

Translines



Governor signs T-WORKS bill

See pages 4-6

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- ◆ Small Kansas contractor reaping benefits of ARRA
- ◆ Expediting K-18 project a team effort
- ◆ Two routes set for intercity bus service



By Secretary Deb Miller

T-WORKS is reason to smile

I'm walking around a lot these days with a smile on my face.

It's been that way since May 11 when the Legislature passed the 10-year transportation program T-WORKS. And I keep smiling because of the great things this will allow us to do for Kansas: preserve our top-ranked highway system, make needed safety improvements, allow the state to invest strategically in economic opportunities, and support non-highway modes.

Just as importantly, it will create or sustain an estimated 60,000 construction jobs and 175,000 total jobs throughout the Kansas economy.

It wasn't easy to get the T-WORKS bill passed; legislation this big and complex never is. But the fact that it passed in this tough but improving economic climate makes the accomplishment even more exceptional.

I am so grateful for the leadership of Governor Parkinson, who may have been the staunchest advocate for a new program. And I'm equally grateful to the majority of the Legislature who not only supported the transportation bill, but also voted for the all-important revenue bill, which provides the key funding. Many of those legislators cast their votes knowing they were putting their political careers on the line. But they put those concerns aside and voted to

move the state and our economy forward.

We began building a case for this transportation program in 2003. That's when we initiated the Partnership Project and really got serious about examining our own agency. We had to ask ourselves whether we were operating in a way that both served the state and gave Kansans confidence that we could administer big programs.

Of course, we had successfully completed one program and were in the midst of a second. But we were going to need a different approach for a third program. The CHP and CTP were appropriate for the time and condition of our system. But we had evolved to the point where we needed to be more strategic about how we invested. And we didn't allow ourselves to fall into the trap of thinking the same approach would guarantee future success.

From using economic analysis and local consultation when selecting projects, to using practical improvement approaches to stretch our dollars, there's an expectation that T-WORKS won't be business as usual at KDOT. Through the Partnership Project, the Long-Range Transportation Plan and T-LINK (the Governor's transportation task force), Kansans and legislators expect KDOT to deliver the best set of projects within a given budget in a collaborative and flexible way.

Of course, the T-WORKS package wasn't without detractors. There were those who thought that because our road system was in good shape now, we could get by without a new program. Others simply thought that the best way for the state to grow was to cut services. I guarantee you that had such thinking prevailed, we would have discovered just how quickly infrastructure can deteriorate if not properly maintained.

We wouldn't be where we are right now without your hard work, and I want you to know how much I appreciate it. We've built strong credibility across the state – one interaction at a time – and that credibility is central to our success. A new program, especially at this time, wouldn't be possible if citizens and legislators didn't have high trust and respect for KDOT and the work we do every day.

That's something to feel good about and I hope it puts a smile on your face, too.

See related story on pages 4-6.



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Calendar of Events

- July 5** - State employees off for Independence Day.
- July 8** - 11 a.m., KDOT employees' Council Meeting, Third Floor, Eisenhower State Office Building.
- July 9** - 9:30 a.m., Highway Advisory Comm. meeting.
- July 21** - 1 p.m., Construction bid letting, Fourth Floor, West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.

Recycled phones benefit schools, students

By Kristen Brands
District Three Public
Affairs Manager

Shutting off phone service to 80 state cellular phones means 15 school buses that transport students to and from Stockton's school system every day now have 911 technology.

In a cost-savings move, District Three Maintenance Engineer Michael Terry made the switch from Alltel/Verizon to local cell phone service provider Nex-Tech – based in Lenora. “We were required to switch to a government contract and Nex-Tech provided free phone replacement plus an expanded service territory,” said Terry. “Construction Engineer John Riggins suggested that we consider giving the old phones to some of our local schools – he explained that a disconnected phone always has the capability to call 911.”

Nex-Tech CSA/Receptionist Donna Nelson concurs, even if a cell phone's



These old phones will help schools in District Three in many ways.

service has been discontinued – a 911 call is never denied by a communications tower. “A cell phone without service is still able to dial 911, because the tower always detects those calls,” she said. “The phone does, however, have to be charged in order to do so.”

Riggins put his plan into action, calling several local schools within the District. Sacred Heart Principal Carol Parker appreciated the call from Riggins.

“At this time, the only communication the annexed buildings have with the main building is by use of a walkie-talkie,” Parker said. “So, having a cell phone, which could potentially reach the outside world in case of emergency, is really nice.”

Sacred Heart School, along with Plainville Elementary, will further benefit from KDOT's old equipment as they will recycle the remainder of the old cell phones as part of a fundraising program. “We take part in the national

Cartridges for Kids program,

which recycles everything from cell phones to lap tops to old ink cartridges for money,” Parker said. “We make anywhere from 10 cents to \$10 per item, which goes back into our technology fund.”

Superintendent of Stockton Schools Allaire Homborg agrees. “Recycling these phones has provided a safety benefit for our students.”

KDOT preservation program back on track

Eighty-four preservation projects totaling \$86.5 million that were suspended in March due to budget cuts are back on track thanks to passage of the comprehensive transportation program T-WORKS.

The \$8.2 billion program was recently passed by the 2010 Kansas Legislature. One major T-WORKS component was highway preservation where \$4.6 billion will go toward ensuring every mile of Kansas highway will receive preservation work during the 10-year program.

“I couldn't be more pleased that we

are able to get our preservation program back on track,” said Secretary Deb Miller. “At the beginning of the year we had planned to do 1,600 miles of preservation work, but that number was reduced to 700 because of budget cuts. Now we will be able to address those important needs.”

KDOT rescheduled 70 of the suspended projects in its June bid letting. Bids will be accepted on 10 more of the projects before the end of the year and the remaining four will be let in 2011.

Before passage of T-WORKS, the agency had seen \$257 million cut from

On the... COVER

Gov. Mark Parkinson signs the T-WORKS bill in Topeka on May 27 while accompanied by Secretary Deb Miller, left, Lt. Gov. Troy Findley, right, and numerous KDOT workers and contractor employees. For more on T-WORKS, see pages 4-6.

its 2010 budget. The result was much smaller bid lettings, such as in April with nine projects and May with eight.

“The construction industry has been suffering because of the recession,” said Miller. “T-WORKS will help boost the economy by creating thousands of jobs for both contractors and suppliers.”

A list of the rescheduled projects are on KDOT's web site at www.ksdot.org under Recent News Releases. – S.W.

New era begins for Kansas transportation



Secretary Deb Miller tells attendees at the Topeka T-WORKS bill signing about the many benefits of the new transportation program.

The Kansas economy got a boost as Gov. Mark Parkinson signed legislation establishing the Transportation Works for Kansas (T-WORKS) Program on May 27. To highlight the impact the bill will have around the state, the Governor signed the legislation alongside Secretary Deb Miller, state legislators and Kansas workers in Topeka and Pittsburg, then in Kansas City and Wichita on May 28.

“This bill isn’t only about the miles of road, rail or runway – it’s about putting Kansans back to work. While other states are letting these important investments fall by the wayside, Kansas is producing results – a bipartisan solution that gets people working again and truly grows our economy,” said Gov. Parkinson. “In addition to the tens of thousands of jobs this plan will create, it also invests resources into every county in Kansas, furthering our ability to attract new companies and new jobs to our state through a strong infrastructure system.”

“T-WORKS is beneficial for the safety of Kansans and for the sake of the Kansas economy,” said Secretary Miller. “It will create jobs through a fiscally sound, common sense approach and protect Kansans’ investment in our transportation system. With the passage of T-WORKS, Kansas continues on the road to recovery.”



With this legislation...

- ♦ Every mile of state highway will receive some preservation work.
- ♦ Transit, aviation and rail projects will also be provided around the state.
- ♦ The state will continue to modernize the system by adding shoulders, straightening curves, flattening hills and improving intersections. These projects improve safety across the state.
- ♦ The 20-year investment Kansans have made in their infrastructure will be preserved.



Gov. Mark Parkinson outlines the positive economic impact of the T-WORKS program in Wichita and across the state while at the T-WORKS bill signing event in Wichita on May 28. In the background is the soon-to-be completed Wichita Transit repair facility, a Recovery Act project.

T-WORKS

See related story on page 2

From left, Jay Taft, Monarch Cement in Humboldt; Jay O'Brien, O'Brien Ready Mix in St. Paul; and Corky Beachner, Beachner Construction Company in St. Paul, discuss T-WORKS at the Pittsburg event.



T-WORKS program focuses on jobs, all modes of transportation

By Steve Swartz

T-WORKS, the comprehensive transportation program passed by the 2010 Kansas Legislature, will not only preserve and improve the state's transportation system, it will create tens of thousands of jobs.

The \$8.2 billion T-WORKS program includes \$2.7 billion in new revenues during the 10-year plan. The new revenues will come from increased registration fees for heavy trucks, additional bonding authority for KDOT and a sales tax deposit that takes effect in 2013.

It is estimated that T-WORKS will create or sustain 175,000 jobs in Kansas over the next 10 years. The program passed by the Legislature provides 100 percent, or \$4.5 billion, of the highway preservation funding recommended by T-LINK, the governor's transportation task force, ensuring that every mile of Kansas highway will see some preservation work. It also sets aside \$1.7 billion in new construction funds.

T-WORKS also provides \$6 million a year for public transit services, which increases to \$11 million a year in 2013, and \$3 million a year in aviation funding, which increases to \$5 million in 2013. The bill requires that KDOT spend a minimum of \$8 million in each county in Kansas during the course of the program.

The bill gives KDOT the authority to manage debt under a debt service cap of 18 percent. The cap ensures that the amount the State Highway Fund (SHF) owes in debt service in any given year does not exceed 18 percent of the expected SHF revenues.



City, county and state officials attend the T-WORKS bill signing event on May 28 at Kansas Speedway in Kansas City.

What will the program look like over the next 10 years

Category	T-WORKS (\$ millions)	% of T-LINK Recommended Program
Highway Preservation	\$4,626	100%
Transit - Increase from \$6M/year to \$11M/year beginning in 2013	100	56%
Aviation - Increase from \$3M/year to \$5M/year beginning in 2013	46	70%
Rail - Increase from \$0 to \$5M/per year beginning in 2013	40	48%
Special City County Highway Fund SCCHF receives 1/3 of all motor fuel taxes	1,628	85%
Remaining for Construction This would include KDOT Local Partnership Program, as well as Highway Expansion and Modernization projects	1,773	39%
TOTAL Program	\$8,213	71%

← T-WORKS →



Attendees at the event in Pittsburg pose for a picture after the bill signing.

Sources of revenue over the next 10 years

Revenue from Existing Sources	\$5,486 (in millions)
<i>Available for Construction, SCCHF, & Modes</i>	
New Revenues from HB 2650 and 2360	
\$100 increase in Heavy Truck Registration*	131
0.4% increase in State Sales Tax Deposit**	1,536
\$1.7 billion in Bonds Issued	1,060
Total New Revenue	\$2,727
Total Revenue Available	\$8,213
<i>Available for Construction, SCCHF, & Modes</i>	

* The registration fee increase begins in 2013 and includes heavy duty trucks. It does not include cars and light-duty pickup trucks, antique cars or motorcycles.
 ** The increase in the State Sales Tax Deposit begins in 2013



Gov. Mark Parkinson speaks to the media in Topeka after the event.



Above, Rep. Margaret Long speaks at the Kansas City T-WORKS bill signing with Secretary Deb Miller, left, and Gov. Mark Parkinson, right, along with various industry workers. At right, Gov. Parkinson discusses what the program will mean for KDOT and private contractors in the highway construction industry at the Wichita event.





From left to right, Rep. Gary Hayzlett, chairman of the House Transportation Committee; Lt. Gov. Troy Findley; Sen. Tim Owens, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee; K-State artist Brian Bookwalter; and Erica Bell, a Topeka student who was involved in an accident while texting, all speak on the dangers of texting and driving at a news conference at the Capitol on April 27. The bill banning texting and driving was passed by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Mark Parkinson on May 24.

Safety takes front seat on roadways

By Kim Stich

Improving safety on Kansas roadways took a front seat in the Kansas Legislature this session with passage of two bills - the primary seat belt bill (House Bill 2130) and the no texting and driving bill (Senate Bill 300).

The first bill amends state law to require every occupant of a passenger car manufactured with safety belts to wear a safety belt. The bill also allows a law enforcement officer to stop a passenger car for a violation of safety belt requirements by anyone in the front seat and by anyone under age 18. The fine will be \$5 for the first year and \$10 for the second year.

The state will also benefit from an \$11.2 million federal grant and an annual appropriation of nearly a half million dollars for passing a primary seat

belt law.

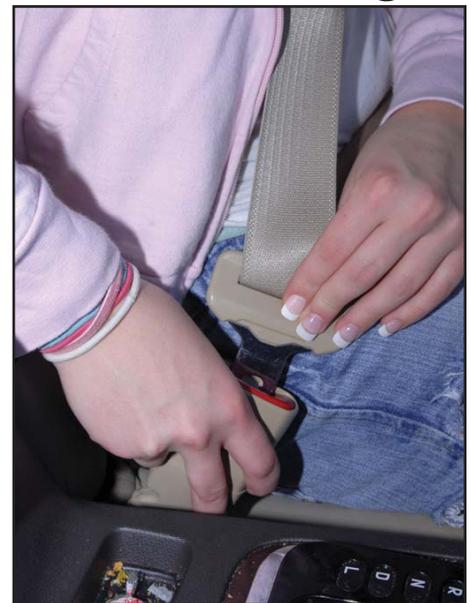
Gov. Mark Parkinson signed the bill into law on May 27 and it took effect upon publication in the Kansas Register approximately one week later.

“The passage of a primary seat belt law will decrease the number of people seriously injured and killed on Kansas roadways as more people buckle up, every trip, every time,” said KDOT Traffic Safety Manager Pete Bodyk.

The second bill, SB 300, prohibits a person who is operating a motor vehicle on a public road or highway from texting - using a wireless communications device to write, send or read a written communication. Law enforcement officers would be required to issue a warning citation for violation until Jan. 1, 2011. The fine for unlawful text messaging will then be \$60.



The posters at the no texting and driving news conference stressed the need for safety.



Kansas now has a primary seat belt law - Gov. Mark Parkinson signed the bill on May 27.

“All distractions while driving are dangerous, but the phenomenon of texting while driving has increased dramatically in recent years,” he said. “Outlawing and vigorously enforcing this new law will help to increase safety for all people traveling on Kansas roadways.”

Small Kansas contractor reaping benefits of ARRA

By Stan Whitley

A small Kansas construction company has reaped big benefits thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment (ARRA) Act of 2009.

L&M Contractors of Great Bend is getting a piece of the \$33.2 million share designated for city and county projects through KDOT's Bureau of Local Projects. The company, which specializes in bridge construction mostly in the western two-thirds of Kansas, was selected for three ARRA projects.

"The ARRA funding came at just the right time and it's definitely been beneficial for our company," said L&M Vice President Curt Mauler. "We needed the work because we were in the middle of a slack period."

The projects include a \$420,000 bridge replacement in Comanche County, a \$393,267 bridge replacement in Saline County and a \$292,272 bridge replacement in Barber County. The Comanche County and Saline County projects are already finished and

the Barber County project is expected to be completed by the end of June.

"We hired several people for the additional work load, but what ARRA did that was really helpful is it allowed people to keep their jobs," said Mauler. "I'm grateful we didn't have to eliminate jobs when our work load was down."

KDOT sought applications from local units of government to share in the city and county projects. Engineers from each of KDOT's six districts evaluated and selected the local projects following specified criteria, such as job creation, whether the project was in an economically distressed area and whether it could be completed within three years.

All three of the projects that were awarded to L&M were in economically distressed areas.



L&M Contractors are constructing a new bridge in Barber County, one of three ARRA projects secured by the Kansas company.



A total of 79 local projects were selected by KDOT. In addition, ARRA required that cities with a population over 200,000 receive local funding for projects selected by their metropolitan planning organizations (MPO). The Kansas City and Wichita MPO's selected 31 projects totaling \$38.2 million.

Deaths

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

Stephen Yarnell, 63, an employee at KDOT for 23 years, passed away June 3 in Chanute. He is survived by his wife, Sandra, one daughter, one son, his father, two brothers and one sister.

Memorials in his name may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or Wilson County Rural Fire Department and may be left with the Penwell-Gabel Gibson Chapel, 16 N. Forest, Chanute, 66720

Edward J. Leonard, 79, died Feb. 18 in Topeka. Leonard worked for the KDOT as an engineer technician from 1957 until his retirement in

1991.

He is survived by his wife, LeAnne, two sons, four daughters, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Memorials are suggested to St. Bernard's Church Building Fund, or to the Wamego Public Library, and may be left in care of the Stewart Funeral Home, PO Box 48, 66547.

Welcome new KDOT employees!

Headquarters

Amal Abo-Basha, Engineering Associate I in Rotational Training, Topeka
Jeff Beard, Engineering Associate I in Rotational Training, Topeka
Benjamin Cleebes, Budget Chief, Office of the Budget
Colin Douthit, Engineering Associate I in Rotational Training, Topeka
Ivery Goldstein, Attorney II, Chief Counsel
Lucy Munz, Engineering Associate I in Rotational Training, Topeka
Thomas Rhoads, Engineering Associate I in Rotational Training, Topeka
Caryn Woods, Research Analyst III, Transportation Safety and Technology
The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information for new employees to Translines.

This issue of Translines...

With so many activities at the end of May or early June, the Bureau of Transportation Information decided to delay the June edition and combine it with the July edition.

This allows us to include stories on several very important events such as the signing of the 10-year transportation plan, T-WORKS, the signing of the seat belt bill and the no texting bill and K-18 topics such as the groundbreaking ceremony and the Employee Recognition award.

The next edition of Translines will be in August.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

E-mail sent to KDOT's Welcome Center Contact Page

Dear KDOT:

Thank you for having wi-fi at your Beaumont rest area on Highway 400. Yesterday evening I was coming through the area during the horrible storms. I was able to connect to your service with my laptop and know that I needed to stop and stay at the rest area until the storms passed. I was so grateful for the service and the peace of mind it gave me to be able to watch the weather and know I was in a safe spot. My husband, who was home in Sterling, was happy too as he had been warning me of the approaching storms but then our cell phones stopped working.

So again thank you and I will hope that eventually all of the rest areas will have this great service.

Dear Deb Miller,

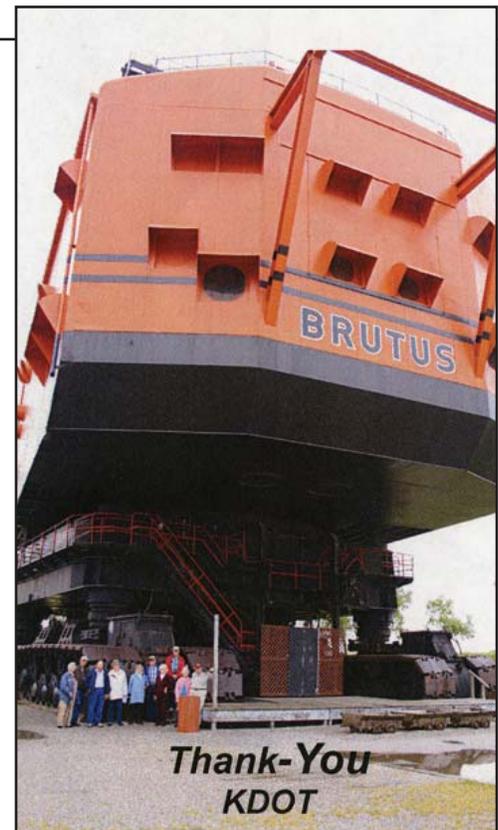
I just wanted to pass along a big thank you for the excellent rest stop facilities on our state highway. Our family always uses them on any trips we take. They are clean, multiple stalls, interesting information, nice for picnics, etc.

With my job, I do bus trips for senior citizens and I have been stopping at the rest stops for breaks with the seniors. Let me tell you, they love them! They are all so very nice and clean!

Pass along this good work to your staff.

Thanks again,
Becki Yoder
Moundridge

P.S. The picture is of our group at Big Brutus



K-18 to link Kansas' economic opportunities

OGDEN – The last major Kansas highway project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 officially got under way on June 2 at a ceremony along K-18.

The \$64.9 million project, which will include an interchange, four bridges, a four-lane freeway over a two-mile stretch and more, is needed to support the significant population and economic growth that will occur between Fort Riley and Manhattan. Fort Riley continues

to see significant population growth as thousands of soldiers, families and workers locate to the area. Manhattan also is expecting exponential growth due to Kansas State University being chosen as the new home of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF). The project also will provide a new connection to Manhattan Regional Airport.

“This is another great day for Kansas as we prepare for our future opportunities with the expansion of Fort Riley



Secretary Deb Miller, left, and other dignitaries watch as Gov. Mark Parkinson unveils the sign for the K-18 project, which is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

and the construction of NBAF,” said Gov. Mark Parkinson. “This key infrastructure project not only immediately creates jobs, but allows us to attract new companies to the region, yielding long-term economic benefits for years to come.”

The project includes relocation of about two miles of Union Pacific Railroad track, flood control measures at Ogden and utility relocation. Sema Construction Inc. of Centennial, Colo.,

submitted the low bid for the project and is the prime contractor.

“This is an important project on a corridor that will experience significant growth in the coming years. It will create jobs now and support economic growth for decades,” said Secretary Deb Miller.

“Without Recovery Act funding, we couldn’t have done this project in the foreseeable future.”

This project – Phase I – will cover two-miles of the seven-mile K-18 cor-

ridor between Fort Riley and Manhattan. Phases II and III will complete the corridor improvement, but no funds are currently available for the final phases. Estimated cost of all three phases is \$140 million.

In April, about 3,000 workers were employed on Recovery Act projects in Kansas. The payroll for the month was almost \$3.2 million. -S.S.



Peter Rombold, Special Counsel to the City of Ogden, discusses the importance of the K-18 project during a special ceremony on June 2.



Members of the K-18 Project Development Team pose with Secretary Deb Miller, second row in the middle, during a ceremony recognizing them as an Example of Excellence.

Expediting K-18 project a team effort

Efforts to finish project delivery for the K-18 freeway project from Ogden to Wildcat Creek Road have been on the fast track for the past year since the project was selected for Recovery Act funds in spring 2009.

For their efforts, the K-18 Project Development Team was recognized as an Example of Excellence for the first quarter of 2010. Secretary Deb Miller attended the event in Topeka on May 24.

“The effort over the past year to collect information, survey the corridor, design the plans, buy the right of way and move the utilities for these projects has been exceptional,” said Chief of Design Jim Kowach.

The project was a good example of partnering, Kowach said. “Effective coordination with the cities of Ogden and Manhattan, Riley County, Fort Riley, the Manhattan Airport, the Union Pacific Railroad, state and federal agencies, and all the residents, developers and business along the route was critical to delivering the project for letting within the time allowed,” he said.

Members of the K-18 Project Development Team include Spencer Appelhanz, Corky Armstrong, Carmen Bakarich, Brooke Balsters, Deb Barker, Steve Bass, Dustin Bradley, Kyle Branham, Jim Brennan, Jim Brewer, Cindy Broxterman, Steve Burnett, Don Campbell, Kelly Carlton, Neil Croxton, Al Davis, Mike Dillner, Kevin Endsley, Brandon Espinosa, Donna Falkenstien, Ron Feldkamp, Eric Finney, Mike Fletcher, Mike Floberg, Thad Fowler, Jeff Geist, Michele Gies, Andy Gisi, Brian Gower, Darrell Gwaltney, Heather Hall, Jerry Haug, Bill Haverkamp, Bruce Haverkamp, Shawn Hennes, Brad Henry,

Jeff Henry, Bob Henthorne, Blair Heptig, Rob Herman, Chris Hess, Ruby Hilton, Lee Holmes, Virginia Holthaus, Shane Houser, Morris Hunt, Ken Hurst, Andy Jenkins, Corey Jennings, Vicky Johnson, David Katt, Mark Karolevitz, Marsha King, Steve Kooser, Rex Kraus, Cheryl Lambrecht, Michelle Laroche, Lee Ann Legge, Matt Mackeprang, Travis Malone, Gale Martin, Ray Mehl, Luke Metheny, Chris Meyer, James Morrissey, David Moore, Larry Moore, Charlene Morris, Billy Morgan, David Nagy, Anita Oliver, Brenda Perry, Sherri Perry,

Karen Peterson, Jim Peterson, JoAnn Phillips, Kimberly Qualls, Delbert Ramsey, David Reamer, Cotton Rethman, Abe Rezayazdi, Loren Risch, Brad Rognlie, Jeff Ruby, Dan Scherschligt, David Schwartz, Shawn Schwensen, Scott Shields, Rob Selley, Chris Smith, Mitch Sothers, Judy Sprout, Debbie Tanking, Holly Taylor, Pam Tennison, Sandy Tommer, Nat Velasquez, Scott Vogel, Travis Warner, Josh Welge, Deallon Wildeman, Richard Wiley and Jerry Younger.

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.

The award is given quarterly with nominations for the second quarter due to Transportation Information by June 30. The deadline for the next quarter is Sept. 30. - *K.S.*

KDOT
Employee
Recognition
PROGRAM

District News...

Gateway study honored

The Johnson County Gateway: I-435/I-35/K-10 interchange study, communications and public outreach program, including the study website, www.jocogateway.com, has been honored by the Kansas City Chapters of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) and the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC).

The two awards given were the 2009 PRSA Silver award in the Internet Communications category and the 2010 IABC Bronze Quill award for Communications Management Division, Issues Management and Crisis Communications Programs Category. Kimberly Qualls, District One Public Affairs Manager, Robyn Arthur, Public Involvement Manager from HNTB and Sturges Word Communications received the awards.

District One

The Johnson County Gateway study will develop concepts to address traffic volumes, congestion, interchange pavement condition, access issues and safety on the interstates, ramps and side streets in the area. It includes two highway-to-highway interchanges, seven highway-to-local road interchanges and the mainline for K-10, I-435 and I-35 near the interchanges. The study is scheduled to be completed in late 2010.

Group provides insight

Members of the Peabody community met May 11 at the Peabody Elementary School to offer their perspective of passing lanes on U.S. 50.

District Two

The focus group in Peabody, along with a focus group on May 4 in Emporia, provided valuable information about the 100-mile corridor of U.S. 50 being studied. The purpose of the study is to gain a deeper level of understanding on the needs and expectations of passing lanes from those



Two hydraulic hammers and a wrecking ball brought down the eastbound 47th Street bridge over I-135 in south Wichita the night of April 13. A cushion of sand and wood chips was placed on the Interstate and traffic to and from the KTA toll plaza was detoured around the demolition area. Photo by Dean Hess

who travel U.S. 50 on a regular basis. In addition to the focus groups, the study includes an online survey, available on the KTOC website, and individual interviews with professional truck drivers.

While there is no funding currently available for improvements along U.S. 50, this input helps KDOT prioritize improvements as funding becomes available.

ARRA project progresses

Reconstruction of the west U.S. 183/U. S. 36 intersection in Phillipsburg has moved into its second phase as traffic has been switched to the newly completed westbound U.S. 36 lanes.

The job began on April 1 to rebuild the intersection with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds.

The first phase consisted of detouring U.S. 183 traffic one block west of the intersection onto First and F Streets in Phillipsburg.

District Three

“Now that the first phase of construction is complete, drivers are using

the newly constructed westbound lanes and the contractors are working on the eastbound lanes,” said Area One Construction Engineer Jim Riener.

Prime contracting firm Smoky Hill L.L.C. of Salina oversees the \$464,855 project.

Buildings improved

KDOT staff at the District Four Administrative Office in Chanute can put away their space heaters and window fans, thanks to a new climate control system.

The new system uses forced heating and air conditioning. It replaced a boiler-based operation that took several uncomfortable days to change over from heating to cooling and vice versa. A-1 Electric of Chanute began taking out the boiler and installing the new system apparatus in mid-March, finishing the work in early May. To help speed the process and avoid the noise and dust,

District Four

Continued on page 13

District News

Continued from page

most of the employees relocated to temporary quarters in the south building on the district complex.

All of the old heating/cooling registers have been removed, freeing up more office space. Other enhancements include a new hot water tank, bright and attractive fluorescent hallway lighting and some new electric wiring.

Detours in Wichita

Two major projects in the Wichita Metro have motorists using alternate strategies to get from Point A to Point B. At the I-135 and U.S. 54/400 interchange, ramps from I-135 to Kellogg Avenue (U.S. 54/400) are closed as they are rebuilt as two-lane ramps. Repairs to existing bridges on the ramps are also being completed. This navigation

District Five

challenge comes on the heels of last year's work at the interchange when ramps were rebuilt from Kellogg

to I-135 (with six-month ramp closures).

The second is the I-135 at 47th Street South project. While all highways and turning movements are available as the interchange is reconstructed, it is not without its challenges.

The project at Kellogg will wrap up in October but the 47th Street project

includes the construction of four bridges and three phases of street construction pushing the completion date into late-2011. Adding more navigation challenges are the 13 Recovery Act local projects and an assortment of other city and county projects that have drivers seeing orange as they go from Point A via a couple of detours, to Point B.

U.S. 50 paving begins

A major project in District Six - work on U.S. 50 - has begun paving as scheduled. The project's final completion date is estimated to be July of 2011.

The project consists of two parts:

- 1) Determine a location and design concept for making U.S. 50 a four-lane, access-controlled highway from the Kearny/Finney county line east to just east of the west junction with U.S. 83.
- 2) Based on the location and design concept, design and build four lanes with controlled access from about one mile west of Holcomb east to Third Street, including the U.S. 83 junction.

District Six

The improvements will increase the capacity of U.S. 50 and provide efficient travel and safe access to the highway at appropriate locations. The project should address current needs while providing for projected increases in traffic volume in the future.



Paving takes place along U.S. 50 in Finney County. Photo by Calvin Carter

KDOT Computer Training

– from the KCTC

Increase your efficiency!

Focus: KGATE

♦What is KGATE?

KGATE is a web data portal maintained by KDOT. Through this portal you can access many kinds of information in multiple formats such as maps, photos and written reports. Originally this application was created to give KDOT employees a powerful tool to share geospatially enabled, attribute packed data.

♦Where does the data come from?

KGATE accesses data from many data stores. Data is provided by CANSYS, KARS, Data Warehouse, TerraShare, VideoLog, Document Management System, PMIS, Kanroad, and the Production CAD Server.

♦Why you would use KGATE?

- View maps
- View signage along highways
- View bridge clearances
- View shoulder widths
- View property access rights
- View aerial photographs
- View accident statistics
- Find congressional districts/ persons
- Create queries
- Generate and print reports

♦How will you learn to use KGATE?

The KCTC offers short instructor-led classes in ESOB. However, we want all of KDOT to learn to use this application even when classes may not be available. Karen Ellis is creating a 30-minute video through the Intranet. Look for an email with the KGATE training link in June.

Check out the shared calendar: KCTC for on-going classes. Contact the KCTC at kctc@ksdot.org or call Ingrid Vandervort 785-296-8993.

*Fun Facts
and Trivia*

Do you know?

Tornado safety tips

Determine your shelter ahead of time so you don't have to think about it when weather strikes.

In vehicles or mobile homes: Abandon them and go to a substantial structure or designated tornado shelter. Most deaths occur in cars or mobile homes.

If no suitable structure is nearby: Lie flat in a ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Be alert for flash floods.

In homes or small buildings: Go to the basement or to an interior room on the lowest floor (closet or bathroom). Upper floors are unsafe. If there is no time to descend, go to a closet, a small room with strong walls or an inside hallway. Stay away from windows and wrap yourself in overcoats or blankets to protect yourself from flying debris.

In general, remember to "DUCK" -

- ♦Down to the lowest level
- ♦Under something sturdy
- ♦Cover your head
- ♦Keep in the shelter until the storm has passed

From the National Weather Service, the Kansas Emergency Management Association and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management 2010 information packet



An interactive map, the brainchild of Kyle Schneweis, provides information on spending under the Comprehensive Transportation Program.

Interactive map details CTP spending and improvements

How beneficial was the Comprehensive Transportation Program for the citizens of Kansas? A couple of clicks on KDOT's website and you'll get the answer.

There's a valuable resource on the agency homepage that allows users easy access to information detailing the impact of the 10-year program which ended last year. Under Topics of Interest click on "See how and where your transportation tax dollars are spent" and you will have the information through a CTP interactive map.

"We do a good job of sharing information with the public, but it's often in a format that's hard to understand because of coding and technical terms," said Kyle Schneweis, former Chief of Governmental Affairs. He has since left KDOT to work for a private contractor. "The idea behind the interactive map was to have information readily available in a user friendly format for anyone to access."

When you click on the link you are

directed to the CTP accomplishments page. It details spending on preservation, modernization and expansion, funding for public transit, bike and pedestrian, aviation, rail and local roads during the course of the CTP. It also provides miles improved, bridges improved and number of projects.

There is a map on the page that outlines every county. You can find all the information detailed above by clicking on a county. Other options include obtaining the information by districts or just clicking on any number of counties you desire.

A chart at the bottom of the CTP accomplishments page provides demographic information for the state and similar information is provided when you go to each county.

The interactive map was the brainchild of Schneweis, who finds it a valuable tool when assisting legislators. He said the map helps with transparency by promoting accountability and providing information on how tax dollars are being spent. - S.W.



KDOT would like to recognize its employees who have returned home from military service. Employees are listed by district and their branch of service.

William Alexander, Equipment Operator Trainee, District One, Army

The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies military information to Translines.

Two routes set for intercity bus service

Prestige Bus Charters of Wichita and KDOT in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Transportation have signed an agreement to provide intercity bus service between Wichita and Pueblo, Colo.

In addition, a contract is expected to be signed soon between KDOT and Prestige to provide intercity bus service between Salina and Wichita.

“We are looking forward to partnering with KDOT and CDOT to provide affordable transportation options between Wichita, Pueblo and Salina,” said Dave Rockey, Chief Executive Officer of Prestige Charters.

Lisa Koch, Public Transit Manager, said service on both routes is expected to be operational by late summer.

“These two additional routes will connect with the national intercity bus route network and will provide meaningful connections to various areas across the state, especially to under-served areas in southwest Kansas,” said Koch. “It’s also a great way to partner with the state of Colorado to serve the public.”

Federal funding will be used to purchase two new busses

for each route and to assist with operating expenses such as fuel, personnel and maintenance.

A portion of the funds will come from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Under ARRA, 15 percent of the rural transit allocation in each state must be used for intercity transit. That figure in Kansas is about \$2 million.

The following cities that would gain intercity bus service with these two new routes include:

Wichita-Pueblo, Colo.

• Kansas - Wichita, Hutchinson, Dodge City, Garden City; Colorado - Holly, Lamar, Las Animas, LaJunta, Fowler, Pueblo

Salina-Wichita

• Salina, Lindsborg, McPherson, Newton, Wichita

One round trip daily will be provided between Wichita and Pueblo and two round trips daily will be provided between Salina and Wichita. Location stops at each city have not yet been determined. – S.W.

Upcoming KDOT Training Courses

Classes at Headquarters

- ♦ Transition to Leadership/Ethics, June 8-10
- ♦ You’ll Catch On, June 15-16
- ♦ BEST - Week 2, June 21-24
- ♦ Business Writing I, June 29
- ♦ Business Writing II, June 29
- ♦ You’ll Catch On, June 29-30
- ♦ New Employee Orientation, July 8
- ♦ SMART - Day 1, 2, 3, July 27-29
- ♦ Whale Done, Aug. 5
- ♦ Transition to Leadership/Ethics, Aug. 23-25
- ♦ You’ll Catch On, Aug. 26-27
- New Employee Orientation, Sept. 2

Classes at District Offices

- ♦ Whale Done, Chanute, July 14
- ♦ Whale Done, Chanute, July 15

M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in June

10 YEARS

Floyd Adams Jr. Lansing
 Mary Hoover Hoyt
 Charles Kingsley Salina
 David Marshall Topeka
 Luke Middleton Independence
 Robert Taggs Lansing

20 YEARS

Earl Bosak Topeka
 Michael Hochard Topeka
 Cheryl Keil Topeka
 Scott Koopmann Wichita
 Dale Luedke Dodge City
 Kelly Marshall Topeka
 Charles McCann Harper
 Harold Sauvage Topeka
 Larry Schroeder Topeka

30 YEARS

Darleen Bernhardt Tecumseh
 Terry Fleck Topeka
 Ronald Hall Garden City
 Ronald Hopkins Scott City
 Robert Jack Stark
 George Kell Topeka
 Bradford Rognlie Topeka
 Harold Schleicher Stockton

40 YEARS

Nancy Kratzberg Topeka
 Daniel McGinty St George

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

Retirees

The following employees officially retired from KDOT in June.

District Four

Michael S. Crane, Equipment Operator Senior at Garnett

District Six

Danny K. Wittman, Equipment Operator Senior, Ness City

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT in July.

Headquarters

Thomas I. Brewer, Applications Development Supervisor, Computer Services

Bill J. Crooks, Print Shop Supervisor, Support Services

Kenneth F. Hurst, State Bridge Manager, Design

Nancy A. Kratzberg, Computer Operator II, Computer Services

Dennis L. Miller, Beautification Administrator, Right of Way

District One

Rickman E. Burton, Engineering Technician Specialist, Topeka

Kenneth E. McKenzie, Maintenance Superintendent, Topeka

District Two

Jerald D. Hoeffner, District Safety Specialist, Salina

Danny Wynn, Equipment Mechanic Specialist

District Four

Roger G. Mace, Public Service Administrator I, Garnett

District Five

Verlin L. McHenry, Engineering Technician, Hutchinson

Larry G. Rose, Equipment Operator Senior, El Dorado

District Six

Norman G. Carr, Equipment Operator Senior, Garden City

Stanley A. Hamilton, Equipment Operator Senior, Dodge City

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

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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NOTE: This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, KS, 66603-3754, or (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired - 711.

M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in July

10 YEARS

Alice Burney Tecumseh
Brandon Espinosa Olathe
David Freeland Mayetta
Stephanie Knudson Horton
Kellie McCain Vassar
Brad McGregor Welda
Craig Schlott Garden City
Denis Schwab Norton
Willian Snyder Cedar Vale
Trevor Thornton Osborne

20 YEARS

Clay Adams Overbrook
William Bell Moscow
John Hochard Holton
John Iman Agra
Mark Remboldt Topeka
Stanley Robb Agra
Rebecca Rochelle Topeka

30 YEARS

Carl Burgardt Kansas City
Bradley Howard Grainfield
Ellen Laird Topeka
Randy Schimmel Lawrence
James Wetterberg Tonganoxie

40 YEARS

Dee Estes Topeka

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