESTONES

### KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in March

#### 10 YEARS

Cari Base . . . . . Kingman  
 Mark Brown . . . . . Bucklin  
 Steven Brown . . . . . Altamont  
 Eugene Burton . . . . . Norton  
 James Fulkerson . . . . . Benton  
 Kelly Gaer . . . . . Silver Lake  
 Bradley Holzhey . . . . . Denton  
 Randy Knight . . . . . Jamilton  
 Jason Lawrence . . . . . Dighton  
 Alan Perry . . . . . Clearwater  
 Ronald Squire . . . . . Syracuse  
 Matthew Watkins . . . . . Whiting  
 Gary Wirtz . . . . . Council Grove

#### 20 YEARS

Randy Brittain . . . . . Great Bend  
 Richard Kreider Jr. . . . . Topeka  
 Gary Lytle . . . . . Mayetta

#### 30 YEARS

Virginia Armstrong . . . . . Carbondale  
 Valeria Mullen . . . . . Hutchinson

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

## Step Back in Time



*A ceremony is conducted to mark the opening of new Interstate I-70 to west of Junction City in Oct. 9, 1959.*

# Students unveil new Lane Freedom Trail signs

By Kim Qualls

Public Affairs Manager

KDOT unveiled new highway signs commemorating the historic Lane Freedom Trail Feb. 16 at Royal Valley Middle School in Mayetta.

In early 2010, more than 65 Royal Valley Middle School 7th grade students, guided by their 2010 National History Teacher of the Year Nathan McAlister, initiated the idea and then worked through the Kansas legislative process to obtain approval for the new Lane Freedom Trail highway signing project.

"This was not only a lesson in Kansas history but as well a hands on experience in the Kansas legislative process for the students," said McAlister.

Speakers at the event included Gov. Sam Brownback, Secretary Deb Miller, McAlister, Student Body Class President Cassidy Dahl and a historical reenactment of Jim Lane by Tim Rues.

The 7th graders researched the trail's location and detailed history as well as the locations where they would want to place the signs.

Letters covering the various signing subject matters were sent to Rep. Rocky Fund, Sen. Dennis Pyle, and former Gov. Mark Parkinson with a request to support and push forward their legislation. Rep. Fund took up the torch and



*Students gather around the Lane Freedom Trail sign at a ceremony at Royal Valley Middle School in Mayetta.*

introduced the legislation in the House. Eight students, along with McAlister, testified on behalf of the bill before the House Transportation Committee in spring 2010. The bill was passed by the House on a vote of 121-0.

The bill then moved onto the Senate where the students again testified on behalf of the bill. In the Senate, the bill was tabled early in the session. But then, in early May 2010, after more letter writing and more testimony by the students and teacher, the Lane Freedom Trail bill was passed by both the House

and the Senate. Gov. Parkinson signed the bill into law on May 24, 2010. The students then worked for the next few months to raise the \$3,330 needed to produce the two signs and pay for future maintenance. The last donation was received in September 2010 and their portion of the project was completed.

The two new signs were installed on northbound U.S. 75 just north of the 46th Street interchange and on southbound U.S. 75 one mile south of K-16.

## Deaths

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

**William H. Wright**, 86, died Feb. 4 in Topeka. Wright began his employment at KDOT after World War II and worked his way up to State Transportation Engineer before retiring in 1987. He is survived by two sons and one daughter.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Diane E. Wright Memorial Scholarship Fund at any Educational Credit Union in Topeka.

**Clifford C. Quenzer**, 82, died Nov. 30 in Valley Center. He served KDOT for 44 years before retiring in 1988. He is survived by his wife, Delores, two sons, two daughters, 10 grandchildren and four-great grandchildren,

Memorial contributions can be designated to the St. Jude Catholic Renovation Fund, 3030 N. Amidon, Wichita, 67204 or Hospice Care of Kansas, 808 Hillside, Wichita, 67211.

*Fun Facts  
and Trivia*

**Do you know?**

**Kansas Fun Facts**  
Part Five

1. What is the state's largest lake with more than 16,000 acres of water? A. Perry Lake B. Milford Reservoir C. Cheney Reservoir D. Wilson Lake
2. Where is the Geodetic Center of North America?
3. In Italy, the city of Milan is 300 miles northwest of Rome. In Kansas, how many miles northwest of Rome is Milan? A. About 40 miles B. More than 85 miles C. 2 miles D. none of the above
4. Between 1854 and 1866, 34 steamboats paddled up the Kaw River (Kansas River). How far did one of them make it? A. Willard B. Belvue C. Manhattan D. Fort Riley
5. In 1990, Kansas wheat farmers produced enough wheat to make how many loaves of bread? A. 18 billion B. 33 billion C. 61 billion D. 88 billion
6. Holy Cross Shrine in Pfeifer was known as what when it was built between 1915 and 1918? A. The Keeper of the Plains B. 2 Cent Church C. The Solid Stone Church D. None of the above
7. Where is the American Institute of Baking located? A. Manhattan B. Liberal C. Atwood D. Overland Park

*Answers on page 16*

# KDOT unveils nation's first Airspace Awareness Tool

The nation's first Airspace Awareness Tool designed specifically to increase the awareness of airspace around Kansas airports has been developed by KDOT's Division of Aviation.

KDOT demonstrated the new tool at Eudora High School, located just south of the Lawrence Municipal Airport, on Friday, Feb. 18th.

"One of the goals of the tool is to help developers of tall structures such as wind turbines visualize complicated airspace and, consequently, avoid unsafe conflicts between aircraft and obstructions," said C. Edward Young, KDOT Aviation Director. "If there is a potential conflict, the system will alert the user to contact the FAA."

Kansas has 141 public use airports that are used for various purposes, such as commercial travel, crop dusting and air ambulance services. Each airport not only has real property on the ground, but also has corresponding air space that reaches out at graduated levels.

"There were more than 2,000 airspace analyses in Kansas last year and most of those requests involved wind turbines," said Young. "A number of those cases resulted in conflicts with local air space and instrument landing approaches."

The tool allows the user to input both latitude and longitude to view any

desired location in Kansas. Proposed towers can also be drawn onto the application to visualize their impact to the airspace.

"Once finalized, the airspace awareness tool will be available from KDOT's website. This 'soft launch' will give us important feedback," said Young.

The wind turbine project at Eudora High School gives students an opportunity to apply classroom math in real-world situations. Eudora High School math teacher Scott Keltner hopes to

integrate wind turbine data into his classroom activities to give students hands-on experience. The math that is utilized in wind turbine energy development is also used in analyzing airspace.

"This was a perfect opportunity to evaluate the ease of use of the tool," Young said.

The Future Business Leaders of America at Eudora High School decided to pursue the placement of a wind turbine as a club

goal of reducing the carbon and financial footprint of the school.

The KDOT Airspace Awareness Tool was made possible by a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration. The tool has been developed over the last 1½ years working with Burns and McDonnell, a Kansas City consulting firm. — S.W.

***'One of the goals of the tool is to help developers of tall structures such as wind turbines visualize complicated airspace and, consequently, avoid unsafe conflicts between aircraft and obstructions'***

**C. Edward Young**

## Welcome new KDOT employees!

### Headquarters

**Jesse Borjon**, Public Service Executive I, Governmental Affairs

**Thomas Brown**, Right of Way Appraiser II, Right of Way

**Nicholas Callaghan**, Applications Developer II, Planning

**William Lutz**, State Auditor II, Fiscal Services

**Jesse Romo**, Public Service Executive II, Aviation

**Tabitha Weigel**, Accountant II, Financial and Investment Management

### District One

**Tristan Berends**, Administrative Assistant, Topeka

**Tanner Watson**, Engineering Technician Associate, Topeka

**District Three - Northwest**  
**Joshua Cersovsky**

Engineering Technician Associate, Oakley

**Christopher Helpingstine**, Engineering Technician Associate, Oakley

**Josiah Jones**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Atwood

**Robert Percival Jr.**, Engineering Associate I, Atwood

**Curtis Way**, Equipment Operator Specialist, Saint Francis

### District Five

**Christopher Schmid**, Geology Trainee, El Dorado  
*The Bureau of Personnel Services and Districts supply information to Translines.*

## CELEBRATE

*March is Women's History Month*



"I began working at KDOT in 1979 and soon after moved to the field and worked as a Lab Technician. This was a big step for me - I was the only woman in the field in District Six.

"Women have gone from being office personnel to field technicians and civil engineers, from court clerks to lawyers, the list goes on. Through the years I have moved up the ranks to Construction Manager.

"Men and women can now work

side by side to get the job done. The barriers that blocked women from certain jobs simply because of their gender are being removed every day."

**Janet Byrum**, Construction Manager in Dodge City, has worked for KDOT for more than 31 years

## Applications sought for Safe Routes to School Program

KDOT is now accepting applications through May 31 for its Safe Routes to School Program that provides funding for improvements encouraging children to walk or bike to school.

"This federally funded program will provide reimbursements to cities, counties, school districts and other entities to provide either infrastructure or non-infrastructure improvements," said Rebecca Pepper, KDOT State Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator. "Walking and bicycling to school can be an important part of a healthy lifestyle, yet most children in Kansas do not start the day with either of these activities."

Funding will be provided for infrastructure projects such as improvements to sidewalks, traffic calming, pedestrian and bicycle crossing, on and off street bicycle facilities, secure bicycle parking, and traffic

diversions.

Non-infrastructure project activities include public awareness campaigns and outreach to press and community leaders, establishing walking school buses and bike trains, traffic education and enforcement, student training on bicycle and pedestrian safety, and funding for training.

"This has been a very competitive application process in the past and we always have more needs than available funds," said Pepper. "We have awarded 41 Phase 1 projects and 18 Phase 2 projects since the inception of the program."

For more information, go to the KDOT website at [www.ksdot.org/burTrafficEng/sz-toolbox/pdf/SRTS-Application.pdf](http://www.ksdot.org/burTrafficEng/sz-toolbox/pdf/SRTS-Application.pdf). Questions about the program can also be directed to Pepper at [rpepper@ksdot.org](mailto:rpepper@ksdot.org) - S.W.

# KDOT Computer Training

- from the KCTC

Increase your efficiency!

## IT Service Desk

(formerly the Help Desk)

The KCTC and Bureau of Computer Services (BCS) partnered to provide a consistent and universal training program for BCS employees using Service Desk Express (formerly Magic Service Desk). This web based service management system allows BCS's IT Service Desk to better serve you with your computer related needs.

Here is why you should use the IT Service Desk:

- ♦ Simple – one place to go to request service.
- ♦ Accurate – incidents will get taken care of even if the person assigned to it is out of the office.
- ♦ Timely – incidents will all be available in one place, so an incident will not be overlooked.
- ♦ Knowledge base – if an incident has been solved before, the tech can quickly use that solution (because they can find it in the knowledge base) instead of figuring it out again.

Contact the IT Service Desk by:

- ♦ email - #ITServiceDesk
- ♦ toll-free phone - 877-523-7381
- ♦ local calls - 296-0315

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

## Retirees

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT in March.

### Headquarters

**James L. Lasher**, Engineering Technician, Planning

### District One

**Michael S. Johnson**, Engineering Technician Specialist, Bonner Springs

**Charles L. Zerbe**, Equipment Operator Specialist, Eskridge

**William H. Jacobs**, Surplus Property Agent, Support Services

### District One

**Mitchell D. McGee**, Applications Developer II, Topeka

**William A. Sullivan**, Engineering Technician, Kansas City

### District Three

**Adam A. Zerr**, Equipment Operator Senior, Norton

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT in April.

### Headquarters

**Mark E. Clements**, Chief Procurement Officer, Fiscal Services

*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.*

- Answers from page 11**
1. B. Millford Reservoir
  2. About 40 miles south of Lebanon at Meade's Ranch. It is the beginning point of reference for land surveying in North America
  3. A, about 40 miles, in Sumner County
  4. D, Fort Riley
  5. B, 33 billion, enough to provide each person on earth with 6 loaves
  6. B, 2 Cent Church, because the building was built using a 2-cent donation on each bushel of wheat sold by members of the church
  7. A, Manhattan