

Translines



KDOT website provides regional flood info

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By Secretary
Deb Miller

Proactive steps keep KDOT on firm ground

“We have fallen off a cliff.”

That’s how my Missouri counterpart Kevin Keith, in a couple remarkable news releases last month, described the devastating cuts to his agency. As detailed in the releases, the Missouri Department of Transportation is dealing with a financial crisis by:

- ♦ Reducing the work force by 1,200 (about 19 percent);
- ♦ Closing 131 facilities (about 40 percent of their offices);
- ♦ Selling more than 740 pieces of equipment;
- ♦ Closing three district offices to reduce the number of districts to seven.
- ♦ Cutting the construction program to about \$600 million a year from average annual construction spending of \$1.2 billion.

For those of us who run transportation agencies, this is the stuff of nightmares (unless, of course, one can’t go to sleep thinking about it). We DOTs all have our funding challenges and uncertainties right now, and we don’t know what dire situation we might face in a year. But, at KDOT I hope we’ve done the things over the past 20 years that will keep us from ever having to write the same kind of news releases MoDOT has.

While there are many differences between MoDOT

and KDOT that make direct comparisons an ‘apples and oranges’ thing, we’ve focused for years on right-sizing our agency to proactively manage costs and avoid what MoDOT now faces.

Since the 1970s, KDOT has reduced staff by more than a third and eliminated the need for some of our heavy equipment. We replaced smaller dump trucks with larger trucks to increase their range and load capacity. We increased the number of trailers we have to foster equipment sharing and improve mobility. And in the process of improving the quality of our tools, we increased our capacity to do our jobs.

In the early 1980s, KDOT initiated a radically new pavement program that focused on lighter preservation actions to keep good roads in good condition. This was the beginning of the 1R program and it allowed for a 20 percent reduction in field staff. It also helped Kansas earn recognition as having the nation’s best highway system.

In the mid-90s, we closed 10 percent of our area offices proactively. The thinking was if we police ourselves, someone from outside the agency won’t. We’ve also centralized some functions, such as design. Other DOTs, including Missouri, have design staff spread throughout the districts.

My heart goes out to Kevin Keith and his staff at MoDOT. We all know that circumstances beyond our control, especially in this economic climate, can disrupt a hard-working, well-intentioned organization. That’s why it’s essential that we never slow down because of the good work we’ve done in the past or stop looking for better ways to do our jobs.

We must adhere to a system that holds us accountable to Kansans, which we’ve done with our performance measures program. We must build credibility through transparency, which we’ve done with new websites. And we must seek out and value the opinion of Kansans, which we’ve done through our collaborative local consultation process.

Who knows what our transportation world will look like in another year, but if we remain proactive and true to our principles, chances are good that we’ll never have to write a news release that describes KDOT falling off a cliff.



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Secretary of Transportation: Deb Miller
Chief of Transportation Information:
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On the... COVER

Parts of K-7 in northeast Kansas are experiencing flooding this summer. For more details about flooding issues, see page 4.

Increasing speed limit



Equipment Operator Specialist Jeff LaCrone places an aluminum overlay on a 70-mph sign on I-70 near Topeka. The new 75-mph speed limit went into effect on 807 miles of roadway in Kansas on July 1. Photo by Kurt Weaverling

Poster contest aims to put the brakes on fatalities

Kids ages 5 to 13 in Kansas are encouraged to enter artwork for a statewide poster contest focusing on Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day - a nationwide effort to increase roadway safety and reduce all traffic fatalities.

Three statewide winners will receive family packages at the Great Wolf Lodge in Kansas City and \$50 gas cards from QuikTrip Corporation.

A total of 18 regional winners in the six regions and age groups (ages 5-7, ages 8-10 and ages 11-13) will each receive a bicycle donated by Wal-Mart stores in Kansas and a helmet donated by Safe Kids Kansas.

All entries must be postmarked by Friday, Sept. 2. For more information on the contest and details on how to enter, go to KDOT's Internet main website page, www.ksdot.org, on the middle left side of the page.

Rankin takes over duties as new KDOT Chief Counsel

By Stan Whitley

After five years of commuting 140 miles several days a week, Barb Rankin was ready to both live and work in the city of Topeka. That opportunity recently became available when she accepted the position as KDOT's new Chief Counsel.

Rankin started working at KDOT on June 20 after spending five years traveling between Topeka and Overland Park as General Counsel for CrossFirst Holdings, LLC.

"I'm a strong believer of living and working in the same community, especially when you handle legal matters," said Rankin. "It makes it possible to take a more active role in your community, which I enjoy and believe in doing."

Rankin said she was contacted about the job by Secretary Deb Miller, and later had opportunities to meet with Miller, Deputy Secretary and State Transportation Engineer Jerry Younger and former Deputy Secretary of Finance and Administration Joe Erskine.

"Talking to them piqued my interest in the position, then I visited with Vicky Johnson and Nancy Dixon (former Chief Counsels at KDOT) and they had only good things to say about the agency," said Dixon. "That made my decision easier."

A native of Wellsville, Rankin graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Washburn University School of Law in 1982. She was a law clerk for the Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court for two years before serving as Associate General Counsel for Security Benefit Group from 1984-1987.

From 1987-1992 she was Associate General Counsel for Fourth Financial Corporation in Wichita and later worked as General Counsel for the Silver Lake Bank in Topeka from 1993-1995.

For the next eight years Rankin was a stay-at-home mom. "I realized I wasn't a supermom and I needed to be home raising my children."

Rankin returned to the work force in 2003 to serve as the Legal Department Director for the Kansas Bankers Association.

Since arriving at KDOT, Rankin has stayed busy meeting with Division Directors, Bureau Chiefs and becoming better acquainted with agency operations.

"I keep hearing over and over about the pride and ownership KDOT employees have with their jobs," said Rankin. "They like what they contribute to the agency and are proud to be public servants."

Rankin's husband, Jim, is a partner with the Foulston & Siefkin LLP law firm and manages their Topeka office. They have two sons, J.P., a law student at the University of Kansas, and Alex, who will be a freshman at KU this fall semester.



Barb Rankin

KDOT website provides regional flood info

By Barb Blue

A new regional Missouri River flood information page has been added to KDOT's home page, www.ksdot.org. You can also access it from KanDrive page at www.KanDrive.org.

With roads closed due to flooding in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Iowa, the site provides information for these states about detours, alternate routes, flood safety, phone numbers for flood hotlines and automated 511/traveler information phone systems in the region.



KanDrive
hwy • phone • web

“With the vast impact

of flooding on roads throughout the Midwest expected for the next several months, we want to provide information to help travelers plan their summer trips and to safely reach their destination,” said KDOT Secretary Deb Miller. “We want travelers to remember that while finding alternate routes can be inconvenient, they should stay clear of areas where flooding is occurring.”

By planning ahead and visiting KanDrive, www.kandrive.org, or using 511 on any phone or mobile device, travelers can find out if their routes are impacted by road work. Weather updates are provided every 15 minutes on Kansas 511 to keep travelers informed.

KanDrive also features enhanced camera views in addition to an interactive map of Kansas roads, road conditions and work zones and other events impacting traffic. It includes



The Missouri River has been out of its banks in many areas this summer including in Atchison near the Amelia Earhart Bridge.

camera and roadside electronic sign views and links to helpful transportation resources, such as KC Scout, Kansas Turnpike information, Kansas Byways, weather information and more.

The 511 Mobile site at <http://511mm.ksdot.org> provides map, camera and electronic message sign views, road conditions, road work and event information as well as links to weather.

The site is accessible from multiple devices, including iPhones, Droids and Windows mobile devices, Version 6.0 and higher. Other devices will be able to access text information only for road conditions and road work activity.

Travelers may also call 511 from anywhere in Kansas or 1-866-511-KDOT (5368) from anywhere in the U.S. to get Kansas travel information.

A portion of K-7 near White Cloud is flooded.



Observant employee finds crack in light pole

By Kevin Zimmer and Kristen Brands

On the morning of May 31, the keen eyes of KDOT Equipment Operator Senior Kent Huss noticed what appeared to be a crack in one of the 100-foot tall mast light towers near the I-70 Commerce Parkway Exit located approximately two miles east of Hays.

As part of their weekly inspection of the Interstate, Huss and Equipment Operator Senior Rick Rowilson, both on the Hays Subarea, had just finished picking up some tire debris along I-70 near Exit 161.

"I looked over and noticed something very strange about the light pole at that location," Huss reported. "It just didn't seem right, so we decided to go get a closer look." Upon closer inspection, Huss and Rowilson confirmed that an 18-inch crack had developed around the access panel to the light tower near Exit 161. The length of the crack was essentially one-third the diameter of the massive pole.

Huss immediately notified his supervisor, Tim Weigel, of his discovery. Efforts were quickly made within the Hays office to organize an operation to ground the damaged pole before nightfall.

"This task was critical, because the following day's forecast revealed high southerly winds for the afternoon," said Area Three Engineer Kevin Zimmer. "The potential that the forecasted winds could force the pole to snap in half and topple over onto the east-bound lanes of I-70 was a huge concern."

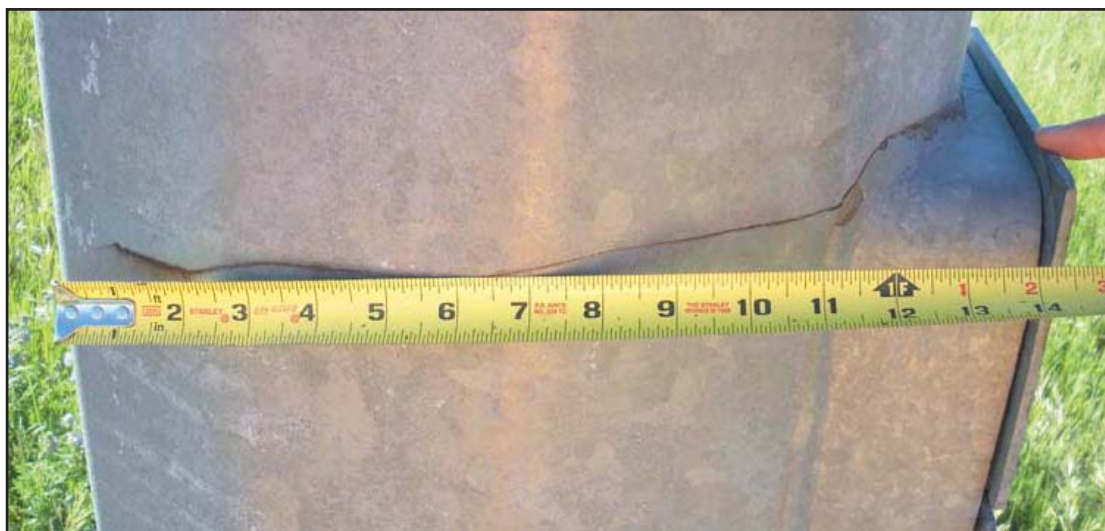
Fortunately for the Area Three staff, a local crane company out of Hays was available to handle the crucial task at hand. Hess Services Inc. lifted the damaged pole off its base and safely laid it along the right-of-way the same day the damage was discovered. The Area Three crew and Subarea crew assisted with the removal operation - as did Refrigerator and A/C Service Technician Senior Gene Burton, of the District Three office.

"Thanks to the ever watchful eyes of our Equipment Operators like Kent, our highways remain safe and functioning properly for the travelers of Kansas," said Zimmer.

The assessment of the damage is due to a faulty design. A contract to replace the pole lets in January 2012.



Above, a light pole is removed on I-70 near Exit 161 - the same day an 18-inch crack is discovered near the base of the structure by KDOT Equipment Operator Kent Huss. Below, only about two-thirds of the 18-inch crack in the light pole can be seen in this photo. Photos by Kevin Zimmer



District News...



Troy Subarea employees Pat Jasper, Equipment Operator Senior, and Jim Clary, Subarea Supervisor, close a portion of K-7 due to flooding.

Flooding halts projects

Summer 2011 is proving to be memorable for District One crews as they continue to deal with flooding concerns from the Missouri River.

On May 31, KDOT crews closed K-7 in Doniphan County. By early July, more than 12 miles on this portion of K-7 was closed. A section of K-5 in Leavenworth County was closed, and the Amelia Earhart Bridge in Atchison

County was closed because of flooding in Missouri.

Two preservation projects, resurfacing on U.S. 36 in Doniphan County and repair on the K-92/Centennial Bridge, were suspended because of increased traffic due to closures in Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri. The Centennial Bridge is one of three major river crossings in northeast Kansas. With the Amelia Earhart bridge closed, reopening the Centennial Bridge helped alleviate traffic congestion.

Flooding is not expected to subside until late summer.

Various repairs under way

Construction took place in July on two chip seals on K-43 from K-4 to I-70 excluding the city of Enterprise and on U.S. 36 from the four-lane portion of U.S. 36 east of Washington to the Washington/Marshall county line.

Additional chip seals took place on K-157 from Rock Springs Ranch east to U.S. 77, U.S. 77 from U.S. 56 south to the Geary/Morris county line, U.S. 56 from the Marion/Morris county line north to the Geary/Morris county line and U.S. 56-B from U.S. 56 south junction north to Herington.

More extensive work is taking place on K-148 from U.S. 81 east to K-15. Construction should be completed in mid-September.

A mill and overlay project on U.S. 24 from U.S. 24/K-189 east to Clay Center is under way. K-189 from the north city limits of Miltonvale north to U.S. 24/K-189 is included in this project. Construction on this project should be completed by mid-November.

District Two

District Three

Severe weather strikes

Many counties in District Three saw tornadoes, damaging winds or severe thunderstorms on June 20.

Multiple tornadoes hit the eastern edge of Norton County. While one tornado just missed the community of Almena, it did destroy one family's house and barn and tossed their vehicle into a nearby tree. KDOT employee Mark Weiser lost a barn, six other buildings and a pick-up. And two of his horses needed surgery from flying debris.

KDOT crews closed K-383 from the Nebraska state line to the U.S. 36 junction for a couple hours that afternoon. "We had guardrail scattered on the roadway, so our crews assisted KHP with the temporary closure," said Area One Superintendent Rod Bencken.

The Norton Subarea, Phillipsburg Subarea and Area crews all responded that day. These crews spent a week cleaning debris, clearing trees and hauling material from the right-of-way along K-383. Bencken reports that an estimated 38 signs were damaged by the high winds along K-383 and K-60 highways.

Continued on page 7



Former KDOT employee Terry Kinderknecht captures this photo of a tornado near Norton on June 20. The tornado destroyed one home and several other buildings.

District News

Continued from page 6

K-47 reconstructed

The first construction phase, encompassing the western two miles, is continuing on the reconstruction of K-47 between U.S. 75 and U.S. 169. KDOT closed the 10-mile highway section to through traffic in mid-May and set up the official detour on U.S. 75, K-39 and U.S. 169. Conditions permitting, work will begin on the eastern eight miles in late summer.

District Four

The project will reconstruct the narrow roadway with no shoulders to two 12-foot driving lanes with eight-foot aggregate shoulders. Around 3.5 acres of habitat is being relocated for protected species, along with another two acres of wetlands. Koss Construction of Topeka is the prime contractor at a cost of approximately \$10.6 million. The K-47 work has a calendar completion date of Nov. 3, 2012.

Prior to reconstruction, K-47 had a traffic count of 1,900 vehicles a day and averaged 155 trucks. The highway is projected to see an 18 percent increase in traffic volume over the next 20 years.



Reconstruction continues on K-47 between U.S. 75 and U.S. 169 in Neosho and Wilson counties. The project started in May and will be finished in late 2012.

KDOT crews pave K-89

Maintenance Crews from the El Dorado Area, El Dorado Subarea, Newton Subarea, Hutchinson Subarea and District Five Special Maintenance worked together to place a two-inch asphalt overlay on K-89, a 1.5-mile long highway in Harvey County.

State Representative Don Schroeder e-mailed KDOT Secretary Deb Miller the following thank you for this paving project.

"I want to express my appreciation for the good work done with the overlay on K-89, which is a short stretch between U.S. 50 and the City of Halstead.

District Five



Asphalt overlay work takes place on K-89 in Harvey County.

A Dynamic Message Sign is installed in southwest Kansas to help keep motorists informed.



Together with the bridge deck replacement last year, the City of Halstead is very thankful for the improvements. Please pass along my thanks!"

DMS signed installed

District Six recently joined other districts with the installation of two permanently-mounted Dynamic Message Signs (DMS). The DMS units can be programmed remotely to post traffic advisories, safety messages, road condition updates or Amber Alert messages on a child abduction situation.

Since these message boards can be programmed from KDOT Headquarters as well as the district office, the southwest district is now part of a real-time statewide traveler information network, which can be vital during an emergency.

District Six

"With these new signs, we can get information out immediately without having to send someone out to set up a message board or program it," said Ron Hall, District Maintenance Engineer.

Both signs are positioned to reach high numbers of motorists. One is located at Garden City along the U.S. 50/83/400 bypass for northbound traffic. The other sign faces traffic entering Kansas on U.S. 54 west of Liberal. Each location also has new cameras that will allow people to view road conditions on KanDrive.

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

A practical improvement project on K-23 in Gove County is a regional winner in the innovative management category of this year's America's Transportation Awards competition. Photo by Kurt Weaverling



K-23 practical improvement project wins regional award

A practical improvement project on K-23 in Gove County has been selected as a regional winner in the innovative management, small project category of the 2011 America's Transportation Awards competition.

As a regional winner, the project will be considered for inclusion in the top 10 national finalists. The top 10 will be announced in late August. These projects will then compete for the Grand Prize and People's Choice Award.

The annual contest is sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act project was designed to improve 16 miles of the highway from the Lane-Gove county line to approximately the southern city limits of Gove.

Rebuilding the roadway included

removing the deteriorated pavement, stabilizing the base and adding seven inches of new asphalt material. The new highway has 12-foot driving lanes and two-foot-wide paved shoulders with rumble strips – an added safety feature that alerts travelers who are driving too close to the road's edge.

A portion of the original roadway dated back to the Depression-era Works Progress Administration (WPA) and needed to be replaced. Using practical improvement standards, the cost effective approach to construction saved an estimated \$11 million.

KDOT's traditional approach to this project would have involved right of way acquisition and significant grading. The final cost of construction was \$7.8 million. – S.W.

Welcome new KDOT employees!

Headquarters
Marjorie C. Lavery, Right of Way Appraiser I, Right of Way
Jennifer Meyer, Administrative Specialist, Construction and Maintenance

District One
Nathan Dormer, Engineering Technician Associate, Topeka
Tyler Ummel, Engineering Associate I, Hays

The Bureau of Personnel Services and Districts supply information for new employees to Translines.

Calendar of Events

Aug. 9 – 11 a.m., KDOT Employees' Council Meeting, Third Floor, Eisenhower State Office Building.

Aug. 17 – 1 p.m., Construction Bid Letting, Fourth Floor West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.

KDOT monthly retiree meeting in Topeka

KDOT retirees meet in Topeka on the first Tuesday of each month at the Coyote Canyon restaurant, 1251 S.W. Ashworth Place (Huntoon Street and Wanamaker Avenue). Lunch begins at 11 a.m., with a program that follows. All KDOT retirees are invited to attend.

For more information, contact Nancy Fleeker Daniels at 785-286-0201 or nancyjfd@thedaniels.org.

New state law getting tougher on drunk driving

Drunk driving laws in Kansas got a lot tougher July 1 as first-time offenders will now be required to use devices on their vehicles to prevent them from driving while intoxicated.

The law, passed by the 2011 Kansas Legislature, requires motorists convicted of driving under the influence to use interlock devices on their vehicles, creates a system to track repeat offenders and strengthens most penalties.

“The main reason to use ignition interlock devices is to save lives by keeping drunk drivers off the roads, but they also provide another important benefit,” said Pete Bodyk, manager of KDOT’s Traffic Safety section. “The offender knows that without the ignition interlock system, they will not be able to drive. Since they are able to drive, they can continue to support their families by driving children to school, driving themselves to work and running necessary errands.”

On May 25, Gov. Sam Brownback signed Senate Bill 6 which partially revamps Kansas DUI laws. Here are the highlights of

the new law:

- ♦ Failure of a breath test with a result between .08 and .15, on the first occurrence, is a 30-day suspension followed by six months of ignition interlock device if your record is clear and 12 months of interlock if you have a prior open container violation or three or more moving violations.

- ♦ Failure of a breath test with a result over .15 the first time, or over .08 on a second or subsequent occurrence is a one-year suspension followed by ignition interlock (length of interlock is dependent on priors).

- ♦ Refusal of a breath, blood or urine test is a one-year suspension, followed by ignition interlock requirement (length of interlock is dependent on priors), regardless of how many prior Kansas DUI occurrences a person has.

The new law also creates a central repository that will give law enforcement, prosecutors and judges access to drivers’ records, making it easier to track repeat offenders. KDOT will fund the repository with \$2.5 million and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation will oversee it. – S.W.

Retirees

The following employee will officially retire from KDOT in August.

District One

Susan Sauvage, Senior Administrative Assistant, Topeka

The following employee officially retired from KDOT in July.

Headquarters

Paul P. Myers, Applications Developer III, Transportation Planning

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

Native Stone Kansas Byway

A variety of pretty views can be seen along the Native Stone Kansas Byway in northeast Kansas. Photos by Sonya Scheuneman



*Fun Facts
and Trivia*

Do you know?

**Kansas
Fun Facts**

1. How many counties in Kansas are in the Mountain Time zone? A. Two B. Four C. Six D. Eight
2. What is the annual average temperature in Kansas? A. 55 degrees B. 45 degrees C. 65 degrees D. 75 degrees
3. What is the statewide annual average rainfall? A. 26.5 inches B. 33.7 inches C. 49 inches D. 15 inches
4. Name the four principal crops grown in Kansas.
5. How long did it take to construct the Kansas Capitol? A. 7 years B. 14 years C. 23 years D. 37 years
6. What/where is the highest elevation in Kansas?
7. What/where is the lowest elevation in Kansas?
8. Who was the first major European explorer to set foot in present-day Kansas in 1541?

Answers on page 12

Lots of fun

At right, Josh Fisher paints a smiley face on a child's arm at the KDOT Employees' Council annual fun day at Gage Park in Topeka on July 16. Below, Senior Administrative Specialist Dianna Perry (left) enjoys riding the train at Gage Park in Topeka with her daughter and grandson.



Kansas kids win Sobriety Rocks contest

Three Kansas teens have won \$1,000 as part of KDOT's fifth annual Sobriety Rocks Scholarship contest. The contest encourages Kansas youth to resist peer pressure and abstain from alcohol until they turn 21.

Jenna Naumann, a senior at Royal Valley High School, won the writing category for her short story "Life Without Me." The tale is told from the perspective of a valedictorian on graduation. One twist - the narrator is dead (the result of a drunk driving incident) but does not realize it.

"I wrote my story because I wanted to show how the decisions you make don't only affect you but the people around you," Naumann said.

Kelly Gawlak of Wichita, a graduate of

Bishop Carroll High School, won the music category for "The Dare." Gawlak said the song practically wrote itself when she started thinking about peer pressure.

Matt Woolley of Kansas City, a graduate of Piper High School, won the art category for his work "Someone Else's Back Seat." Woolley was inspired to enter the contest by a talk his mother gave him when he started high school. She helped him see how drunk driving was dangerous not just for the driver and his passengers, but for others on the road. It made him think about an innocent baby in someone's back seat.

Almost 150 Kansas youth entered the contest this year. Learn more about the winners at www.sobrietyrocksk.net.



Promotions/Transfers

Headquarters

Ken Anschutz, Professional Civil Engineer III, Engineering and Design

District Three

Patrick Webber, Equipment Operator Specialist, Oakley

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

Upcoming KDOT Training Courses

Classes at Headquarters

- ♦ Ouch! That Stereo Type Hurts, Aug. 4
- ♦ Best Week 2, Aug. 8-12
- ♦ Advanced Resource Training, Aug. 23-25
- ♦ MOA Training, Aug. 24
- ♦ Ouch! That Stereotype Hurts, Aug. 26
- ♦ New Employee Orientation, Sept. 8
- ♦ Ouch! That Stereo Type Hurts Training, Sept. 8
- ♦ Ouch! That Stereotype Hurts, Sept. 20
- ♦ Ouch! That Stereotype Hurts, Sept. 28
- ♦ Ouch! That Stereotype Hurts, Sept. 29

Classes at District Offices

- ♦ Transition to Leadership/Ethics Aug. 15-19, Salina
- ♦ Ouch! That Stereotype Hurts, Aug. 29-31, Sept. 1-2, Garden City
- ♦ Introduction to MTBI, Aug. 30, Norton
- ♦ MBTI Typewatching, Aug. 31, Norton
- ♦ Leadership Basics, Sept. 13-15, Salina



District Four Engineer Mike Stringer, far left, shares a thought with (from left) Partnering Coordinator Scott Swanson, Secretary Deb Miller and Road Design Leader Scott King. The discussion took place during a break at the T-WORKS Summit June 27 in Topeka. The purpose of the summit was to kick off implementation of the T-WORKS and to discuss the agency's expectations for delivering the program. About 200 KDOT employees attended. Photo by Kurt Weaverling

M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in August

10 YEARS

Margaret Bain Ness City
 Sara Donley Salina
 Gary Fangman Seneca
 Chad Gaddis Waverly
 Stephen Gibson Independence
 James Greenham Hutchinson
 Michel Hoag Iola
 Kayne Kraus Harveyville
 Alan Lierz Seneca
 Denny Martin Chanute
 Mary Rockers Garnett
 Kenneth Ruppel Garnett
 Gary Schulz Penokee
 Doria Watson Topeka

20 YEARS

Brenda Cikanek Hutchinson
 John Clark Arma
 Sondra Clark Paxico
 Glenn Coker Sharon Springs
 Kent Portenier Kirwin

30 YEARS

Rebecca Nichols Topeka

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

KDOT Computer Training

– from the KCTC

Windows 7 – Status and Features

Deployment of the Windows 7 Operating System is more than 75 percent complete agencywide to Windows 7 candidates. The Bureau of Computer Services is on schedule for a September completion date. Currently, more than 1,600 employees have the new system.

The KCTC is offering classes and will continue to offer classes after deployment is complete.

Features of the new system:

- ♦ Start button looks like a Windows icon
- ♦ The clock shows the date and time
- ♦ Taskbar has large icons
- ♦ Windows are transparent

Personalizing the Desktop:

- ♦ Gadgets (clock, CPU Usage Meter, weather and more)
- ♦ Add a new Aero Theme or a custom Account Picture

Document & program searching:

- ♦ Start menu - Jump Lists, Windows Search Box & Pinning Items
- ♦ The Computer Window (formerly “My Computer”) Breadcrumbs view, Library Search Box, Preview Pane & Libraries pointing to virtual locations or groups of collections (such as music or photos)

The new taskbar:

- ♦ Pin programs to taskbar
- ♦ Use Aero Peek and Aero Preview
- ♦ Use Automatic Grouping

The “collect and save” features:

- ♦ Snipping Tool – snip & paste screen shots
- ♦ Problem Steps Recorder (PSR) – record and document PC issues and share w/IT Service Desk for faster troubleshooting.

Check out the shared calendar: KCTC for on-going classes. Contact the KCTC at 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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Deaths

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

Victor B. Dugger, 91, Salina, passed away June 5. He worked for KDOT as a Civil Engineer for 35 years starting in Belleville and ending his career in Salina in 1983.

Memorials may be made to the Salina Red Cross, 145 S. Broadway Boulevard, 67401.

1. B., Four
2. A., 55 degrees
3. A., 26.5 inches (Southeast Kansas averages 45 inches annually, while the western border averages just 15 inches of rain annually.)
4. Wheat, sorghum (milo), hay and corn.
5. D., 37 years (from 1866 to 1903).
6. Mount Sunflower – 4,039 feet
7. Verdigris River in Montgomery County, 679 feet
8. Francisco Vasquez de Coronado

Answers