Inside ...
- Kansas receives national partnering award
- Bledsoe serves state for nearly half century
- Why public service?
- Adams, Curtis promoted
- New four-lane segment of U.S. 54 open to traffic

Unique holiday traditions
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What we’re hearing

As part of the involved process of crafting a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), KDOT staff has been meeting with Kansans for the past year to hear their opinions about a host of transportation issues.

The 150 stakeholders who participated in the LRTP topical working group and policy committee meetings weren’t shy about telling us of the needs of their communities and local economies and what sort of transportation system would best serve those needs. One of things we learned during the process is that the people we serve are among the best resources we have.

There is a saying that “what we see depends mainly on what we look for.” In the working group setting, that became an asset, rather than a limitation. We heard many points of view. And, we discovered that it was just as useful for these diverse individuals to hear from each other as it was for us to hear from each of them. I don’t know where else you could find a member of the Kansas Livestock Association and a public transit advocate having a conversation about the needs of transportation.

The reason we develop a long range plan (other than the fact it is required by the Federal Highway Administration) is that we know that the things that brought us success in the past 20 years won’t necessarily bring us success in the next 20 years. That’s why the fresh perspectives of our stakeholders were so useful to the LRTP’s development.

So, what did our stakeholders tell us? They said over and over that they want a transportation program that is nimble, flexible and innovative when it comes to supporting economic opportunities. Under the current and past programs, we simply didn’t have flexibility to respond to emerging needs because projects were selected eight to 10 years at a time. We knew what the state’s economic opportunities were in the year 2000 when the Comprehensive Transportation Program was put together, but we couldn’t know about the expansion of Fort Riley, the proliferation of ethanol plants or the Gardner intermodal facility.

In addition to a new approach to major projects, our stakeholders told us that we need flexibility in the smaller, but vital, Local Projects program. A company trying to decide whether to locate in a Kansas community needs to know in 90 days – not two years – about the possibility of infrastructure improvements.

Of course, we heard more from our stakeholders than just about their views on economic opportunity. They were passionate about safety, system preservation and more. Their input during the six months of meetings will not only be useful in crafting an LRTP, it will be important as we begin developing the next transportation program.

We’ve always had plenty of evidence that talking with Kansans about transportation makes our final product better. The LRTP process certainly affirmed that point. Our stakeholders had questions and concerns. They had ideas that they wanted us to consider. They pushed us to innovate and they helped us consider issues from a different perspective. And the best part was that we all had fun. We learned things that will benefit transportation in Kansas and we made new friends. How could you ask more from a process than that?
Another Adams to lead in northeast Kansas

By Stan Whitley

Forty-two years after an Adams served as the District One Engineer another Adams is taking over as the top engineer in northeast Kansas.

Clay Adams was recently promoted to District One Engineer, following in the footsteps of his father, J.O., who served in the same capacity from 1963-65.

“I’ve had KDOT in my blood since I was young,” said Adams. “When my dad found out I would be the new District Engineer he was pretty excited. He told me

Curtis named new Chief of Personnel Services

By Caroline Gencur

“The primary function of Personnel Services is to support the KDOT organization and our people,” said Lea Ann Curtis. Curtis was recently named as the new Bureau Chief of Personnel Services and has enthusiastically taken on the role.

Lea Ann Curtis is a new face to KDOT but no stranger to public service. Prior to her new position in Personnel Services, Curtis worked as the Civil Rights Administrator in the Office of

Singers from Mill Creek Valley Middle School conclude the Nov. 2 Flint Hills sign ceremony at the Konza Prairie Overlook south of Manhattan by singing “Home on the Range.” Photo by Kurt Weaverling

Signs welcome visitors to the Flint Hills

By Kim Stich

Four new monument welcome signs are the latest state effort to celebrate and promote the Flint Hills, according to Secretary Deb Miller.

Secretary Miller was one of three speakers at an event on Nov. 2 at the Konza Prairie Overlook on K-177 south of Manhattan celebrating the beauty and significance of the Flint Hills region. Kansas Department of Commerce Secretary David Kerr and Flint Hills Tourism Coalition Executive Director Linda Craghead also spoke at the event.

“The new welcome signs will help the millions of travelers who pass through this area get a sense of the magnitude of the land they are crossing,” Miller said.

The signs are made of native limestone. Each of them is 25 feet wide, nine feet high and weighs 30 tons. They are located on I-70 near Maple Hill and Junction

On the...
After the bridge tragedy in Minneapolis on Aug. 1, employees from several bureaus worked together to answer hundreds of questions from the general public, other state DOT’s, the FHWA, the press, and the legislature.

The Bridge Team members were honored for their efforts in KDOT’s Example of Excellence employee recognition program for the third quarter of 2007. Secretary Deb Miller attended the event on Nov. 6 in Topeka.

“These employees not only went beyond the call to ensure all requests were met in a timely fashion, but through the process reinforced the image that once again KDOT is a ‘can do’ agency,” said Director of Engineering and Design Dan Scherschligt.

Technical advisors from the Federal Highway Administration were sent to review past inspections by state agencies.

“Reviews of these inspections not only revealed that KDOT bridge inspections met all federal criteria, they exceeded federal criteria,” Scherschligt said.

In addition, numerous press releases were sent out, press conferences were scheduled, Web site pages were developed and several bridges were re-inspected. “This all helped to give peace of mind to the citizens of Kansas that our bridges are safe and are in good hands,” he said.

This work did not end after the tragedy stopped being front page news. Efforts have continued and will continue to ensure that KDOT’s bridge inspection process is efficient and that information is available.

Members of the team include: Ginny Armstrong, Martin Arredondo, Scott Benortham, Ed Burdick, Clem Boos, Amy Coon, Dan Crosland, Jim Hazelton, Jane Holden, Bob Howard, Ron Kaufman, Kathy King, John Kingsley, Deb Kossler, Jim Leaden, Jessica Leiker, Randy Leonard, Denise MacEwan, Don Mutschler, Justin Shaw, Mitch Sothers, Kim Stich, Steve Swartz, Maggie Thompson, Stan Whitley and Don Whisler.

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.

Hard copies of the form are still available by calling Transportation Information at 785-296-3585 and require the signature of one of the supervisors listed above.

The award is given quarterly with nominations for the fourth quarter due to the Bureau of Transportation Information by Dec. 31.
By Jessica Leiker

Milton Bledsoe began working at KDOT in May of 1959, at a time when Dwight D. Eisenhower (father of the Interstate) was President of the United States and gas cost 30 cents a gallon. After nearly half a century of working at the Washington Sub-Area office, Bledsoe is retiring in December.

When Bledsoe joined KDOT in 1959, it was as a temporary summer worker. Before his time was up in this position, he was offered a permanent position as Highway Maintenance Man I. He maintained this job until 1972 when he was promoted to Equipment Operator II. In 1994, he was promoted to his current position as Maintenance Supervisor in Washington.

Throughout his time at KDOT, Bledsoe has seen many changes. One in particular that stands out in his mind is between the 1960s and 1970s when KDOT changed from pull graders behind trucks to front mounted blades.

Continued on page 6

By Kirk Hutchinson

District Six Public Affairs Manager

A ribbon cutting ceremony on Nov. 19 marked the opening of a new segment of four-lane highway in southwest Kansas. Secretary Deb Miller and Congressman Jerry Moran joined area dignitaries and local citizens to celebrate the completion of this new four-lane stretch of U.S. 54 from the west city limits of Liberal to the Kansas/Oklahoma state line.

The four-mile segment was built on a new alignment and includes an interchange near the mid-point of the four-lane section that will provide access to businesses and residences located along the old highway, which will become a county road. Construction on this $26.5 million project began in July 2006 and cost just more than $21.4 million to build.
TRANSPORTATION TALK

Why public service?

Have you ever wondered why certain individuals thrive in public service and others just never seem to get it?

It may be as simple as some of us being more comfortable serving others as opposed to serving ourselves. Those that stay and thrive get a genuine satisfaction in providing knowledge and expertise so others can reap the benefits of the service they provide.

I have a lot of public service examples in my immediate family. My grandfather was a rural mail carrier in North Dakota from the 1920s through the 1950s (talk about tough working conditions). My father was a high school chemistry teacher for 34 years, and I have two older sisters who have been teachers for 30 years each. With almost 29 years at KDOT, I have had the opportunity to work alongside many exceptional individuals who found a career in public service to be very rewarding.

I am sure none of you need to look very far in your own work groups to find dedicated people with many years of public service. KDOT has more 40-year-plus employees than any other state agency. We all know that many of those individuals have the skills, talent, and abilities to make it in the private sector where the financial rewards are greater. So, why do they stay?

I can’t speak for them, but for me, the most appealing part of public service is that I get to make many decisions based on sound principles, with the ability to temper that with a sense of fair play for all those who are affected by the decision.

While budget concerns always enter into the equation, the profit margins that are essential in the private sector don’t cloud my judgment. In other words, I get to make decisions for all the right reasons and not how it will affect my monetary compensation. I believe that gives me the freedom to come up with the best solutions – a freedom our counterparts in the private sector don’t always have.

On the flip side, we all need to be aware that decisions we make can affect the profitability of those in the private sector. Since we cannot accomplish many of the things we do without private sector involvement, it is vital that we keep that in mind.

The second most appealing aspect of public service is that what we do benefits all Kansans. The transportation system we plan, design, build and maintain is the lifeblood of our society. It gives me great pride to know that I have a small part in providing a transportation system that is safe, efficient and vital to the Kansas economy.

Another big plus of my public sector job is the opportunity to work alongside colleagues who are dedicated to providing a transportation system that is the envy of most states. I believe it is a rare thing in life when you can be surrounded by so many individuals striving for the same goal. That, in itself, is unifying and comforting. Maybe that is why many in the agency refer to KDOT as a family.

While we have our internal differences and debates on the best way to do things, we never seem to lose focus on the overall goal of providing a great transportation system for Kansans.

Roy Rissky is Chief of the Bureau of Construction and Maintenance.

Bledsoe
Continued from page 5

Also, he says, KDOT added sand spreaders to all their trucks instead of requiring workers to shovel the sand out onto slick areas. Bledsoe points out that with all the equipment upgrades crews are now able to split which allows them to work 12-hour days on storms rather than from the beginning to the end of the storms.

Bledsoe’s best memories at KDOT include all of the people that he has met and interacted with, as well as the recognition that KDOT crews statewide receive for their part in getting roads open after major snow storms.

Bledsoe says he hears frequently that “Kansas has the best roads they have ever traveled.”
Welcome new KDOT employees!

Headquarters
Danielle Brunin, Environmental Scientist II, Design
Robert Hummel, Engineering Associate I, Traffic Engineering
Tabetha Mallonee, Administrative Assistant, Materials and Research

District One
Michael Bell, Equipment Operator Trainee, Gardner
Andrew Smith, Equipment Operator Trainee, Gardner

District Two
Skylar Stevens, Equipment Mechanic, Clay Center

District Four
Joseph Bonezkowski, Equipment Operator Trainee, Yates Center
Richard Sheldon, Equipment Operator Trainee, Yates Center

District Five
John Graves, Equipment Operator, Wichita
Daniel Harshbarger, Equipment Operator Trainee, Wichita
Gerald Sivits, Equipment Operator Trainee, Wichita
Ivan Smith, Technology Support Consultant II, Hutchinson

District Six
James Helpingstine, Equipment Operator Trainee, Tribune
Joshua Hughes, Equipment Operator Trainee, Cimarron
James Stotler, Engineering Technician Associate, Dodge City

The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information for new hires to Translines.

A collaborative project to improve 87th Street Parkway and I-35/U.S. 69 in Johnson County has been recognized as the 2007 National Achievement Award State winner by the National Partnership for Highway Quality (NPHQ).

KDOT, the City of Lenexa, the City of Overland Park, Clarkson Construction Co., and the designer, PB Americas, Inc., were honored for their joint partnering effort on the $66 million project.

“This is an excellent example of partnering and it shows what can happen when the state and local units of government work together on a common goal,” said Secretary Deb Miller.

The announcement was made recently in San Diego by NPHQ, a partnership among federal, state and roadway industry leaders and officials that promotes highway quality, safety and service to the highway user.

“The high level of innovation on this project speaks to the agencies’ concern for their communities,” said NPHQ Executive Director Bob Templeton. “KDOT, Lenexa, and Overland Park provided a unified and consistent message to the public that will reap dividends for years to come.”

The project was unique from start to finish. The cities involved contributed $17.5 million to the cost of the project with the City of Lenexa serving as the lead partner. The design chosen for the interchange, a Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI), was one of the first of its kind in Kansas. The SPUI allows for simultaneous traffic movements while reducing stops for turning traffic. The single traffic signal reduces delays, increases capacity and enhances safety.

The NPHQ awards recognize overall project quality; the partnership between state departments of transportation and private contractors; technical and materials innovations; effectiveness and creativity of public involvement; the teams’ effectiveness in meeting or exceeding expected deadlines, costs, and deliverables; responsiveness to environmental needs and opportunities and adherence to quality management.

NPHQ is the only national organization dedicated to achieving total commitment to highway quality and customer satisfaction in every state. – S.W.
Ms. Kristen Brands,
My wife and I want to let someone know about the service provided this week by one of your employees. Kenny Stewart (Highway Maintenance Supervisor at the Hill City Sub-Area Office) helped us avoid a catastrophic situation by taking the initiative and alerting us to a problem with our tow vehicle.

We were driving our 40-foot motor home and towing our Jeep, heading south on Highway 283, when Kenny passed us going north. He noticed that our left side front tire on the Jeep was nearly completely flat and starting to smoke from the heat buildup. We had not noticed any problem. Kenny turned around and chased us until he caught up and flagged us down. We promptly pulled over, but not before the tire shredded and the rim was on the concrete. The tire and rim were ruined, and there was some additional damage to the plastic fender and light assemblies, but it could have been much worse had Kenny not taken the time to chase us down.

He helped us get it jacked up and put on our spare. Then he followed us a few miles to make sure we did not have another problem. We quickly discovered that the steering had locked in the Jeep, which caused the problem. We stopped again and corrected that and were on our way again. Kenny followed again for 10 miles or so before going on about the business he had postponed to help us out.

We offered to compensate Kenny for his time and wonderful assistance, but he declined.

So I decided to write this up and send it to the KDOT to let them know what a dedicated and service oriented employee they have in Kenny.

By the way, let Kenny know that we are on our way to Phoenix. The dealership in Dodge City checked our vehicle and there is no damage other than what we saw that day. It is safe to tow and drive on to our destination. Unfortunately, they did not have a replacement tire and rim, but we will get that replaced in Phoenix.

A heartfelt thanks to Kenny and the KDOT.

Sincerely,
George and Sandy Wilson

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Signs commemorating “95th Division Iron Men of Metz”

By Kim Qualls
District One Public Affairs Manager

Signs designating a portion of three northeast state highways, including U.S. 24, U.S. 59, and K-92, as the “95th Division Iron Men of Metz Highway” were unveiled on Oct. 19 at the Capitol. The newly-designated highway comprises U.S. 24 east to the junction of U.S. 59, U.S. 59 east to the junction of K-92, and K-92 east to the city of Leavenworth.

The highway designation was approved by the 2007 Legislature and signed into law Feb. 14 by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. The bill was introduced by the House Transportation Committee. KDOT crews will install six signs along the route.

Provisions of the law call for the cost of the signs, plus additional funds for maintenance or replacement, to come from donations. The 95th Division Foundation presented a check totaling $7,920 in donations to KDOT in April 2007.

Activated on September 15, 1918, the 95th Division is a unit of the U.S. Army Reserve Command with Headquarters in Oklahoma City, Okla. The Division has over 3,500 soldiers assigned in Army Reserve Centers located in nine Midwest states, including Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Missouri, and Iowa.
KDOT Computer Training

– from the KCTC

Increase your efficiency!

Office 2007 - Quick Reference

The KCTC urges Office 2007 users who have not been able to attend a preview or training session to look at the short Intranet Quick Reference links. These Web links with audio and visual overviews may be found on the KDOT Intranet under IT Tech Support and Quick Reference. There you will find four demos under KDOT Computer Training Component (KCTC):

◆ Office 2007 Overview
◆ Outlook 2007 Overview
◆ Things to Know About Office 2007
◆ Official KDOT Letterhead

In the same location users may find Quicksheets for Word, Excel, Outlook and PowerPoint. These can be printed and serve as a handy desk reference sheet.

REGULAR SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AVAILABLE

Office 2007 classes are still being delivered to the districts but the KCTC is posting a regular schedule at the ESOB. Please take a look at the KCTC shared calendar in Outlook to see what is coming as soon as December. Detailed classes for each level of the Office 2007 applications are part of the new schedule.

Please contact the KCTC regarding Office 2007 Roll-out and training: kctc@ksdot.org, or call Ingrid Vandervort 785-296-8993 directly.

Linda Craghead, Flint Hills Tourism Coalition Executive Director, speaks about promoting the beauty of the Flint Hills region. Photo by Kurt Weaverling

Flint Hills

Continued from page 3

City and on the Kansas Turnpike near Emporia and Cassoday.

“We are thrilled about these beautiful new monument signs,” Secretary Kerr said. “The Flint Hills are among our proudest natural treasures, and these monument signs will allow us to announce them to travelers for years to come.”

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has led the state’s initiative to raise awareness of the Flint Hills. In 2005, the Flint Hills Scenic Byway, which stretches from Council Grove to Cassoday on K-177, was designated a national scenic byway.

The Native Stone Scenic Byway that runs from near Alma to Dover also showcases the region.

“These monuments demonstrate the power of collaboration in pursuit of a common goal. In this case, it was a shared love of the Flint Hills by citizens of the 22 Flint Hills counties, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Commerce and the Governor,” Craghead said.

Olson Associates of Overland Park designed the monument welcome signs. R.F.B. Construction Co., Inc., of Pittsburg is constructing and installing the signs. The project cost approximately $294,000 using federal Transportation Enhancement funds.

Final touches are put on the monument sign located on eastbound I-70 near Junction City. Photo by Kurt Weaverling
Chris Herrick, Chief of Transportation Planning, leads a discussion in Topeka during the last of eight statewide meetings examining the Kansas Long Range Transportation Plan. Photo by Larry Katsbulas

**What is a unique holiday tradition in your family?**

“My five grandchildren, ages ranging from 5-14, and I head to the countryside a week before Christmas to select and cut down our tree, then we all head home and decorate it together.”

*Teresa Gulick, Subarea Supervisor in Eureka*

“My family all goes to my mother and father’s house, where each year they invite people that they know are alone or have had a hard year, and we all celebrate the holiday together.”

*Burt Morey, Metro Engineer in Olathe*

“My family all goes to my mother and father’s house, where each year they invite people that they know are alone or have had a hard year, and we all celebrate the holiday together.”

*Sheila Brown, Human Resource Professional II in Chanute*

“What is a unique holiday tradition in your family?

1. How many rest areas are located on the U.S. Interstate according to the last count in 1972?

2. Which of these states claims to have the first section of the Interstate Highway System?
   A.) Pennsylvania  
   B.) Missouri  
   C.) Kansas  
   D.) All of them

3. What is the only Interstate still split into directional branches?

4. The nation’s Interstate system of highways now includes more than 46,000 miles. It was originally envisioned to include how many miles?

“Every year my family and I attend the Festival of Trees in Topeka. We also always try to go and see the Nutcracker performance.”

*Kim Qualls, Public Affairs Manager in District One*

“We have a tradition of Advent Angels. This is organized through our church. We submit our family name to participate. A person organizing the activity randomly assigns another family to us. So for the four weeks before Christmas (Advent Season) we “secretly” give a gift to the family. It could consist of baked goods, a card, small gift, ect. My kids love to go to their porch area, ring their doorbell and run and hide and watch them come to the door and find their surprise. The advent season is one of reflection for the holiday season to give rather than receive. It is a fun event and one my youngest daughter looks forward to.”

*Brenda Cikanek, Human Resource Professional in District Five*

“After reading The Night Tree on Thanksgiving, our family heads into the woods near our home. We take sliced apples, oranges, strings of popcorn and ears of corn and decorate a tree that we select together. We feel that this is a tradition that allows us to share the holidays with the animals.”

*Cheryl Smith, Accountant in District Three*
Transportation Briefs

New Web map launched
A new Web-based Map Locator has been launched by the U.S. Geological Survey. This application lets users search by zip code, address, or simply through an interactive map to find topographic maps of a specific area. Visitors to the locator can view the maps, order printed maps, or download a scanned map. – Public Works -September 2007

Congestion is costly
A Texas Transportation Institute survey shows traffic congestion in urban areas costs the U.S. economy nearly $78 billion a year. The costs are accumulated from nearly $710 a year per traveler in extra gas. The report states traffic congestion is the cause of 2.9 billion gallons of wasted fuel a year. – American City & County- October 2007

Driver’s ed goes green
As part of a countywide effort to encourage “greener” living in Leon County, Fla., the County’s Board of Commissioners has purchased six hybrid vehicles for its driver’s education program. In 2005, the county board adopted an energy policy as one of its top priorities. – American City & County- October 2007

Retirees

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT in December.

District Three
Cheryl A. Smith, Accountant I, Norton

District Four
Gary N. Plumb, District Construction Engineer, Chanute

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT in January.

Headquarters
Al D. Catchart, Coordinating Engineer in Design
Peter R. Domme, Production Coordinator in Support Services
Jon E. Holley, Videolog Technician, Planning

District Four
Larry G. Foster, Equipment Operator Senior, Iola

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

MILESTONES

KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in November

10 YEARS
Linus Grollmes ............. Netawaka
Richard McMullen ............. Topeka
James Peterson ............. Hartford
Glen Scott ............. Kansas City
Cynde Wedel ............. Buhler

20 YEARS
Timothy Cunningham ....... Topeka
Mark Gingrich ............. Topeka
Sammy Goodale ............. St Francis
James Smith ............. St Paul

30 YEARS
Richard Bauman ............. Topeka
Jerald Bayless ............. Topeka
Larry Eubanks ............. Whiting
Brian Feldkamp ............. Seneca
Norman Unruh ............. Pratt
Francine Werly ............. Topeka

State service anniversaries are compiled by Personnel Services.

Curtis

Continued from page 3

Chief Counsel since 2006. Prior to that, she worked with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Fort Hays State University, Garden City Community College and Colby Community College. Curtis holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Fort Hays State University.

Now as Bureau Chief, Curtis’ initial goals are to fully support KDOT’s workforce, continue efforts to recruit the very best employees for the organization and simply to have the bureau thought of as extremely helpful.

“We want to help the organization use the feedback gained through the recent climate survey to improve the working environment of all KDOT employees,” Curtis said. “KDOT is a great place to work and can be an even better organization in which to work with attention to feedback from all of us.”

The Leadership Forum is another program implemented by Curtis’ bureau to improve the KDOT workforce as a whole. The idea is to bring supervisors together to build skill sets that can then be passed on to the workforce.

“So far it has been a success and I believe the program is a wonderful tool to teach how to lead through positive workplace relationships,” Curtis said.

Curtis believes that the best way to gather information to accomplish the goals of the bureau is to get out and listen to people all across the organization.

“What I want to emphasize the most is the openness of our bureau to your ideas. We want to continue to improve the processes we have in place to serve you. Please help us to do that,” Curtis said.

Curtis and her husband along with their daughter moved to Topeka three years ago from Garden City.

“It may sound unusual to some but I really miss the wide open spaces dotted by occasional trees swept northward by the ever present winds in western Kansas. Topeka is a great place to live but western Kansas will always be home,” Curtis said.
Promotions/Transfers

Headquarters
Randy Billinger, Geologist III, Materials and Research
Linda Fritton, Management Systems Analyst II, Program and Project Management
Nathan Jeffries, Engineering Associate III, Local Projects
Shane Houser, Professional Civil Engineer I, Construction and Maintenance
Curt Niehaus, Professional Civil Engineer II, Materials and Research
Adam Pritchard, Professional Civil Engineer I, Local Projects
Gary Spring, Engineering Technician Senior, Construction and Maintenance

District One – Northeast
Clay Adams, District One Engineer, Topeka

District Three – Northwest
Don Ummel, Equipment Operator Specialist, WaKeeney

District Six – Southwest
Gerald Bennett, Professional Civil Engineer II, Syracuse
Francisco Franco, Equipment Operator Specialist, Liberal
Rey Nieto, Equipment Operator Specialist, Ulysses

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

Adams
Continued from page 3

I’d be getting the best job at KDOT.”

Adams is no stranger to the District, having served the past 15 years as the District Maintenance Engineer. He worked three summers for KDOT while going to college and started his permanent employment in 1991 as a staff engineer in Construction and Maintenance.

After graduating from Kansas State in 1977 he began working for United Construction Co. in Lenexa where he was a Vice-president handling estimating and project management.

Family ties brought him to Topeka in 1991 when he purchased his parents farm.

“I have a lot of experience in maintenance; now I’m starting to get involved on the construction side,” said Adams. “There are going to be many challenges ahead with the end of the current transportation program and the transition into a new program. I’m looking forward to being involved in those changes.”

Adams said an important piece of business will be making visits throughout the district. Visiting with the metro engineers, area engineers and at job sites will be a priority.

“I’ve worked for five district engineers and I learned the importance of taking time to visit people in the district, see the work they do and listen to their concerns,” said Adams. “I want to get feedback from employees. It drives home the importance of being available.”

Adams’ wife, Patti, has a consulting engineering business working with water treatment plants. In their spare time, the Adams manage the family ranch – The Wakarusa Ridge Ranch – near Topeka.

The Adams raise cattle on their ranch and currently have 45 Dexter cows and six Kerry cows. Dexter cows stand only about half as tall as a Holstein and weight about half as much, while Kerry are a globally rare breed.

The Adams have two grown children, Laura, a civil/environmental engineer in Kansas City and Claire, a recent graduate of Belmont University with a degree in music business.