Inside ...

- KC Scout system earns national recognition
- Driving Force develops recommendations
- Orange Hero awards
- KDOT earns six paving awards
- Roadside safety design an important topic at TRB

Discover Kansas
See page 3
And the winner is . . .

A few weeks ago I got to perform what has become one of my favorite duties as head of this agency – the presenting of the Orange Hero awards.

The winners, who were announced at the Leadership Forum in Topeka, had their photos projected onto a large screen, and then they had to walk down a long, orange “carpet” to receive their awards. I had a great time handing out the award – a modest statue of a small, Oscar-like figure to which a tiny, orange, plastic vest was affixed.

Obviously, there is a tongue-in-cheek quality to all of this that is intended to add to the fun of the event. But that shouldn’t be taken to mean that there isn’t genuine sentiment attached to the award. I am proud of the winners and I appreciate that they were willing to go above and beyond to help us accomplish our goals.

The Orange Hero, which was initiated last year, is a way to recognize our fellow workers who put “responsible and responsive” into action. The winners are chosen because they meet the award criteria – they represent the agency in a positive light, they take on additional responsibility or they foster good relationships with partners and those we serve. In most cases this year, the winners accomplished all of those things. They moved KDOT forward, whether it was improving our efficiency or offering a new approach to what we do.

This year’s winners value teamwork, are committed to their jobs and the people of Kansas, and are hard workers. They show initiative and innovation. Some were recognized as individuals; others were recognized for leading or being a member of a team effort. A complete list of this year’s winners appears on Page 4 of this issue.

We will present this award again at next year’s Leadership Forum and I hope we have many nominees from which to choose. When you see a person who puts “responsible and responsive” into action, nominate him or her to be an Orange Hero by contacting Steve Swartz in the Bureau of Transportation Information.

We already have a tradition of doing good work at KDOT, and I want the Orange Hero to become another KDOT tradition – one that lasts long after I’m gone. I want it to be known that when you walk into an office and see one of these funny looking statues on a desk, the person you’re dealing with is one of KDOT’s best.

Calendar of Events

Jan. 9 — 11 a.m. KDOT employees’ Council Meeting, Third Floor, Eisenhower State Office Building.

Jan. 12 — Highway Advisory Commission meeting.

Jan. 15 — State employees off for Martin Luther King holiday.

Jan. 17 — 1 p.m. Construction Bid Letting, Fourth Floor West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.
Discover Kansas with new state transportation map

Whether it’s the scenic Flint Hills, towns filled with Old West fun, metropolitan areas packed with activities or the many other unique places across the state, the new 2007-2008 Official State Transportation Map will help you to discover Kansas.

“Our state map provides valuable information whether it is used to guide travelers or used as a tool to learn more about the state,” said Secretary Deb Miller. “The map is one of the states’ promotional items and it gets distributed far and wide, both inside and outside of the state.”

KDOT works with several state offices in Topeka promote safety during the annual Miracle on Kansas Avenue Lighted Parade in Topeka on Nov. 25. Several employees passed out safety items and information and District One Engineer Dan Scherschligt dressed up as Santa Claus and can be seen waving from the back of the truck. Photo by Kim Stich

Holiday safety
KDOT employees from the Area Four and District One offices in Topeka promote safety during the annual Miracle on Kansas Avenue Lighted Parade in Topeka on Nov. 25. Several employees passed out safety items and information and District One Engineer Dan Scherschligt dressed up as Santa Claus and can be seen waving from the back of the truck. Photo by Kim Stich

Roadside safety design an important topic at TRB

By Kim Stich

Numerous ideas and issues will be discussed at the 86th annual Transportation Research Board (TRB) meeting in Washington, D.C., from Jan. 21-25.

One topic in particular is roadside safety design. About one third of all vehicular fatalities occur off the side of the road, including vehicles running off the road, striking objects, or rolling over, according to Ron Seitz, Chief of Local Projects.

“Roadside safety is an important area to address,” he said.
Demolition crews remove the concrete pillar of the former K-39 bridge next to the South Kansas & Oklahoma railroad tracks in Chanute. The new bridge will include a 250-foot-long train tunnel and a lighted pedestrian underpass. Traffic is being detoured on city streets. The new bridge is scheduled to be finished in late 2007. Photo by Sonya Scheuneman

**Letters to the Editor**

**Dear Mr. Dockery** (George Dockery, Area Engineer in Pittsburg):

Please express the City of Baxter Springs’ gratitude to the crew that was responsible for snow removal in our area for their dedication in making our highways safe during last weeks’ storm. I know the working conditions were far from being enjoyable and they would have much rather been home by the fire.

We sincerely appreciate their efforts.

Kind regards,

Huey York, Mayor
Kansas Long-Range Transportation Planning manager Kyle Schneweis leads a group discussion about project needs during a regional workshop Nov. 30 in Topeka. Beginning in November, KDOT hosted workshops in Wichita, Salina, Hutchinson, Olathe, Chanute, Topeka, Garden City and Hays to discuss the state of Kansas transportation, trends and funding. The workshops also provided local leaders the opportunity to relate their communities’ transportation needs, opportunities and challenges. During the afternoon session of the workshops, KDOT discussed preliminary engineering work for possible future projects. Photo by Larry Katsbulas

Driving Force develops recommendations

By Stan Whitley

Preliminary recommendations designed to reduce fatalities and injuries on Kansas roadways have been developed by The Driving Force following a series of meetings held across the state.

The Driving Force, a statewide citizen task force, was announced by Governor Kathleen Sebelius last February. The task force explored a wide range of roadway safety issues and produced a series of recommendations to reduce fatalities and injuries on Kansas roadways.

The list of recommendations was divided into initiatives over a three-year period that could include changes in the areas of education, enforcement, engineering and legislation.

Two significant first-year initiatives recommended by The Driving Force involved occupant protection and novice drivers. Under occupant protection, the task force recommended passing legislation enacting a primary seat belt law for all occupants and

Other first-year recommendations by The Driving Force in random order were:

◆ Support the growth of trauma care by using allocated dollars to support a minimum of a Level 3 trauma facility in each of the six healthcare regions in Kansas.
◆ Further study, involving the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services, to address the needs of EMS services in Kansas, starting with an updated EMS assessment by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
◆ Design a process to determine the effectiveness of current processes to prevent, enforce and adjudicate impaired driving offenses, with attention paid to the recommendations made in the Impaired Driving Assessment held in July 2006.
◆ Expand current media campaigns to educate the public on the consequences of DUI and Minor in Possession convictions.
◆ Identify funding and develop a comprehensive motorcycle safety program.

Continued on page 12

Continued on page 6
The Kansas City Scout traffic management system has been recognized by the National Partnership for Highway Quality (NPHQ) as a winner in its 2006 national “Making a Difference” awards program. KC Scout, which was nominated by KDOT, won the bronze award in the NPHQ’s public communications category. The national contest is designed to recognize quality innovations promoting roads that are completed more quickly, ride better, last longer, reduce congestion and improve safety.

“Good communication contributes to the quality of the driving experience,” said NPHQ Executive Director Bob Templeton. “Communication empowers drivers with knowledge to make travel decisions appropriate for them, whether it’s avoiding highway construction or changing work hours to avert congestion during a morning commute.”

KDOT, the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), the Mid-America Regional Council and the Federal Highway Administration designed KC Scout. The traffic management system helps lessen traffic jams by improving rush-hour speeds, enhancing safety by decreasing the number of rush-hour accidents and improving emergency response to traffic situations.

KC Scout manages traffic on more than 90 miles of freeways in the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. KC Scout uses cameras to monitor the highways from its operations center in Lee’s Summit, relies on sensors to gauge traffic flow, uses large electronic message boards to send urgent traffic notices to drivers along the freeways and activates a Highway Advisory Radio system that motorists in Missouri can tune to in the event of a freeway incident.

A unique aspect of KC Scout is its media partnership giving Kansas City television stations access to 75 cameras for traffic reporting. In exchange, the television stations provide both KDOT and MoDOT with a minimum of 72, 30-second public service commercial spots within a six month period during weekday air time. – S.W.

Recommendations
Continued from page 5

◆ Support legislation requiring Medical Review Officers to report a commercial vehicle driver’s positive drug test and return-to-duty negative tests to the Division of Motor Vehicles to be included on their motor vehicle record.
◆ Continue to develop strong media campaigns aimed at gaining compliance with occupant protection laws.
◆ Collect monies through driver’s license renewals for funding driver education in Kansas high schools used only for that purpose.
◆ Utilize both shoulder and centerline rumble strips where appropriate.
◆ Governmental jurisdictions continue to make roadway improvements based on current engineering standards.
◆ Support the Kansas Highway Patrol’s efforts of traffic enforcement around large trucks, using federal grant funding.
◆ Recognize that cell phone and emerging technologies are a growing traffic safety concern and KDOT should monitor data and studies.
◆ Create an appointed entity to set the agenda for future implementation of The Driving Force recommendations.

KDOT salutes our troops

KDOT would like to recognize its employees who have returned home from military service in support on the war on terror. Below are employees listed by district and their branch of service.

District One
Denny L. Browning, Equipment Operator, Army
Matthew D. Browning, Equipment Operator, Army

The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies military information to Translines.
KDOT earns six paving awards at conference

KDOT earned a total of six awards at the 50th annual Kansas Asphalt Paving Conference Dec. 7 at Lawrence.

A judging team traveled 1,700 miles reviewing and rating all the candidate projects according to Jim Jones, Executive Director of the Kansas Asphalt Paving Association.

“All projects displayed high quality workmanship and were certainly deserving of recognition,” said Jones. “Quality control in mix specifications and better performance binders are providing longer lasting asphalt surfaces, fewer transverse cracks and little or no rutting.”

KDOT Assistant Secretary and State Transportation Engineer Jerry Younger presented the awards. – S.W.

Travis Komarek, Engineering Technician at Hutchinson, accepted a first place Director’s Award for a 13-mile major modification project on US-50 between K-14 and K-61.

Kegan Hemel, Engineering Technician Senior at Atwood, accepted a first place overlay award for a five-mile project on I-70 between Goodland and the Caruso exit.

Craig Schlott, Engineering Associate II at Garden City, accepted a second place Director’s Award for a 10-mile major modification project on US-50 from the Finney-Gray county line to about one mile east of Garden City.

Duane Heine, Engineering Technician Senior at Hutchinson, accepted a second place overlay award for a 17-mile project to improve US-50 in Reno County.

Michael Terry, Construction Engineer at Atwood, accepted a first place airport award for landing strip and parking lot improvements at the Rawlins County Airport.

Rod Nix, Construction Manager at Liberal, accepted a second place full depth paving award for major asphalt improvements on Eighth Street in Liberal.

Photos by Larry Katsbulas

State map

Continued from page 3

agencies to create the map. More than one million copies will be distributed in Kansas and across the United States in the next two years.

In addition to the basic state map on one side and city insets on the other are bright photos illustrating various places throughout Kansas and listings of recreation areas, museums, cities, counties, new state safety laws, access to road condition information and other helpful resources.

Changes have been made to make the map easier to read. Cities, points of interest and exit numbers on the state map have a white outline to help separate the text from the background. New hospital and Amtrak symbols were also added. Numerous other updates have been made to the map to make it more user friendly.

Maps are available at the Kansas Travel Centers and at various KDOT offices across the state. -K.S.
History and you

Have you ever wondered what history will say about you when you leave KDOT? When most of you reach the twilight of your career and life, as I have, you will probably think about this more frequently. We all are blessed with certain talents and skills, and what we do with these gifts will be our legacy.

Fortunately, at KDOT there is a real need for a multitude of different talents and skills. As with any organization, large or small, someone needs to provide direction and make the tough decisions. Our agency houses several facets of business such as accounting, planning (short and long-term), design, construction, maintenance, human resources, and public relations – to name a few. Within those roles, we need people who can talk, listen, execute decisions and follow decision. In essence, we have teachers, students, leaders and followers – the list is endless. The beauty of our multi-faceted organization is that there is a place for you with KDOT. It is this very kind of diversity which makes KDOT the successful organization that it is today.

This being said, your legacy, your own happiness and satisfaction depend directly on you. The opportunities, challenges and lessons are here at KDOT to mold, advance and mature that legacy.

So, as one of the “senior” KDOT employees, I offer some lessons or observations as you all work to build your legacy.

◆ You are your own best critic. Know your skills and weaknesses, and don’t waste a lot of time trying to be something you are not.

◆ In order to advance your legacy, you need to be tolerant, respectful and realize that every person’s skills, talents and responsibilities are different than your own. We are individuals – not clones, thank goodness, for the world can only use one of me or you.

◆ Take advantage of lessons learned by yourself or others. History has a way of repeating itself. Mistakes made in the past need not be mistakes committed today or tomorrow.

Speaking of history, one thing is certain - our agency continues to change. For example, the State Highway Commission (SHC) was created in 1917, and it was bogged down with politics and lack of direction for the next several years. Things came together in 1929 when the SHC took over the responsibility of the State Highway System.

It also had a commissioner in each district until 1975 when Senate Bill 39 replaced the SHC with the Kansas Department of Transportation. This bill abolished the SHC, created a 12-member advisory commission and directed the Governor to appoint the Secretary.

This is KDOT as we know it today, a multi-modal agency involved in rail, aviation and public transit and that’s also responsible for nearly 10,000 miles of highways. These years, in essence, a lifetime, illustrate how much change can occur. The magnitude of that change can and will affect our lives, so we must be able to adjust to it.

When history is written tomorrow, will your legacy complement KDOT? Was the agency greater because of your toil? Time will tell, and so will history.

Chriss McDiffett is the District Three Engineer.

Welcome new KDOT employees!

Vicki Stanley, Public Service Administrator II, Construction and Maintenance
District One – Northeast
Floyd Adams, Equipment Operator Specialist, Shawnee
District Two – Northcentral
Alvin Unrein, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Service Technician Senior, Salina
District Three – Northwest
Christina Schamberger, Administrative Specialist, Norton
District Four – Southeast
Joseph Carr, Mechanic, Iola
Fred Vieth, Mechanic, Independence
District Five – Southcentral
Amy Dutcher, Administrative Assistant, El Dorado
Stephen Mazouch, Engineering Associate I, Great Bend

Headquarters
Michael Huettich, Systems Software Analyst III, Computer Services
KDOT Computer Training
– from the KCTC

CLASSES ARE ON THE CALENDAR AT ESOB

Increase your efficiency!
January is dedicated to KDOT’s most requested classes - Excel and Access. Misty Rodriguez will train several classes in Districts Three through Six from late January to mid-April. During this time there will be weeks when Misty is teaching at the ESOB. Please check the KCTC shared calendar for dates.

DID YOU KNOW?

Tips & Tricks:
♦ Did you know you can make reused PowerPoint presentations look current? To show the current Date and Time click Insert, Date and Time. When the Header and Footer dialog box appears, click the Slide tab. Date and time should be checked. Click the Update automatically button. Underneath Update automatically, click the pull-down to choose your desired date and time format. If you wish, check Don’t show on title slide to prevent the date and time from appearing on the title slide. Click Apply to All. The date and time will update whenever you reload the PowerPoint document or start a slide show.
♦ Did you know in PowerPoint you can hide a particular slide from the audience? Perhaps a slide is not complete. Or, a slide may not relate to a particular audience. To hide a slide from the slide show without deleting it from the presentation file, select the desired slide and then choose Slide Show, Hide Slide.
(Tips from Computer Services.)

Enroll by e-mail kctc@ksdot.org or call Ingrid Vandervort 785-296-8993. Questions are welcome! Supervisor’s approval to enroll is necessary.

Step Back in Time

Workers pave a section of US-73 in northeast Kansas in 1949.

Orange Hero
Continued from page 4

Ingram accepted the award on behalf of Planning’s detailed and quick preparation of materials needed for the county-by-county meetings.
♦ Lighting up Atwood – Eric Oelschlager, Area Engineer at Atwood. Oelschlager took the lead to have an aircraft warning light installed on the top of KDOT’s radio antenna adjacent to the Rawlins County Health Center helipad.
♦ The Westar Warrior – Wayne Gudmonson, Area Engineer at Independence. Gudmonson met with Westar representatives in the middle of the night at their request to obtain KDOT materials helping them deal with the aftermath of a storm. The materials were later replaced, but the quick action by Gudmonson allowed Westar to restore power much faster.
♦ A First-Rate Record – Cindy Wade, Computer Services, and Becky Klenklen-Welsh, Materials and Research. The two took the lead in organizing a Records and Workflow presentation which many city and county employees attended. The employees learned about records and workflow technology to help them implement their own systems.
♦ The Turn Back Titan – Kevin Zimmer, Area Engineer at Hays. Zimmer worked with Russell and Ellis counties in order to get miles removed from the state highway system. The counties accepted the roads and KDOT provided millings to them in return. The win-win situation allowed the state to save money by eliminating miles and the locals were able to purchase two new trucks with money they saved on millings.

Do you know someone at KDOT that represents the agency in a positive light, accepts additional responsibilities, fosters good partnerships or develops a new approach to enhance efficiency? If so, nominate them for a 2007 Orange Hero award. Nominations and supporting information can be sent electronically to Steve Swartz in Transportation Information at stevesw@ksdot.org or by calling 785 296-3585. – S.W.
Fun Facts and Trivia

Do you know?

Kansas - As big as you think (part two)

Big Rocks - Rock City in Minneapolis has more than 200 giant sandstone concretions (large round rocks), some as large as a house, on view in a field as large as two-football fields. It’s now a designated National Landmark.

Big Shovel - The second largest electric coal shovel in the world can be found at West Mineral. Big Brutus, as it’s fondly called, sits in the heart of former coal mining region of Kansas.

Big Reserves - The area of Hugoton holds the largest gas field in North America - five times bigger than the state of Rhode Island. The Hugoton gas field also has the world’s largest reserve of helium.

Big Salt - Hutchinson is home to the largest salt deposit in the world. It’s 100 miles long by 40 miles wide and 600 to 1,000 feet below the surface of the earth.

Big Well - The world’s largest hand-dug well in Greensburg was completed in 1888. At 109 feet deep and 32 feet in diameter, the city of Greensburg used it for its public water supply until 1932.

Roadside safety

Seitz is the chairman of this committee that focuses on roadside safety in areas such as clear zones, guard rails, barriers and crash testing. Members from around the world serve on the committee, Seitz said.

“The committee sets the direction for research in an effort to make our roadsides safer and reduce fatalities and serious injuries along those roadways,” he said.

Some of the recent problem statements developed by the committee and being discussed at the meeting for future research include addressing design issues with cable barriers, long-term accident data collection, in-service evaluation of roadside safety features, and safe placement of trees and landscape elements along urban and suburban roads.

“Roadside safety is a fairly new area of research, having only begun in the late 1960s, and is still an evolving field,” Seitz said.

“We’ve seen a lot of roadside safety improvements that were initiated by this committee, but there is a lot of work yet to be done.”

Several KDOT employees will be presenting research on various topics at the TRB meeting. The meeting covers all transportation modes, with more than 2,800 presentations in 500 sessions. The theme for 2007 is “Transportation Institutions, Finance, and Workforce: Meeting the Needs of the 21st Century.” For more information, go to the Web site at www.trb.org.

Retirees

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT on Jan. 1.

Headquarters

District One
Ken Massingill, Area Engineer at Horton – 37 ½ years of state service.

KDOT Disaster Recovery Team members conduct a table top exercise Nov. 13 at the Eisenhower State Office Building. The team discussed strategies how KDOT would function if an incident occurred at ESOB. The exercise followed an emergency evacuation drill. In the event of an emergency, including weather-related emergencies, ESOB employees can receive up-to-date information and instructions by calling the Headquarters Disaster Recovery Hot-Line (785-368-8200). Photo by Sonya Scheuneman
**Transportation Briefs**

**Crow honored by ARTBA**

Mike Crow, KDOT Director of Operations, was honored as a recipient of the 2006 American Road & Transportation Builders Association’s (ARTBA) “Jake Landen Memorial Safety Award.”

The award is given in memory of past ARTBA Chairman J.C. Landen and it recognizes outstanding contributions to highway safety.

Crow has been with KDOT for 34 years and has spent much of that time promoting safety through his work at the agency as well as with various state and national committees.

“When your peers pick you to receive an award like this, it’s quite an honor,” Crow said.

Two people are selected by ARTBA each year from the public and private sector. Jim Ahern, president of Ahern and Associates, a roadway construction firm headquartered in South Charleston, W.Va., was also recognized.

**Dam Safety Act passed**

Passage of the Dam Safety Act of 2006 will help to protect the public from the increasing number of deficient and high hazard dams.

Since 1998, the number of high-hazard dams in the United States has increased by more than 900 (to 10,213), and the number of unsafe dams has increased by 1,370 (to more than 3,500).

By 2020, the majority of U.S. dams will be more than 50 years old and beyond their design life. -Midwest Contractor, Nov. 13, 2006

**T-REX is on track**

Denver officials hope that the long commuter troubles on the city’s southeast corridor - an area through which 230,000 vehicles pass each day - are finally over. After more than seven years of planning and construction, the Transportation Expansion (T-REX) Project, a $1.67 billion combination of light-rail lines and highway expansion, opened last November. T-REX is part of Denver’s answer to a problem affecting many major cities: traffic congestion.

The project involved 17 miles of highway improvements along Interstates 25 and 225, from adding extra lanes to completely redesigning certain interchanges. At the same time, 13 new light-rail stations were built, along with a 125,000-square-foot facility for maintaining 34 new light-rail vehicles. About 19 miles of new track connects the stations, some of which were made with 7,000 tons of steel recycled from the old Mile High Stadium. -American City & County, November 2006

**Technology helps keep wildlife, motorists apart**

America’s wildlife and drivers are killing each other on the nation’s highways, but high-tech applications are being used to find ways to keep them apart.

Solar-powered Intelligent Transportation System technologies like sensors and programmable controllers, which detect animals near roadways, are being tested in the United States and Canada. Those same technologies are also being used to track wildlife usage of critter crossings such as highway overpasses and underpasses for animals.

Out of an overall 6.3 million crashes resulting in 2.9 million injuries and 42,884 fatalities in 2003, 315,000 (5 percent of the total) involved wildlife and vehicles. These resulted in 10,000 injuries and and 200 fatalities. -Better Roads, November 2006

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**MILESTONES**

**KDOT salutes its employees celebrating anniversaries in December**

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*denotes state service anniversary

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**Kudos to KDOT employees**

Brandon Espinosa and Ron Feldkamp, employees in the Bureau of Design Survey Section, recently passed the Fundamentals of Land Surveying Examination. They now hold a certificate as Intern Land Surveyors.
imposing a $60 fine.

“Kansas ranks 43rd in the nation in seat belt usage with a rate of only 69 percent,” said Darlene Whitlock, co-chair of The Driving Force. “Last year, there were 428 fatalities on Kansas roadways and 76 percent of those killed were not wearing safety belts. A primary safety belt law could definitely help save lives.”

Studies have found that states average an 11 to 15 percent increase in usage after primary safety belt laws have been passed. Also, states with a primary safety belt law average an 85 percent usage.

Another recommendation was made to pass legislation strengthening the Kansas graduated driver’s licensing system. An improved system was cited as being important since motor vehicle crashes in the U.S. are the leading causes of death for youth between the ages of 16-20.

“A graduated licensing system would phase in young drivers to full license, allowing them time to mature and develop driving skills,” said Secretary Deb Miller. “Studies have also shown nighttime and passenger restrictions are measures that can be taken as safety enhancements.”

Safety improvements are imperative in Kansas because fatalities and injuries on roadways are of epidemic proportions. Besides 428 fatalities last year, another 2,000 people suffered disabling injuries and some 23,000 suffered other injuries.

The Driving Force is a part of Kansas’ Safer Driving, Safer Roads campaign. The purpose of this campaign is to inform and change driver attitudes and behavior to create a safer environment for all. The Safer Driving, Safer Roads campaign is being led in a unique cross-agency endeavor by KDOT, the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

NOTE: This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, Kan., 66603-3754, or phone (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/(TTY).