



KDOT

Translines

Bureau of Transportation Information

June 2003

Core CTP projects still intact after session *Any further cuts, however, could jeopardize commitment to state*

KDOT can complete the core projects in the Comprehensive Transportation Program (CTP) despite additional funding cuts, Secretary Deb Miller told legislators late in the 2003 session.



Deb Miller

Secretary Miller, speaking to the House Transportation Committee,

said that changes could be made in the Department's cash-flow assumptions to absorb the funding reductions through the end of the CTP in fiscal year 2009. However, she warned that if further reductions are made next session, the Department will have no choice but to scale back the program.

"Even with the cuts we've suffered to date, we can and will keep our

promises to the communities of this state to complete all the announced projects and to complete them on time," Miller

said. "But, and I want to make this clear to you today, we cannot suffer any more cuts in funding and still keep our promises."

"...we cannot suffer any more cuts in funding and still keep our promises."

Secretary Deb Miller

All told, the Legislature reduced KDOT's fiscal year 2004 budget by

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Assistant Secretary/State Transportation Engineer Warren Sick welcomes Kansas Highway Patrol Col. Don Brownlee to the Clicks Across Kansas event on May 19 in Wichita. The kick-off event encourages safety belt usage in Kansas.

Partnership Project team members announced

Editor's note: To keep you informed about the progress of The Partnership Project, watch for updates each month in Translines.

The initiative that could set KDOT's direction for the future now has a key component in place. The Partnership Project Advisory Group is ready for action.

Secretary Deb Miller said the Partnership Project's top to bottom review is pivotal for the agency.

"It is my hope that this initiative will lead to changes

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Inside ...

- ◆ KDOT ASSISTS IN CLEAN-UP EFFORTS AFTER STORMS
- ◆ EXCHANGE TEAM EXCELS DURING MIGRATION PROCESS

- ◆ STUDYING ROADWAY NOISE - CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?
- ◆ AWARDS HONOR PEOPLE SAVING PEOPLE
- ◆ KANSAS AGENCIES GET DISASTER PRACTICE



Miller's Time

*By Secretary
Deb Miller*

On the road again

Planning a trip to visit family this summer? Me too. Now that I've had the chance to settle in again here in Topeka, I want to see more of our work statewide, so I'm hitting the road to visit KDOT family across the Sunflower State. We're finalizing a schedule for the summer months that will let me spend a day or two in each district. It's my hope that these visits will be of benefit in several ways.

My history with the agency means I already know a lot about the ins and outs here in Topeka. Now I'd like to go beyond headquarters and the district offices to see the type of work that's going on out in the districts. I hope to learn more about how things are organized and what people do in their jobs. It's knowledge that should help me be a better advocate for you here in Topeka.

Speaking of acting as your advocate, these visits will

also give me an opportunity to update you on the recently completed legislative session. Lawmakers made decisions that affected some of KDOT's funding. What does this mean for us now and in the future? It's a question I'm sure you'll want answered.

I also look forward to updating you on the progress of The Partnership Project. By now, I hope that you've heard about this important top-to-bottom review of KDOT. It's designed to help us significantly improve the way we do business by assessing what we do best, what we could be doing better and how we will get there. Your honest, constructive input is the key to this project's success and I'm excited to share information about how you can become involved.

In addition to the KDOT connections I'll be making on these trips, I also hope to take some time to connect with community leaders across the state. I'm working with the districts to identify individuals, groups and media who might like to meet with me when I'm in their area.

Since I've done a couple of KDOT tours of duty before, my new job has a lot of familiar aspects, but I will tell you, I've been surprised by just how differently even the familiar can look when you're sitting in the Secretary's chair. So with that, let the summer road trips begin. And, one more thing, all this travel is bound to make a person hungry, so please pass along names of any little eateries that can't be missed. After all, it's never too early for pie, is it?

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bureau of Transportation Information
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NOTE: This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact the KDOT Bureau of Transportation Information, Docking State Office Building, Room 754, Topeka, Kan., 66612-1568, or phone (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/(TTY).

Calendar of Events

May 26 – State employees off for Memorial Day holiday.

June 10 - 11 a.m. KDOT Employees' Council Meeting, Seventh Floor Conference Room, Docking State Office Building.

June 13 – 9:30 a.m. Highway Advisory Commission meeting, Seventh Floor Docking State Office Building.

June 18 - 2 p.m. - Construction Bid Letting, Capitol Plaza Hotel.

June 12-13 – Retirement planning seminar, Kaw Area Technical School, 5724 Huntoon in Topeka.

June 26-27 - Retirement planning seminar, Kaw Area Technical School, 5724 Huntoon in Topeka.

KDOT assists in clean-up efforts after tornadoes

The waning Sunday afternoon of May 4 took a deadly twist in Crawford and Cherokee counties.

Severe storms from the west spawned strong tornadoes that ripped through towns and fields. Six residents of southeast Kansas – three from each county – perished in their wake. The Crawford County tornado touched down north of McCune, cutting a wide and devastating swath for 26 miles north and east through the landscape before exiting Kansas.

Homes were lifted from their foundations and swept away, cattle and crops were destroyed, vehicles were spun and bent into unrecognizable heaps, and train cars were derailed. Power lines and a radio tower were toppled by the tornadic systems. The tornado ravaged the small town of Franklin, located north of Pittsburg along US-69, and the community of Ringo off K-57 east of Girard, leaving debris from hundreds of houses along the highways.

The Pittsburg Subarea crew received a call for assistance at 5:20 p.m. the day of the tornado, according to Bill McManis, Subarea Supervisor. The crews helped out with



KDOT maintenance crews help clean up debris on K-57 west of US-69 from the storms and tornadoes that hit on May 4.

“a little bit of everything” throughout the night and well into Monday morning, he said. One of the essential tasks was directing traffic so emergency vehicles could get through to people who were injured, McManis added.

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Legislature

Continued from page 1

nearly \$200 million. Lawmakers withheld \$156 million in sales tax receipts that were scheduled to be transferred to the State Highway Fund under the 1999 law that established the CTP. They also diverted millions of dollars from the Highway Fund to pay for general state government, including \$28.8 million to fund the operations of the Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP).

The money borrowed to fund KHP is scheduled to be paid back starting in fiscal year 2007 along with \$95 million that the 2002 Legislature borrowed from the Highway Fund to shore up the recession-depleted State General Fund.

Late in the just-completed session, several organizations that support the CTP, including Economic Lifelines and

the Associated General Contractors of Kansas, helped fend off an attempt to divert the proceeds of KDOT's ¼-cent sales tax and allow the Department to issue bonds to replace the funding. The earmarked sales tax levy, dedicated to the Highway Fund by the 1989 legislation that authorized the old Comprehensive Highway Program, generates approximately \$93 million a year.

“Though all agencies must be willing to participate in the effort to deal with the state's financial crisis, diverting the money from the ¼-cent sales tax, even for one year, would have set a dangerous precedent,” Miller said.

The budget wasn't the only issue KDOT confronted during the 2003 session. In the final days, the House Appropriations Committee added a

provision to the final budget bill that would have required the Department to build an intersection at a rural dirt road and US-75 north in Brown County. The provision would have prohibited KDOT from spending any money in FY '04 if the intersection wasn't constructed as part of a \$30.6 million project to upgrade US-75 to an expressway between Fairview and Sabetha.

Concerned that the provision would prompt similar attempts in future sessions, KDOT urged members of a House-Senate conference committee to remove it from the bill, which they did on the final weekend of the session. *-By Jim McLean, Special Assistant to the Secretary/Director of the Division of Public Affairs*

High school student Kelly Wilson spent a day with KDOT's J.P. Metzler to find out more about a career in engineering.



Student gets firsthand look at a career in engineering field

District Two participated with the Abilene School District job shadowing program by inviting student Kelly Wilson to spend a day with an Engineering Associate.

Kelly has an interest in becoming a Civil Engineer and wanted to experience the road construction process up close. The job shadowing program makes it possible for participating students to spend a day away from the class room gaining first hand knowledge in their field of interest. Kelly selected industrial and civil engineering as his career pathway when entering the program.

He is taking courses intended to prepare him for higher education in his area of interest. The job shadowing program is available to qualifying juniors and students are encouraged to identify employers able to forward the students understanding of his or her selected field by exposing the student to a real world application through the job shadowing program.

Kelly's mother, Annette Wilson, contacted District Engineer Don Drickey, in an effort to set up the shadowing opportunity for her son with

assistance from Debbie White, Human Resource Professional in Salina.

Once the details were worked out, a date was set and Kelly was paired with J.P. Metzler, Engineering Associate II. On April 17, J.P. took Kelly under his wing and exposed him to an eye opening day in the life of KDOT construction. They began their day with visits to an APAC asphalt plant and a Builders Choice concrete plant where Kelly was surprised by the level of precision and the volume of tests employed in creating a mix able to satisfy the close tolerances required by KDOT in order to ensure a quality final product.

They then drove on to the I-70 reconstruction project, now getting under way, and watched as steps were being taken to establish appropriate traffic control. He says he is impressed with KDOT's priority of safety first and foremost. After lunch they observed as a box on the I-70 project was poured and ended their day watching an area being cleared of trees and brush prior to the replacement of a bridge on that

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**Welcome
new KDOT
employees!**

Headquarters

Pam Bean, Engineering Technician, Materials and Research

Gail Dobber, Administrative Assistant, Personnel Services

Aaron Frits, Engineering Associate I, Design

Nathan Hanquist, Engineering Associate I, Design

Robert Herman, Engineering Technician Senior, Design

Paul Kulseth, Engineering Associate I, Design

Lelia Linder, Administrative Assistant, Personnel Services

Quinton Snyder, Engineering Associate I, Design

Adam Stodola, Engineering Associate III, Design

Westlee Wall, Information Technology Consultant I, Computer Services

District One

James Cornelison, Equipment Mechanic, Wamego

Dale Shirley, Equipment Mechanic, Bonner Springs

District Three

Nicholas Rogers, Engineering Associate I, Hays

Christine Unkel, Information Technology Consultant II, Norton

District Five

Traci Jeffrey, Office Assistant, Wichita

District Six

Clayton Hort, Equipment Shop Supervisor, Garden City

The Bureau of Personnel Services

Exchange Team excels during migration effort

Migrating KDOT's e-mail system from GroupWise to Microsoft Outlook/Exchange was a big task that needed to be done in a short amount of time. The Exchange Team, made up of employees from Computer Services, Operations, each of the Districts, and Transportation Information, took on the challenge and accomplished this goal.

Exchange Team members were honored for their efforts in KDOT's Example of Excellence employee recognition program for the first quarter of 2003. Secretary Deb Miller attended the event in Topeka on April 25.

The original project end date for the migration was April 2003, but the project was accelerated and needed to be finished by December 15, 2002, according to Bob Haley, Director of Administration. "The implementation was a team effort and all displayed professionalism, commitment, and cooperation throughout the process," Haley said.

The process involved many steps to ensure the project went smoothly. Coordinating all aspects of the migration, training of all the users, and the technical infrastructure were the first concerns, Haley said. Experimenting with the system in a test environment was the next step to prepare to build the infrastructure.

Training and e-mail migration were



Members of the Exchange Team are shown in these two pictures. Above are members of the team from Computer Services and below are members of the team from Operations and the Districts.



scheduled and the system was prepared for the transition. The actual migration for each bureau at Headquarters took place on the weekends. Most employees had the new system up and running the following Monday by noon.

With the various locations of offices in the Districts, these systems were installed remotely using programming code developed internally. This approach was very successful, said Steve Woolington, Director of Operations.

"This automated process was possible due to the combined efforts and

coordination of the Exchange Team and by utilizing the talents and strengths of individuals across KDOT," Woolington said. "This process demanded these folks work together to accomplish this and it is only through their dedicated commitment to the project that this succeeded."

Members of the Exchange Team include Brandy Bearse, Tim Brown, Aaron Brumley, Gene Bryant, Regis Campbell, Todd Carreno, Travis Combes, Jon Evans, Marcia Ferrill, Cindy Hale, Mary Hammes, Mike Hammes, Ron Holthaus, Deborah Jarrett, Dave Kelly, Bill Kritikos, Rick Kuhlman, Derek Mabon, Kelly Magnor, Marty Matthews, Mike Monaghan, Shawn Mortensen, Marilyn Murray, Jeff Neal, Steve Park, Dianne Parker, Zack Phillips, Doug Schmitz, Shane Schumaker, Eli Scott, Deidra Stanley, Sue Swartzman, Frank Tichenor, Jake Wall, Kelley Wiley, Lyle Willetts, Steve Woodbury, Ben Woodward, and John Woodyard. **-K.S.**

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 previously.

Nominations for the second quarter are due by June 30.

Kansas agencies get disaster practice

By Krista Roberts

The phone call begins like this: “There’s been an unusual event at the Wolf Creek Generating Station.” From there, KDOT representatives and emergency response teams from other state and local agencies go into action. This time, it’s just a drill, but these teams know this practice is important. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) evaluate this exercise that’s held every two years.

Shortly after the drill begins, agency representatives meet at the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located in the basement of the State Defense Building in Topeka. From here, the state’s emergency management team coordinates the planning and response efforts. This team is part of Kansas Emergency Management, a division of the Adjutant General’s Department. Communication plays a key role when it comes to keeping people safe, so a lot of

effort is focused on getting information out as quickly as possible.

When the emergency phone call comes to KDOT, Susan Barker is the one who goes into action. She’s been

They’ve been through floods, blizzards, and plagues.

Barker said KDOT’s role in the disaster plan mainly involves traffic control, traffic re-routing and keeping



At left, KDOT employees Susan Barker and Peter Carttar work with other agency representatives during an emergency drill.

KDOT crews informed about the developing situation. She said she’s confident KDOT would be able to get the job done. Barker said, “Whether it’s high water, flooding, winter storms, or storm debris removal, KDOT crews deal with minor to major emergencies on a regular basis, so they know what to do.”

Barker’s not the only one to play a role in the KDOT disaster plan. Peter Carttar is her back-up for Wolf Creek drills and Jaci Vogel is her

doing it for 11 years and feels prepared.

“It’s second nature. We know what to do because we’ve practiced it before. It’s like a fire drill,” she said.

While May’s drill focused on Wolf Creek, Emergency Management also pulls state agencies together for another yearly drill. To keep everyone in practice, the disaster changes each year.

back-up for other emergency operations. KDOT’s cartography unit also plays a crucial role when it comes to emergency response. It’s the source for updated maps used by response crews as well as the map supplier for the EOC. The maps help all agencies better coordinate and keep track of their response efforts.



Warren Sick, Assistant Secretary/State Transportation Engineer, addresses the audience during the opening day of the Transportation Safety Conference in Wichita. See page 9 for more information about the conference.

Learn to be positive and reach for your goals

“You were born to win, but you were also conditioned to fail.” By the time we were five years old we probably heard at least 50,000 “no’s”, and negative influences don’t go away - they just get more diversified. In the workplace, employees hear nine negative words for every positive. TV commercials make us feel inadequate by trying to convince us we need improvement. Bad news is broadcast over and over and previous disasters replay for years. Negativity pervades our culture, and we are addicted to it.

The worst negatives are the ones we do to ourselves through expectations. We tell ourselves “I can’t do this” and “I’m no good at that.” We rarely rise above our own words and thoughts to go beyond self-imposed limitations. We behave negatively, because 85 percent of our expectations are negative.

To be truly successful, we must

tap into the power of positive self-talk. To get better results we must reprogram ourselves by changing the thoughts and words we tell ourselves. Professional athletes tell us that 90 percent of their

ALL ABOUT ATTITUDE

By
Carla
Mumma

ability is due to mastery of their minds. They actually change who they are and what they can do by changing what they think.

If we’re not using affirmations, we are not achieving everything we can. It is that simple!

Positive self-talk and affirmations feed the mind as nutritious food feeds the body. To get better results in our lives, we’ve got to sweep away old

“stinkin’-thinkin’” and replace it with positive self-talk to release our power and potential.

Affirmations remind us how things really are in spite of how they appear. To understand the effectiveness of affirmations, it is important to understand that an affirmation is not saying something in an attempt to make it true. An affirmation is saying what is true in order to make it something. Affirmations operate under the universal principle that good pervades all things, but that principle can only do for us what it can do through us.

Once we know the truth, we are inspired and motivated to take steps to make something out of it. Believe in universal goodness and your highest possibilities. Look beyond appearances and step out to claim your highest good. Don’t be content to be average; that just means you’re as close to the bottom as you are to the top.

KDOT meetings explain impact of roadway noise

Can you hear me now? It’s a question the Kansas Department of Transportation wants to know as it develops highway construction and reconstruction projects in heavily traveled areas.

Recently, KDOT held eight noise education meetings with Lenexa and Overland Park residents who live near major construction projects that are scheduled to be let in the future. Those projects will involve work near I-35/87th Street, I-435/Antioch Road and US-69 improvements.

The purpose of the meetings was to explain the process for studying noise and the criteria for determining steps for noise abatement, including noise walls. After KDOT receives the results from the noise study, more meetings will be scheduled to announce the results. Those meetings are tentatively scheduled to begin in early summer.

KDOT is concerned about developments such as residences, churches and schools that experience noise impacts. Noise impacts are defined as the point where noise levels reach 66 decibels, or when there is a projected increase in 11 decibels



KDOT noise consultant Dr. Louis Cohn, center, explains the process for studying noise and the criteria for determining steps for noise abatement during a public meeting in Overland Park.

from a planned highway project. Noise levels on a rural farm are about 25 decibels, while noise levels on the shoulder of a busy urban freeway measure about 75 decibels.

“Noise is both physical and psychological, and we must account for both concerns,” said Dr. Louis Cohn, KDOT’s

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Step Back in Time



Workers rely on horse power to help them during initial construction of the Deer Creek Bridge in Shawnee County. This picture was taken in May of 1919.



Partnership

Continued from page 1

within the Department of Transportation (KDOT) that will allow us to function more efficiently and also provide a higher level of service,” Miller said.

The Advisory Group is made up of people both inside and outside of KDOT. The group will provide input and evaluate information gathered from KDOT’s external and internal customers.

Former Assistant Secretary of Transportation/State Transportation Engineer Mike Lackey is chairing the group. Other external members include: George Barbee, Executive Director, Kansas Consulting Engineers; Don Beuerlein, President, Koss Construction; Ann Charles, Publisher, Parsons Sun; Steve Cottrell, City Engineer, City of Garden City; Jim DeHoff, Executive Director, Kansas AFL-CIO; Ken Johnson, Vice President, Hays branch, APAC-Kansas Inc.; Charles Jones, Douglas County Commissioner; Joe Krahn, retired KDOT Chief of Right of Way; Gage Overall, State Highway Advisory Commissioner; Howard Partington, City Administrator, City of Great Bend; Don Popejoy, President, Popejoy Construction and Glenda Purkis, President, Atchison Chamber of

Commerce.

A dozen KDOT employees are also members of the Advisory Group. Miller said, “Internal team members were chosen because of their knowledge and commitment to the Department. I am counting on them to honestly and actively contribute to this important initiative.”



Honest Assessments...Real Results

Internal team members include: Mark Clements, Chief Procurement Officer, Bureau of Fiscal Services; David Church, State Traffic Signing Engineer, Bureau of Traffic Engineering; Bob Cook, District 5 Engineer; Mick Halter, Kansas City Metro Engineer, District 1; Mike Herzog, Field Construction Engineer, Bureau of Construction

and Maintenance; Jeff Horton, Road Squad Leader, Bureau of Design; Susie Lovelady, Accountant, Office of Engineering Support; Martin Miller, Public Involvement Liaison, District 5; Carla Mumma, Administrative Officer, District 3; Steve Rockers, System Enhancement Program Manager, Bureau of Program Management; Ron Seitz, Assistant Bureau Chief, Bureau of Local Projects; and Jim Williams, Area Two Superintendent, District 1.

The first meeting of the Partnership Project Advisory Group is set for June 10 in Manhattan. Miller said she hopes that team members take what they are learning back to their co-workers.

“The Partnership Project plan calls for regular communication with KDOT employees, so that they are fully informed about the process every step of the way,” she said.

The project timeline calls for interviews and surveys of both internal and external customers this summer and fall. KDOT employees can make suggestions and get project updates by going to the intranet and clicking on “The Partnership Project” icon. Suggestions will be kept confidential. After evaluating the information, the Advisory Group will make recommendations to the Secretary who will decide which to implement immediately and which require further study.

Organizations honored for commitment to safety

By Stan Whitley

The statistics told a grim story in Johnson County. The average age of the first full alcoholic drink is 12 years old and 15 percent of those arrested for drunk driving are under the age of 21 – a figure that has more than doubled in just six years.

Drinking is often thought as a traditional rite of passage for many youth. The Overland Park Court Services System (OPCSS) is trying to change that mindset through a program they have initiated called “Wrong of Passage.” Their efforts were recognized as one of three People Saving People award winners at the annual Traffic Safety Conference on May 20 in Wichita.

The program was developed to address underage drinking and related tragedies, such as impaired driving, alcohol poisoning, date rape, and suicides. It also focuses on the significant amount of parental/adult denial and lack of information on the topic. Numerous focus groups of both students and parents were conducted in the development of the project.

The cornerstone of the “Wrong of Passage” program is a 26-minute video which is presented to adults. A companion video “Choices” is 19 minutes in length and is geared toward youth. Each video is shown along with a fact-based slide show and panel question and answer session following each presentation with local experts such as judges, prosecutors, law enforcement, and emergency medical service workers.

The videotapes were filmed in Johnson County and focus on both local experts and youth sharing their stories and experiences. Nearly 200 presentations have been given in Johnson County reaching an audience of more than 10,500.

KSNT, Channel 27 in Topeka, and the Kansas Motor Carriers Association, were also recognized as People Saving People award winners.



Mary Moss, Overland Park Court Services Coordinator, accepts a plaque in recognition of the “Wrong of Passage” program winning a People Saving People award at the Transportation Safety Conference. Also present were Teri Graham, State Director Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration; Bob Alva, FHWA Safety/Traffic Engineer; Romell Cooks, Regional Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; and Rosalie Thornburgh, Bureau Chief of Traffic Safety. Graham, Alva, Cooks and Thornburgh are also pictured below.



Eileen McCaffrey and Bob Thibault with KSNT-TV accepted a plaque in recognition of the station’s occupant protection PSAs.



Tom Whitaker, Kansas Motor Carriers Association, accepts a plaque in recognition of the KMCA’s efforts to promote child passenger safety in Kansas.

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Tornado

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The Cherokee County tornado also destroyed homes and ended lives before moving into Missouri. Because that tornado took a path that was “kind of off the highway,” according to Columbus Subarea Supervisor John Ross, KDOT’s initial involvement in Cherokee was limited to fixing a few stop signs. The area south of the Crestline community did receive damage, Ross said, but the tornado inflicted its worst blows across the state line in Pierce City and Carl Junction, Mo.

In Crawford County, KDOT crews continued to clean debris from the right-of-way along K-57 and K-7 highways “to where it didn’t hinder traffic,” said McManis. When the go-ahead was given, the crews also stood ready to assist with the general clean-up operation. *-By Priscilla Petersen, District Four Public Involvement*

People

Continued from page 9

KSNT was honored for its education and awareness effort in the area of occupant protection. The station decided to produce public service announcements that reinforced the importance of motor vehicle occupant protection after learning that usage rates in Kansas had dropped by three percent.

The public service announcements featured on-air KSNT personalities demonstrating their own use of safety belts and child safety seats for their children. The spots were aired during prime time viewing segments. KSNT also included their public partners when crediting the announcements by including the “Safe Not Sorry” theme and logo as well as

the Kansas Highway Patrol logo.

The Kansas Motor Carriers Association was honored for its continuing effort to promote Child Passenger Safety in Kansas. Serving as a private partner, the KMCA has taken a strong position to work with safety agencies and organizations to protect children while riding in motor vehicles.

During the past four years, the KMCA has worked to support Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week by assisting in several activities. They have purchased and distributed 184 child safety seats free of charge throughout the state, helped with Child Passenger Safety Week news conferences, and distributed safety materials to support the program.

- S.W.



Get ready for lots of fun at the Employees' Council co-rec Summer Softball Tournament

Don't miss out! Deadline to sign up is June 6.

WHEN: Saturday, June 14

WHERE: Gage Park in Topeka (near 10th and Gage).

WHO CAN PLAY: KDOT friends and family members are welcome, but 1/2 the team must be KDOT employees. It is a co-ed (1/2 the team must be women), one-day tourney, following city league rules.

ENTRY FEE: Only \$50 per team!

WEATHER: Rescheduled on June 21 if rained out.

OTHER DETAILS: A traveling sportsmanship trophy will be awarded.

HOW TO SIGN UP: Get rosters from your Employees' Council representatives, or by calling Peggy Hansen-Nagy at 296-3285.

Employees from across the state are encouraged to participate!



Ballplayers, family, and friends as well as all KDOT employees are invited to attend the picnic from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. just north of the ball diamonds and south of the zoo. Bring lawn chairs if you want, and BE PREPARED FOR A VERY WARM KANSAS DAY!!

KDOT is not responsible for any accidents in conjunction with this event.

Bring the kids to the picnic area also from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for lots of fun games with great prizes! Don't miss out!

BROWN BAG

Retirements

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT in July.

Headquarters

Dennis R. Lewis, Engineering Technician Specialist in Design – 39 ½ years of state service

Francis P. Williams, Public Service Administrator I in Support Services – 36 years of state service

District One

Glen C. Allen, Engineering

Technician Specialist in Topeka – 41 years of state service.

Donald L. Kile, Engineering Technician Senior at Bonner Springs – 34 years of state service

District Five

Gary J. Merritt, Engineering Technician at El Dorado – 40 years of state service

Richard E. Srna, Area Engineer at El Dorado – 36 years of state service

LUNCH

Topic: Rail Affairs Unit and Rail Issues in Kansas

Speaker: John Maddox, Transportation Planning

Date: Wednesday, June 4

Time: Noon to 1 p.m.

Place: 4th floor conference room, Docking State Office Building

All employees are invited to attend.

Noise walls

Continued from page 7

noise study consultant.

Currently, more than 130,000 vehicles travel every day on I-435 between US-69 and Metcalf Avenue and more than 88,000 vehicles travel each day through the US-69 corridor in the area just north of I-435.

Traffic demands will increase in this economic core area of Kansas and with more vehicles the noise level will increase. The projection is that I-435 between Metcalf and US-69 will carry nearly 200,000 per day by 2007 and US-69 north of I-435 will carry almost 125,000 vehicles daily.

KDOT's criteria for building noise walls for those who

are impacted include the ability of a wall to reduce noise levels by 5-7 decibels for the first row of receivers, and cost-effectiveness.

Walls meeting the above criteria should be aesthetically pleasing and integrate architecturally with the community.

Citizen involvement in the decision making process, attention to neighborhood safety and to driver safety issues are also carefully examined.

“Noise barriers are engineered structures with foundation requirements and wind loading. They are not

cheap to build or maintain,” Cohn said.

The average cost per mile for noise walls is \$1.25 million, or \$20 per square foot. – *S.W.*

A sample of decibel levels from low to extreme

A rural farm is *serene* at 20 dB

A peaceful subdivision is *quite* at 40 dB

An urban freeway shoulder is *noisy* at 75 dB

A rock concert is *loud* at 120 dB

A ground zero shuttle launch is *deafening* at 180 dB

Kudos

to KDOT employees

Congratulations to the Huff and Puffs team that raised \$1,128 in the fight against Multiple Sclerosis. KDOT team members included Roger Moore, Joel Davidson, Carol Hasting, Julie Tooley, Margie Baum, Patty Ahlenius, and Virginia Smith. The team raised the money by participating in a walk on May 3 and sponsoring a breakfast.

M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes its employees celebrating anniversaries in May

10 YEARS

Jose' Capo Grainfield
Jill Cushing Topeka
Kevin Dolton Salina
Christopher Schaefer Topeka
Jeffery Sigsbee Garden City
Judy Wagner Salina
Richard Wright Marysville

20 YEARS

Beatrice Albers Oakley
Dana Branstetter Norton
Ina Smith Garden City

30 YEARS

Gary Green Topeka

40 YEARS

Gary Merritt El Dorado

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

Promotions/Transfers

Headquarters

Jill Burton, Engineering Technician Specialist, Design

Rex Fleming, Professional Civil Engineer I, Transportation Planning

Mark Hummel, Program Consultant I, Engineering Support

Andrew Jenkins, Engineering

Associate I, Transportation Planning

Rudy Pfeifer, Engineering Technician, Topeka

District One

Earl Bosak, Professional Civil Engineer I, Osage City

Randy Schimmel, Equipment Operator Specialist, Lawrence

District Three

Tim Weigel, Equipment Operator Specialist, Hays

District Six

William Daugherty, Engineering Associate III, Syracuse

Sam McCleary, Equipment Operator Specialist, Ulysses

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

Training Opportunities

◆ New Employee Orientation, June 5, July 3, and August 7, Topeka.

◆ Giving Recognition, June 6, Topeka.

◆ Legal Issues for Supervisors, June 10, June 17, and June 18, Topeka.

◆ Leadership Basics, June 17 to 19, July 15 to 17, Location TBA.

All classes, except BEST, are available to non-supervisors with supervisory permission and where space is available. A training calendar is on the KDOT Intranet.

Student

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same project. Kelly said he was amazed by the volume of preparatory work required before the construction work can actually take place.

The day resulted in one very excited young man who sees KDOT as a future employer that can offer him the type of career he desires. *-By David Greiser,*

District Two Public Involvement Liaison

(A follow-up note from Kelly's mother)

Dear Don Drickey:

I want to thank you for allowing my son, Kelly Wilson, a junior at AHS, to job shadow one of your engineers, on Thursday. Kelly came home very excited about his day. Kelly is such a logical thinker, and very good at

driving, directions, and has grown up running trucks and machinery on the farm, etc. He is leaning toward K-State for college and this really got him thinking that this is a field he is interested in pursuing. Thanks again to you, Deb White, and the engineer for making this a good experience for Kelly.

Sincerely, Annette Wilson

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