

2020 KCA/KDOT PARTNERING AWARD WINNERS

For the 2019 Heavy Highway Construction Season

District 1:

Less than \$1.5 Million

Road Widening & Asphalt Resurfacing on I-70 near SW Gage: **Sunflower Paving and the Gage Construction Office (\$379,159)**



Brian Hansen (Dustrol), Linda Voss (City of Topeka), Michelle Anschutz (KDOT FEA, Gage), Joe McAfee (MHS), Larry Thompson (KDOT, Operations)

Project # 89 U-2316-01

- Weekly progress meetings were used to address potential problems and proactively create solutions as construction progressed.
- On-going communications with the local High School and local businesses kept traffic moving throughout the project.
- All problems were quickly addressed thanks to swift decisions made by the High School and KDOT.
- The result was a great project with no major accidents, no lost hours and completion ahead of schedule.



District 1:

\$1.5 Million and over

This non-traditional Partnering Award is about two projects working together in unprecedented ways: **R.A. Knapp Construction, Inc. plus Leavenworth Excavating & Equip. Co. Inc. (Lexeco) and the Bonner Springs Construction Office (\$2,744,412)**



Brian Hansen (Dustrol), James Parrish (KDOT, Bonner Springs), Larry Thompson (KDOT, Operations)

Project # 635-105 KA 4693-01 & 106 KA 5256-01

- This award is for two separate critical projects working simultaneously in the same area, demonstrating an amazing example of everyone working together, when it was determined a partially collapsed pipe under I-635 had to be replaced rather than have a liner inserted.
- The entire action, completed in 11 days, **REQUIRED** the absolute trust of everyone involved as materials were obtained and stockpiled, message boards procured, and special concrete was approved and delivered by Geiger, all before the paperwork was completed and formally approved in writing. KDOT Maintenance forces also assisted on Saturday.
- South Bound I-635 was shut down at 8pm on Friday, November 8 and reopened on Monday morning, November 11 at 2am. Amy Pope, FEA at Bonner Springs stated that the plan was developed, implemented and executed to perfection, a true example of what partnering should look like.

District 2:

Less than \$1.5 Million

Asphalt Paving from Russel/Lincoln County Line East to City Limits of Lincoln: **Bettis Asphalt & Construction, Inc and the Salina Construction Office (\$1,423,521)**



Brian, William Johnson (KDOT, Salina), Aaron Lowe (Bettis), Travis McElrey (Bettis), Larry

Project # 18 53 KA 5106-01

- The relationship that made this project stand out was the mutually respectful and cooperative way in which the many issues were addressed, including an exceptionally wet spring, changes of personnel by both Bettis and KDOT, and other significant surprises.
- Things were worked out even though the root causes were never determined, and a good quality standard was maintained although testing showed passing levels. They were addressed, without the legal requirement at the request of KDOT.
- In one example, just before the end of the 30-day observation period, under certain conditions, significant roughness in one area was addressed cooperatively with Bettis supplying the paver and KDOT Maintenance forces joining in to address the problem area.



District 2:

\$1.5 Million and over

Remove and replace 3 miles of 30' wide PCCP Pavement: **Emery Sapp & Sons and the Marion Construction Office (\$3,883,355)**



Brian Hansen (Dustrol), Donnie Stevenson (ESS), Sherri Pankratz (KDOT, Marion), Larry Thompson (KDOT, Operations)

Project # 56-57 KA 5070-01

- This is a project where E.S.S. and KDOT developed trust in one another as they worked through the significant issues, resulting in some new processes and a completion date of 35 days early.
- It was quickly determined that an unstable sub-grade was not able to support construction traffic and a 10-day “State’s delay” helped but didn’t solve the problem entirely. Several creative work arounds were implemented, including lighter equipment and keeping off it as much as possible.
- Rephasing was suggested by E.S.S and with traffic control tested first, was implemented. Cooperation in the field also eliminated potential claims, with all parties hoping to work together again on future projects.

District 3:

Less than \$1.5 Million

Bridge Repair in Ellis County: **PCI Roads, LLC. and the Hays Construction Office (\$575,750)**



Brian Hansen (Dustrol), Ryan Wilson (PCI Roads), Joshua Morales (KDOT, Hays), Larry Thompson (KDOT, Operations)

Project # 70 26 KA 4955-01 & 70 26 KA 4958-01

- PCI Roads stated that the Hays Construction Office quickly established that everyone involved were on the same team and communication was to be immediate and effective. PCI worked collaboratively with 2 new inspectors and it was noted that they were not taken advantage of.
- Issues were worked through together, including Bettis milling deeper to get the previous overlay off and the addition of final pavement markings at KDOT's request. Equitable compensation for these items resulted in less than a 1% increase in the final cost of the project with a better result.
- Near the end of the project a severe storm rolled through resulting in I-70 being shut down, the Hays KDOT office being without power for 5 days, numerous semi's tipped over on the roads and destruction of these projects traffic control. KDOT Maintenance forces, PCI and Roadsafes crews mobilized from other areas that night to repair the damage, resulting on all work completed on time.

District 4:

Less than \$1.5 million

2" Surface Recycle and Chip Seal: Dustrol, Inc. and the Garnett Construction Office (\$489,422)



Larry Thompson (KDOT, Operations), Ken Taber (Dustrol), Troy Howard (KDOT, Garnett), Jeff Rockhill (Dustrol), Brian Hansen (Dustrol)

Project # 239-54 KA 4601-01

- Great communication allowed both parties to understand what areas of the project each had concerns with. Because of this, flaggers were stationed at all off ramps at the US 69 interchange. Innovation was also noted as Dustrol added water tanks with sprayers to their equipment to prevent grass fires.
- K-239, being an extremely narrow road, meant the heating and scarification equipment had very little room to allow traffic to get through the work zone. The equipment operators took great care to ensure this was never a problem, while KDOT inspectors were meticulous with timely depth shots to prevent disputes which could have resulted in a reduction of pay for Dustrol.
- Despite difficult problems getting Railroad permits, the project was completed with 1/3 of the contract time remaining and “disputes on this project were non-existent.”



District 4:

\$1.5 million and over

Grading, Bridgework and Surfacing in Allen County: **Emery Sapp & Sons and the Independence Construction Office (\$16,159,139)**



Larry Thompson (KDOT, Operations) Stephen Gibson (KDOT, Independence), Shonda Jefferies (Transystems), Donnie Stevenson (ESS), Brian Hansen (Dustrol)

Project # 169-1 KA 3254-02

- This was a complicated, two phase project with lots of nuances and partners involved, such as test sections involving KU's Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering, quick response by KDOT's Geology and Materials people, Sub-contractor's emergency repair work to previously unknown conditions, internal partnering of inspectors to keep up with critical testing schedules, and leadership listening to suggestions and making rapid decisions.
- Everyone's flexibility led to better than expected outcomes like Mt. Carmel's idea to utilize different materials, opening up access fencing, and leaving concrete full-width to improve KDOT's snow removal operations, all which saved time, reduced costs and even improved safety, to name only a few examples.
- While there were disagreements and heated discussions, in the end, respect for one another's opinions and a willingness to really understand each other resulted in a tremendous project which was completed three months ahead of schedule and with great pride.

District 5

Under \$1.5 million

Bridge replacement: **Reece Construction Co, Inc. and the Winfield Construction Office (\$288,551)**



Larry Thompson (KDOT, Operations), Marynell Popst (Reece), Charles Scott (Kirkham Michael), Dean Boatright (KDOT, Winfield), Brian Hansen (Dustrol)

Project # 18 C-2314-01

- This project, in a sensitive residential area of Arc City, had the unique situation of having different consultants design and inspect it. Clear and immediate communications was made the clear expectation at the Pre-Construction meeting by including all the Subs, Consultant designer and inspectors, the City, and KDOT's Area and District Leadership.
- Constructability issues were addressed prior to causing delays with Kirkham Michael proposing several revisions directly to the design engineer for approval. Reece was also very helpful and cooperative with implementing and suggesting solutions before problems affected everyone's schedule.
- Upon completion of the project, and a careful walk-through, there were NO items on the usual punch-list. The project came in at .1% within budget and surrounding neighbors writing letters of appreciation about the results and how it got there.



District 5

\$1.5 million and over

Demolition, Grading, Bridge and Resurfacing over the Ark River:

**A. M. Cohron and Son, Inc. and the Winfield Construction Office
(\$6,368,389)**



Larry Thompson (KDOT, Operations), Robin Gregory (KDOT, Winfield), Dean Boatright (KDOT, Winfield), Justin Van Sickle (A.M. Cohron & Sons), Brian Hansen (Dustrol)

Project # 166-18 KA 3106-01

- It was thought to be a good year to rebuild this bridge over the Ark River as many of the recent years saw not more than a trickle of rainwater flow to deal with. Not being one of those years and just 2 weeks into the project, the river rose over 6 feet overnight and the contractors had to evacuate their equipment and rebuild their causeway. The following May brought more rain as the river swelled above flood stage on 5 separate occasions for a total of 27 days in a 53-day period.
- Water utility and phone lines were uncovered by floodwaters on the project site and adjacent land to it so meetings were called to address these issues as well as trying to keep the rest of the project going forward.
- AJ Wilson, Area Engineer, wrote that while any one of many factors would have been enough to throw the project into serious LD's or excessive change orders, a willingness to collaborate, teamwork with the KDOT construction office, and excellent planning and tenacity by Cohron, resulted in the bridges completion as an early Christmas present to the citizens of South-Central Kansas.
- You can read more about this project at ACP Publications on-line and YouTube.

District 6

\$1.5 million and over

**Highway reconstruction on the Garden City By-Pass:
KOSS Construction Company and the Garden City Construction
Office (\$11,024,509)**



Larry Thompson (KDOT, Operations), Nathan Fickel (Koss), Craig Schlott (KDOT, Dodge City), Aaron Norval (Koss), Brian Hansen (Dustrol)

Project # 50-28 KA 3251-01

- The key to the success of this project was very close collaboration in the field, resolving virtually all issues by immediate communication and rapid decisions made in the field by KDOT, the superintendent and the subs. Engineers were always available by phone and frequently minutes away in person. In many examples cited, KDOT's team was looking ahead to any potential issues and stumbling blocks and the contractors quickly notified them of any issues they perceived as construction proceeded.
- Excellent relationships with the Garden City staff, the GC Police Department and the Wind Turbine loading facility on the East side of the project, resulted in heavy traffic moving smoothly and without incident.
- Working closely together, many issues such as unsuitable subgrade (mostly sand,) drainage issues, incorrect cross-slopes in the plans, among other things were quickly identified and addressed by the construction team in the field.



State-wide Project Award Winner:

This was also District One's "\$1.5 Million and over Award Winner" on I-635, R.A. Knapp Construction, Inc. and Lexico with the Bonner Springs Construction Office (\$2,744,412)



Larry Thompson (KDOT, Operations), James Parrish (KDOT, Bonner Springs), Brian Hansen (Dustrol)

Project #'s 635-105 KA 4693-01 & 106 KA 5256-01



Honorable Mentions

District Two:

Less than \$1.5 Million

2" HMA Overlay with leveling Coarse: Hall Bros. Inc and the Belleville Construction Office (\$1,091,782)

Project # 81-15 KA 5180-01

- Excessive rainfall is what made this project a significant challenge.
- The contractor ran one paver ahead of the main paver to place the leveling course which helped shorten time and eliminated type II tape so type I tape could be used until permanent striping could be completed, among other benefits.
- KDOT worked particularly closely with the contractor to address low joint densities with immediate feedback to the operators, allowing real-time adjustment of the paver screed and rolling procedures resulting in no bumps in the completed overlay, finishing on time and under budget.

District Two:

\$1.5 Million and over

Grading, bridge and surfacing for 8 1/2 miles on US-81: **Ebert Construction Company and the Belleville Construction Office (\$6,485,691)**



Larry Thompson (KDOT, Operations), Jean Istas (KDOT, Belleville), Brian Hansen (Dustrol)

Project # 24-15 KA 3239-01, NHPP-A323(901)

- On site, bi-weekly Progress Meetings were critical during the life of this project, along with numerous impromptu meetings as issues came up. Phone calls, texting, emails and face to face conversations were all used in a good balance depending on how difficult the issue was to solve.
- Snowfall in March and significant rainfall throughout the year contributed to many of the concerns. Unstable back slopes, cracked box extensions and the poor condition of existing pipes to be extended were all addressed professionally and quickly.
- Problems were solved at the field level and results were communicated up as the situation warranted resulting in good, quality construction with no bumps or grinds for the entire project.



District Four:

\$1.5 Million and over

Mill & Overlay with Mastic surface treatment in Montgomery County: Cornejo & Sons and the Independence Construction Office (\$2,212,836)



Larry Thompson (KDOT, Operations), Stephen Gibson (KDOT, Independence), Robyn Daniels (KDOT, Independence), Micaiah Bergeron (Cornejo & Sons), Brian Hansen (Dustrol)

Project # 169-63 KA 5116-01

- Prior to the start of the scheduled mill and overlay, Cornejo was notified that several areas of the project would require full depth patching so KDOT and the contractor worked closely together to identify these and for the contractor to complete them before the main operation to provide a seamless and smooth surface in the end.
- Another situation was noted, and Cornejo was asked to evaluate and submit a bid to repair the failure of the accel and deceleration lanes at a railroad crossing within the project limits. Combining the contractor and KDOT's experience led to a cost-effective solution including limited excavation and installation of geotextile fabric, aggregate with geogrid reinforcing and asphalt. Additional suggestions around pavement marking also was believed to contribute to higher quality and cost savings.
- KDOT indicated that the success of this project was due to the inspectors, engineers, KDOT's Geology Section and the contractors working closely together for the benefit of the taxpayers of Kansas.

District Four:

\$1.5 Million and over

Grading and Surfacing in Pittsburg: **Mission Construction and the Pittsburg Construction Office (\$3,143,043)**



Larry Thompson (KDOT, Operations), George Dockery (KDOT, Pittsburg), Brian Hansen (Dustrol)

Project # 19 TE 0406-01/TA-T040(601)

- This was a very complicated and difficult project from the very beginning. Design issues, utility issues, access to residential areas, a hospital complex and satellite business required constant attention of every person present on the project. In the end, the public who this improvement would serve, tolerated conditions that were inconvenient, dusty, muddy, untimely, and were understanding, forgiving, helpful and even encouraging.
- The City officials of Pittsburg, businesses and hospital were very helpful in mitigating the issues that arose during construction.
- It was written that the contractor's superintendent's partnering secret weapon was a well-behaved cocker spaniel in a class II dog vest named Hershey, who went with him everywhere. This animal did more to calm nerves, promote listening and create an environment of collaboration than any one person.



District Six:

\$1.5 Million and over

Surface Recycle and Chip Seal on K-25: **Bettis Asphalt and the Liberal Construction Office (\$2,039,275)**



Larry Thompson (KDOT, Operations), Larry Meyer (KDOT, Syracuse), Aaron Lowe (Bettis), Brian Hansen (Dustrol)

Projects # K025-095 KA 5095-01 & K024-034 KA 5096-01

- Any problems were quickly resolved with mutual satisfaction in the field. Bettis communicated well with KDOT, keeping them informed at to what would be taking place each day. Any problems that arose was quickly and professionally taken care of.
- Bettis kept the safety of their employees, KDOT employees and the traveling public notably at the forefront of the entire job. Their equipment was well maintained, and their employees were obviously well trained, which clearly contributed to the project being completed ahead of schedule.
- James Campbell from Bettis noted that the take-away from this project is when the owner and the contractor share the same priorities, projects are put in the best situation for success.

Unfortunately, we are simply not able to recognize the thousands of individuals across Kansas who we can all count on for solid advice, to be reasonable, who listens carefully, considers all sides, and consistently brings vision to difficult problems. To them, we are grateful and looking forward to a good construction season in 2020.

Thank you