

KDOT Translines

Bureau of Transportation Information

August 2005

KDOT personnel files are now electronic

Have you ever wondered what is in your official personnel file?

Until now the Agency's official personnel files have been paper files located in the Bureau of Personnel Services (BPS). In the past, if you wanted to review your personnel file you had to go to BPS, have them pull your file, review it and then give it back to them. This was not very convenient if you were a headquarters employee and nearly impossible if you were a field employee.

During the last several years, BPS and the Bureau of Computer Services have been working on converting all that paper into electronic files, 350,000 documents to be exact. On June 20, the new electronic personnel files, the Personnel Library, were

Continued on page 9

Hey batter batter!



KDOT employee Ross Worthing, Team Wamego, pitches during the Employees' Council softball tournament on June 25. For more pictures, see page 6.

I-435 project plans set Print Shop record

"Of Mice and Men"
by John Steinbeck:

118 PAGES

"Uncle Tom's Cabin"
by Harriet Beecher
Stowe:

480 PAGES

"War and Peace"
by Leo Tolstoy:

1,408 PAGES

*KDOT's plans for
the letting of the
I-435 and Antioch
Road interchange
construction:*

3,085 PAGES

The plans might seem a little extreme, but then again neither Steinbeck, Stowe nor Tolstoy had \$108 million at stake like the designers of the largest scheduled KDOT construction project to date had.

"Part of the reason for the extensiveness of these plans is because two projects have been put together: the construction of the I-435 and Antioch Road Interchange and the widening of I-435," Steve Rockers said.

Rockers, Road Design Leader from the State Road Office, said while the project is small geographically speaking, it's only about two miles east and west along I-435 by one mile north to south along US-69, there are several components that go into it. The project calls for the building of 13 new

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Inside ...

- ◆ **PURPLE HEART TRAIL IN KANSAS**
DEDICATED
- ◆ **SPANISH SPEAKING INTERN EARNs**
NOTORIETY PRAISE FOR HIS WORK
- ◆ **SECURITY MEASURES INCREASED**
IN EISENHOWER BUILDING
- ◆ **SIGNS HONOR WU WOMEN'S**
NATIONAL TITLE
- ◆ **GOOD MANNERS COUNT**
- ◆ **LACY HONORED IN SURPRISE**
CEREMONY



Miller's Time

*By Secretary
Deb Miller*

Good manners count

Please and thank you.

Those words are the first lesson in manners for many of us. But a growing body of research, as well as my own observations, indicate that these elementary lessons and many others we were supposed to pick up along the way are being forgotten.

At least three studies in recent years have shown that rudeness – or our perception of what is rude behavior – is on the rise:

- ◆ The research group Public Agenda found that 79 percent of the more than 2,000 adults they surveyed thought a lack of respect and courtesy in our society is a serious problem and 61 percent believe it is getting worse;

- ◆ A business management professor at the University of North Carolina surveyed more than 700 workers and found the same – rudeness is becoming more prevalent;

- ◆ A study done by a University of Michigan researcher found that 71 percent of those surveyed had been insulted, demeaned, ignored or otherwise treated discourteously on the job.

- ◆ And, a surprising number of people admit that they, themselves, are part of the problem.

So what's the big deal? All it means is that we're not as nice as we used to be, right?

Wrong.

In the private sector, rude behavior costs business. In

the Public Agenda study, nearly half of the respondents said they had walked out of a store in the past year because of rude treatment.

And make no mistake, rudeness also costs us in public service – even if the people we serve can't take their business elsewhere. At every dedication, ribbon-cutting and ground-breaking event I speak at I recognize our partners and emphasize the importance of those partnerships. We need good, strong working relationships with private and public entities to accomplish our goals. Treating those contacts with respect and politeness is an essential part of building those good relationships.

Like the old saying that "charity begins at home," our professional politeness begins in the office – with the people we work with every day. The North Carolina researcher found that incivility affects the performance of the target in a variety of ways:

- ◆ Time is wasted worrying about the uncivil incident, future interactions with the perpetrator and how to avoid that person.
- ◆ The victim becomes less committed.
- ◆ Lack of willingness to take on tasks outside their job specifications.
- ◆ Less willingness to help others or make extra contributions to the organization.

In addition to impacting job satisfaction, workplace rudeness hurts job retention.

But politeness in the workplace should not simply be viewed as a tool to improve the bottom line or achieve an agency's goals. How we treat other people contributes in a big way to the pleasure and rewards we get from our jobs. Being polite to co-workers creates a good environment and makes for a great place to work.

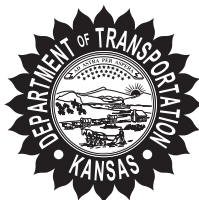
There's nothing tricky about knowing good behavior from bad – simply treat people the way you want to be treated and you'll almost always be right.

Politeness is not only good for business; it's the right thing to do.

Thank you.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bureau of Transportation Information
Eisenhower Building, 2nd Floor, West
700 SW Harrison, Topeka, Ks 66603-3754



Governor: Kathleen Sebelius

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

Calendar of Events

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

August 12 - 9 a.m. Highway Advisory Commission meeting by conference call.

August 13 – KDOT golf tournament at Western Hills in Topeka. First half of KDOT stroke play championship.

August 17 - 2 p.m. Construction Bid Letting at the Topeka Capitol Plaza.

Spanish speaking intern earns notoriety, praise for his work

By Amy Link

Being featured in a career magazine is not something that happens to a typical summer intern, but then again Luis Pinales is anything but typical.

As the son of a Mexican immigrant and first member of his family to graduate from an American university with a professional degree, Pinales is in his second summer interning with KDOT.

"He did a great job for us last year, and we're really glad he came back this year," Rod Nix, Construction Manager for District Six, said.

Pinales spent part of his childhood in Matamoros, Mexico, his father's native country. Eventually, his family would move to Brownsville, Texas, where Pinales attended high school.

Pinales bilingual ability and unique background helped earn him a spot in "Diversity Careers" Magazine in an article about college internships for engineering students. The article cited internships as means for students to gain experience and an edge in the competitive job market. Pinales said he is grateful for the opportunity KDOT has given him.

"I would like to thank my co-workers at KDOT for teaching me everything they know and giving me the opportunity to gain experience," Pinales said.

Pinales' internship has also been beneficial for KDOT. Nix said that Pinales' ability to speak Spanish has been immensely helpful for the Liberal office.

"About 80 percent of our contractors' crews speak only Spanish, so having someone who can communicate with them is really helpful," Nix said.

Pinales interest in civil engineering was sparked by the summers in high school he spent working on his uncle's construction crew in North Carolina. His combined interest of wanting to pursue a career in engineering and wanting to study at a place close to home, led him to Texas A&M University in Kingsville.

Last year as part of a business communications course, Pinales was required to research internships, which put him into contact with KDOT's Engineering Recruiter, Ruth Marstall. Marstall, who would later recommend Pinales to be



Luis Pinales, an Engineering Intern in District Six, measures the cracks in the highway in order to see the work the contractor has done.

featured in "Diversity Careers," encouraged Pinales to apply, so he did.

Pinales was offered an internship at KDOT's District Six in Liberal, a place that made the college junior feel right at home.

'About 80 percent of our contractors' crews speak only Spanish, so having someone who can communicate with them is really helpful.'

Ron Nix

"I'm from a small town also, so I've hardly noticed a difference," he said.

Nix said they have had Pinales work on a major modifications job, and many other areas where they needed him.

Pinales enjoyed his summer so much he decided to return again this summer. And this time, he brought a friend, Manuel Moreno, a fellow civil engineering major at Texas A&M. Moreno also speaks Spanish, which means this summer Pinales will not

be the only bilingual member of the Liberal office.

While he cannot know for sure yet, Pinales said he would consider returning to KDOT permanently if given the option.

"KDOT would be a good choice," Pinales said. "I would certainly consider it as an option; and if it worked out, I would be happy to come back."

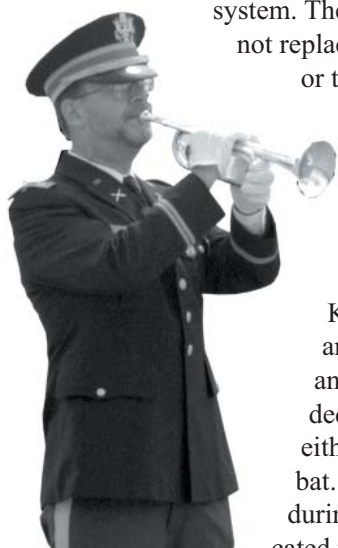
Purple Heart Trail in Kansas dedicated

A sign unveiled during a ceremony on July 1 at the East Topeka Service Area, milepost 188 of the Kansas Turnpike, designates the Interstate highways in the state the "Purple Heart Trail in Kansas" and honors all members of the U.S. military who have been wounded or killed in combat.

The Kansas trail is part of the national Purple Heart Trail, which parallels the Interstate highway system. The designation does not replace existing names

or tributes. The trail is a project of The Military Order of the Purple Heart.

A total of 32 signs, six along the Turnpike and 26 along other Interstates in Kansas, will be made by KDOT and placed in rest areas and service areas by KDOT and KTA crews. Each will be dedicated to a Kansan who was either wounded or killed in combat. The sign that was unveiled during the ceremony was dedicated to 1st Lt. Michael L. Gandy, a



The first of 32 signs designating the Interstate system as the Purple Heart Trail in Kansas was dedicated by Secretary Deb Miller on July 1 at the east Topeka service area of the Kansas Turnpike. Among the ceremony participants are, from left, Martin Klotzbach of the Sons of the American Revolution; Miller; Alene and Bill Lewis of Everett, Wash.; Bob Slemmins; and Ray Rhodd, of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in Kansas.

Dexter High School graduate, who was killed March 29, 1968, in Vietnam. His parents, Bill and Alene Lewis of Everett, Wash., attended the event.

Speakers at the ceremony included Secretary Deb Miller; retired Brig. Gen. Stan Cherrie, a Purple Heart recipient from Leavenworth; retired Lt. Col. Ray Rhodd, senior vice commander the Kansas Military Order of the Purple Heart; KTA Board Chairman Mary E. Turkington; and Lt. Col. Larry Parrish, full-time support chaplain for the Kansas National Guard.

The Kansas Military Order of the Purple Heart is paying for the signs, which cost \$97 each.

On May 13, 2003, Governor Kathleen Sebelius proclaimed the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways in Kansas the "Purple Heart Trail in Kansas."



Attending the event were many Purple Heart recipients. The ceremony included a bugler who played taps (above).



Special gift

Ed Niemczyk, Engineering Technician in the El Dorado Area Construction Office, and his son KC, presented a flag to Governor Kathleen Sebelius that was flown in Iraq by the U.S. Navy Seabees NMCB15 Air Detachment reserve unit headquartered in Wichita. Ed has completed one six-month tour of duty in Iraq as a Heavy Equipment Operator with the Seabees and has just been called back to duty again for two months in California which may lead to another deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan.

Security measures increased in ESOB

By Kim Stich

Additional security measures went into effect at the Eisenhower State Office Building July 8.

"Secretary Miller and the Executive Staff believe one of the most important things we can do as an employer is provide a safe and productive work place," said Director of Administration Bob Stacks.

It's going to take some adjustments, Stacks said, but he has received no negative feedback about the changes, just a few questions clarifying procedures.

Some of the changes include:

- ◆ All employees in ESOB must wear identification badges while in the building – if you forget your badge, you can get a visitor's badge for a day.

- ◆ All visitors must stop at the security desk, sign in, and receive a visitor's badge while in the building.

- ◆ KDOT employees who do not work in ESOB have two options. If you visit the building regularly, you can get a KDOT Identification Card (see SOM 2.8.2); otherwise, you can get a visitor's badge.

- ◆ For meetings that include five

or more visitors, please submit a list of names to the security desk by e-mail (#ESOB_SecurityDesk). If you do not have all the names of those attending, let security know the meeting's subject and place. Also provide a contact name and phone number in case of questions.

- ◆ Employees in areas with visitors coming for construction project plans, permits, etc., will be notified. Employees who have a visitor coming to see them will be notified and asked to come to the security desk and escort the visitor.

Employees are already becoming security minded, Stacks said. "We've already had people call and say they see an individual without an identification badge," he said.

Employees from the Kansas Racing & Gaming Commission and Kansas State Gaming Agency are also making these changes, Stacks said.

Changes have also taken place regarding parking. Capitol Police is now responsible for providing security as well as issuing tickets to vehicles without hangtags in state parking lots.

Other changes are:

- ◆ The initial fine for parking without a hangtag in a state lot is \$5, Stacks said. If the fine is contested, \$60 court costs may have to be paid to the City of Topeka.

- ◆ ESOB employees parking in the visitor's parking area will be immediately notified to move their vehicle. If it is not, it will be ticketed. KDOT employees outside of ESOB are allowed to park there for up to four hours.

- ◆ State vehicles not belonging to ESOB bureaus can park in the visitor area for not more than four hours, or the tag can be called in to 296-3420 and the vehicle parked in the regular lot. The KDOT motor pool area in Lot 8C is primarily for ESOB state vehicles.

- ◆ Individuals who forget their hangtags must go to the Customer Service Center in Landon State Office Building and check a tag out for the day. The tag must be returned to them the next day or they will receive a \$5 fine.

For more information about changes in security, please contact Stacks at 785-296-2279.



The annual Employees' Council softball tournament, with a picnic and kids' games, took place on June 25 in Topeka with eight teams participating. The District Bears team won the tournament and the Right of Way team won the sportsmanship trophy.



*Play
Ball!*



Acorns of change

By Ron Kaufman,
Public Involvement Administrator

The Missuz often accuses me of being a man. Compared to some of her other accusations, that one's right on target. In fact, my parents recognized my fate just moments after I was born. My earliest memory after recovering from the utter surprise of birthing was hearing them say to each other, "He'll grow up to be a man, someday." Well... "Duh." Personally, I think it's really cool for men to be men. After all, if it weren't for men, who would be around to appreciate sports cars, sports shows, sports trivia, or sports bars?

The Missuz identifies me as a man because, as she puts it, "You'll never change." That single characteristic is what separates the men from the squirrels. If you look us up in the Field Guide to Questionably Intelligent Life, you'll find these words, "If it doesn't change, it's a man – not a squirrel." Please don't take that the wrong way. I truly like squirrels. Recently, though, I've discovered that it's OK to change. I've learned a great deal about manliness from an educational show on PBS called "The Red Green Show." It airs on our local channel at 8:00 o'clock on Saturday mornings, so I usually have to choose between it and cartoons.

The Red Green Show, hosted by Red Green (who would have guessed?), is a series of brief comedy sketches set at Possum Lodge, an imaginary men's retreat in the Canadian backwoods. The manly men of Possum Lodge

revere duct tape for its cosmic array of uses and boast, "If the women don't find you handsome, they should at least find you handy." The Missuz always proudly tells her friends how handy I am. As the show ends each time, the guys gather in the main hall to recite the Man's Prayer, "I'm a man, but I can change, if I have to, I guess." Wow, what a liberating phrase and what an intriguing lesson for all of us in the fine art of communication! Communication, of course, is the key to success. So, if I want to be successful as a man, I should at least be able to communicate as well as a squirrel.

As it turns out, it's OK to change the way we communicate with people, depending on what their needs are. For instance, some people are more visual in nature and prefer to be shown diagrams, illustrations, or models. Others can process words just fine, so clearly worded communication will do. Still others need to actively participate before they can understand what we might be saying. In everyday

terms, this means that when we discover that someone isn't grasping what we're saying, it might be that we need to change the way we communicate. To really mix things up, one person might require different approaches depending on our message!

This concept is light-years ahead of squirrels, which communicate in the same basic "squirrel" to all other squirrels.

Having learned the lesson of change from the burly men of the Red Green Show, I'm beginning to see other places in my life where change might work, I guess. There's a delicate balance to be struck, though. If I change too much, I risk being mistaken for a squirrel. If I change too little, there's a risk the Missuz will send me away to sleep with the squirrels. Awwwww, nuts!

Communication: A Key to Success



Kansas Department
of Transportation



Step Back in Time

Highway workers construct
a K-61 bridge in District
Five near Medora in 1957.

Signs honor WU women's national title

They won a national championship and now motorists traveling Topeka interstates will have a constant reminder of the Washburn University Lady Blues basketball accomplishment.

New signage honoring the Washburn women as NCAA Division II basketball champions was unveiled June 17 on the Washburn campus. Secretary Miller, WU President Jerry Farley, head coach Ron McHenry and three players from the women's team were on hand for the ceremony.

"I have authorized that signs proclaiming Washburn University to be the home of the '2005 NCAA Division II Women's National Basketball Champions' be placed in five locations around Topeka," said Secretary Miller. "The placement of these signs ensures that tens of thousands of motorists will see them every day and know that these special young women



Washburn University President Jerry Farley, Secretary Miller, and three women's basketball team members helped unveil a sign honoring the national champions.

are the best."

Signs recognizing the national honor will be placed on the existing WU guide signs on Interstate 70 and Interstate 470 in Topeka. Each of the five signs will vary slightly in order to match the width of the existing signs.

The signs are located at westbound I-70 at Gage, eastbound I-70 at

Gage, westbound I-470 at Burlingame, eastbound I-470 at Burlingame and northbound US-75 at Burlingame/42nd Street.

KDOT has established criteria for placing signs on the state highway system. Signs may be installed upon request to recognize an individual or group having been awarded a title through

organized competition at the national or international level. According to guidelines, the signs will be maintained for at least three years after being installed, then may be removed by KDOT after that time has expired. — S.W.

**2005 Division II
Womens Basketball
National Champions**

Project

Continued from page 1

bridges including a flyover bridge connecting US-69 and I-435 and for putting new decks on four others. In addition, \$23 million will be spent on noise and retaining walls alone.

While designing the project has been extensive, so was printing the plan sheets.

Six sets of the 3,085 pages were needed, which means Printing Services printed a total of 18,510 (22 by 36 inch) pages, Bill Crooks, Print Shop Manager, said.

"It was the biggest project

we've ever done," Crooks said.

He said it took his staff 40 hours of work by the time they printed and packaged the six sets of plans.

The project will be let this August nearly five years after it started. Construction is scheduled to last about three years, or until fall 2008. On September 6, a ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place to celebrate the beginning of construction. Both KDOT employees as well as Overland Park and Johnson County officials associated with the project will be in attendance. For more information, visit www.focus435.com. — A.L.



Members of the I-435 and Antioch Road Interchange Design team surround the 3,085 pages of plans. These plans, which are about knee-high set a Print Shop record.

Electronic files

Continued from page 1

put into production Document Management. The Personnel Library allows employees (employees can only review their own records) and selected staff members (those with current access) to view scanned official Personnel Folder and Medical Records via the KDOT intranet.

This project will provide many benefits including increased availability for KDOT employees to review their records, the eventual decrease of storage needed for paper documents, and the efficient use of technology available to the agency.

A great deal of analysis and review has occurred in establishing security and access to the records. The Bureaus of Personnel Services and Computer Services, in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Counsel, have established strict parameters to ensure that only those staff members with a bona fide business need will have access.

And don't worry, you won't need to enter a different userid or password because it's all tied to your network userid that you use to sign on to the computer every day. If you have any questions about your electronic file please contact your personnel clerk.

Deaths

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

Francis J. Domingo, 84, died June 21 in Topeka. He is survived by one son, and one grandson. Memorial donations may be made to the Faith Lutheran Church, 1716 S.W. Gage Boulevard, Topeka, 66604.

Lyle G. Rogers, 83, died June 17 in Topeka. He is survived by his wife, Margaret. Memorial contributions may be made to Arab Shrine Transportation Fund in care of the Arab Shrine, 1305 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, 66612 or to the Meals on Wheels, 1500 S.W. 10th Street, Topeka, 66604.

Bob G. McCullough, 78, died May 25. He worked as an Engineering Technician in Road Design before retiring in 1990 after 37 years of service. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, one son, two daughters, one brother and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Light of the World Christian Center, Cat Association of Topeka or Helping Hands Humane Society and sent in care of Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 S.W. Urish Road, Topeka, 66614.

Kudos to KDOT employees

◆ Congratulations to Design Bureau Chief Jim Kowach who finished 10th out of more than 2,500 students who competed in a national public service competition conducted by U.S. News & World Report and the Vibrant Institute, a Virginia-based company that develops business simulations and training programs.

Contestants were asked to head a fictitious government program called the National Center for Infectious Disease Control for four years of simulated time, which was covered over four weeks of real time.

◆ Congratulations to employees from the Materials and Research Lab who raised almost \$6,000 for the Relay for Life American Cancer Society in Silver Lake.

Welcome new KDOT employees!

Headquarters

Theda Gabehart, Senior Administrative Assistant, Personnel Services
Cheryl Schmidt, Environmental Scientist I, Design

Richard Smith, Installation Service Technician III, Construction and Maintenance

District Three

Rick Giebler, Equipment Mechanic, Hays

District Four

Monty Lawson, Mechanic, Iola
The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information for new hires to Translines.

M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes its employees celebrating anniversaries in July

10 YEARS

KC Jorns Pratt
James Kanak Atwood
Rodney Leatherman Scott City
Larry Oldham Ottawa
Ken Stoland. Topeka
Shawn Schwensen. Topeka
Steven Sisney Fort Scott
Steven Zimmerman. Dodge City
Carl Waugh Mankato

This information is compiled by each Office, Bureau, Division, and District.

20 YEARS

Douglas Hecker. Russell
Jeffrey Lathen Meade
Derrick Nordyke Liberal
Lena Picazo. Garden City
Abbas Rezayazdi. Topeka

40 YEARS

Dennis Estes Topeka
Robert Heinen Topeka
Dennis Moser Topeka



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear KDOT:

I just wanted to thank the "Orange Shirted" workers who came to clear out a small forest which had volunteered behind the I-470 hwy. fence in my backyard. They were such courteous hard working men, and went beyond the work I had asked for to insure that my two dogs would never be able to escape from my fence.

Their names were Dwight, Jeff, and Ian (Dwight Fox, Jeff LaCrone, Ian McLean, Area Four in Topeka). Please thank them for me for a job well-done. My sincere sympathy goes out to the family of the young man who was recently killed while doing the same type of job I had asked these three men to do.

Your office should be very proud of the caliber of workers you have on staff.

My Sincere Thanks,
Evie Green

E-mail sent to KDOT:

I wanted to send an email to someone to thank the gentlemen from the bridge inspection crew who stopped to help me change a flat tire on I-435 on June 7 at 8:15 a.m. I am new to Topeka, and I was traveling to the Edwards Campus of KU in Overland Park for the first day of summer classes when I had a flat tire on I-435 just south of I-70.

I was beginning to change the tire when these very kind gentlemen pulled over to help me change the tire. They helped me get to class on time, and took only a very few minutes to help a grateful, stranded Topekan. They did not tell me their names, but they said that they were on their way to inspect an I-435 bridge that day, and that they worked in the Eisenhower building in Topeka.

If you have any idea who these gentlemen are, please thank them for me.

Sincerely,
Laura Smith

Flooding problems on K-152



KDOT staff Rudy Reynolds, left, Senior Squad Leader in the State Bridge Office, and Rex Fleming, Area Engineer at Garnett, survey conditions on K-152 west of La Cygne following heavy rains which caused flooding in southeast Kansas in early June.

TRANSPORTATION BRIEFS

AASHTO president named

John F. "Jack" Lettiere Jr., commissioner of the New Jersey DOT (NJDOT), has been named president of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. He assumes the president's post held by J. Bryan Nicol, Indiana DOT commissioner, who resigned in January.

--PublicWorks/April 2005

Southeast Safety Coalition

A number of southeastern states have become aggressive in advancing safety. In fact, Georgia recently offered to lead the formation of a Southeast Safety Coalition. GDOT Chief Engineer Paul V. Mullins presented the idea at the most recent meeting of the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO). The group would provide a regional view of safety and offer the opportunity for southern states to share common issues and successes.

--Public Roads/March/April 2005

Keeping work zones moving

Keeping motorists apprised of changing traffic conditions and alternate

routes ranked high in the Illinois DOT's (IDOT) goals during I-70 reconstruction. To provide motorists with accurate and timely information about construction progress and traffic conditions, IDOT used an intelligent transportation system (ITS) for the project. The selected system, provided by United Rentals Highway Technologies, Greenwich, Conn., included portable solar-powered closed-circuit cameras, traffic sensors, a highway radio advisory system, citizens-band radio advisory equipment, and changeable message boards, linked by wireless technology.

--PublicWorks/May 2005

Coordinated signal phasing

The use of phasing and timing traffic control devices can deliver quick, economical, and effective traffic management in a particular corridor, as shown by a U.S. DOT study. Some of the study results include: travel time decreased 8 percent; travel speed increased 14 percent; vehicle stops decreased by up to 41 percent; delay decreased 17 percent; fuel consumption decreased 6 percent; hydrocarbon emissions decreased 4 percent; and carbon dioxide emissions decreased 5 percent.

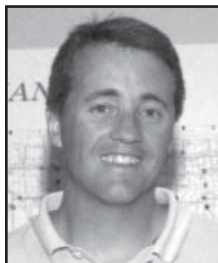
--PublicWorks/Spring 2005

Lacy honored in surprise ceremony

Rumors ran rampant when members of the State Road Office were assembled for a meeting on July 5. Was someone retiring, were they going to be combined with Local Projects - these were just a few of the reasons Design employees thought they might be meeting.

Instead, it was to announce Rod Lacy, Road Design Leader, had been awarded the AASHTO Region 3 Design Award "For Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Highway and Transportation Design 2005."

Jim Brewer, Engineering Manager State Road Office, who had help float a few of the rumors prior to the meeting served as host in the surprise ceremony. Lacy was



Rod Lacy

honored at AASHTO's Subcommittee on Design Meeting in June. Brewer, who had nominated Lacy, accepted the award on Lacy's behalf.

"Kansas has a good reputation at AASHTO, and one of the reasons is because we're represented by great employees like Rod," Brewer said.

Lacy was recognized for outstanding work in Region 3, which is comprised of nine Midwest states and the Providence of Ontario, Canada. Selection for the award is based on a candidate's contribution to the design field with emphasis on quality, originality, and response to an important problem or issue, Brewer said. Lacy serves on AASHTO's Technical Committee on Roadside Safety, which qualified him for the award.

Lacy said the ceremony came as a complete surprise because he assumed the rumors were true that someone was retiring. He also said his recognition was not a solo accomplishment.

"I would just like to thank Ron Seitz and a lot of great people at KDOT who helped make this happen," Lacy said. **-A.L.**

Great gifts for
retirements,
new employees,
birthdays...the
list goes on!!



*These microwavable
mugs are clear glass
with a gold rim on top
and a blue KDOT seal
on one side.*

Pay only \$5 per mug, or

KDOT COFFEE MUGS

--ARE ON SALE!!!!--

To Order:

Headquarters: contact your Employees' Council rep.

Districts/Retirees: mail completed form (or photocopy of form) and checks to: Ruby Hilton, Bridge Design, 700 SW Harrison, 13th floor, Eisenhower Building, Topeka, KS, 66603.

Checks payable to KDOT Employees' Council.

Buy 3, get 1 free!! *A limited number are available. Don't miss out!*

That's 4 coffee mugs for only \$15!!

Name _____

Work

Address: _____

(Retirees: home address)

For more details, call Ruby Hilton at 785-296-0603

Number ordered: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Work phone: _____

Promotions/Transfers

Headquarters

Gary Matheny, Engineering Technician Specialist, Materials and Research

District One – Northeast

Bobby Davis, Engineering Technician Senior, Olathe

Sue Sauvage, Senior Administrative Assistant, Topeka

District Three – Northwest

Ellen Driggs, Administrative Specialist, Norton

Timothy Johnson, Equipment Operator Specialist, Stockton

Billy Lee, Equipment Operator Specialist, St. Francis

Denise Schwab, Human Resource Professional I, Norton

District Four – Southeast

Hugh Bogle, Professional Civil Engineer I, Iola

District Five– Southcentral

Stan Bogdanovecz, Engineering Technician, Wichita

Marvin Coates, Engineering Technician Specialist, Pratt

John Nelson, Engineering Technician, El Dorado

Barry Santee, Engineering Technician Specialist, Hutchinson

Samuel Wilmore, Equipment Operator Specialist, Wichita

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Emergency procedures reviewed

KDOT's headquarters move last year brought with it some new emergency procedures for those in the Eisenhower State Office Building.

Executive Staff, Bureau Chiefs, and other KDOT personnel attended a training session on May 25, led by Officer Jeff Lee of the Capitol Police, to learn about recent changes and to review past procedures.

Among the changes is a new location for meeting places in the event of evacuation. In the past, offices had met at various spots within the Capitol complex. Now, KDOT employees located at headquarters are to meet at their designated locations inside the Docking State Office Building.

Another area of focus was the use of the state's emergency number, (296-1111). For headquarters employees, this number is to be used in place of 911 to

receive a quicker response in case of emergency. Districts are to continue using 911 for their quickest response. Employees were also given basic knowledge of exits, fire alarms, and interior meeting spots for severe weather.

Lee also spent some time reviewing proper procedures regarding bomb threats. He emphasized that when a bomb threat is received it is important not to hang up the phone so that the call can be traced. Workers who receive a bomb threat call should stay calm and listen for clues to pass along to investigators, such as background sounds, caller accent or other distinguishing traits. Lee also reminded employees that being observant within their work areas was an easy way to remain safe.

Pamphlets outlining the new safety procedures have been distributed to all headquarters employees.

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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