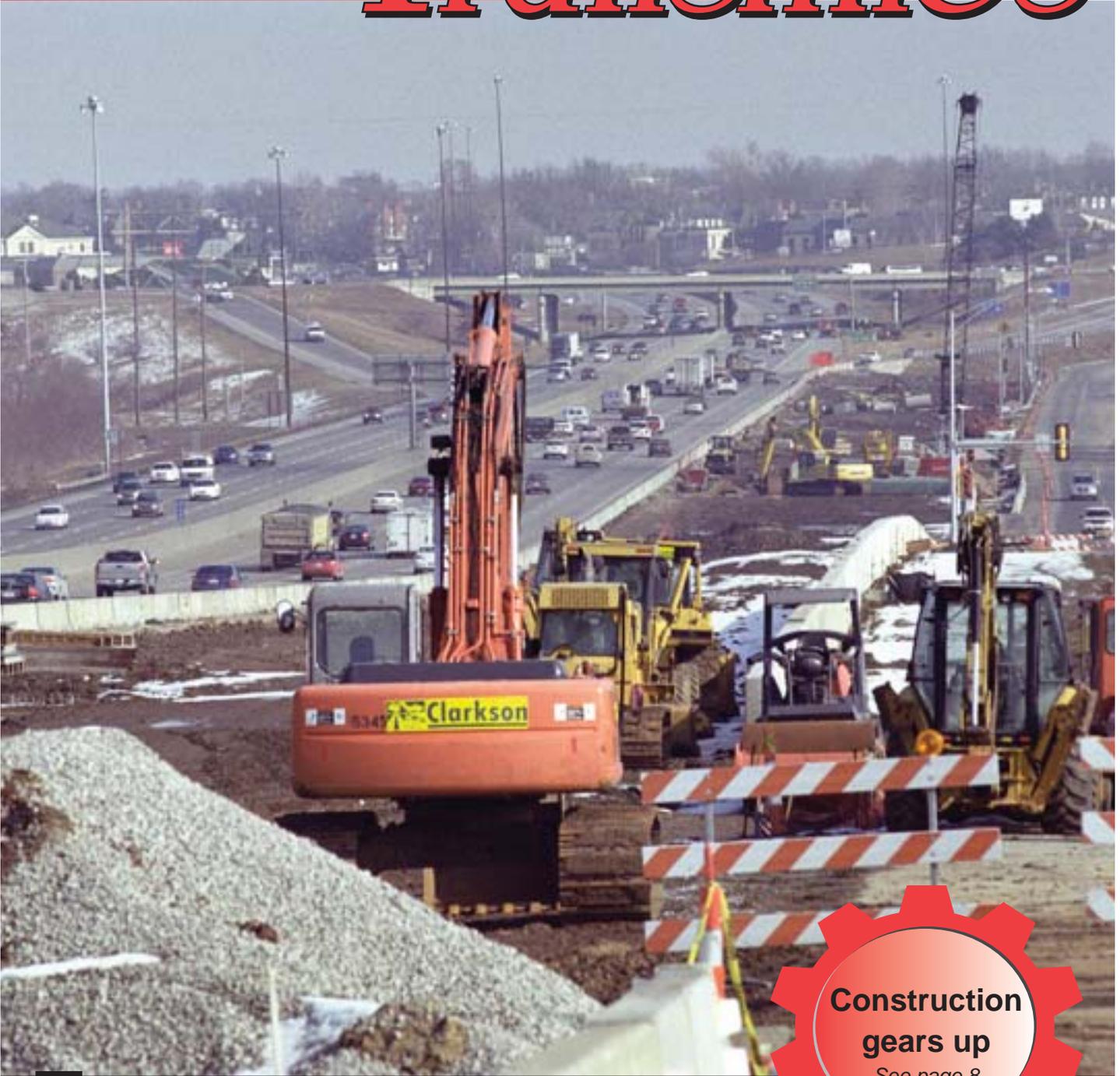


Translines



**Construction
gears up**

See page 8

Inside ...

- ◆ KDOT sponsors sobriety rocks competition
- ◆ Recovery Act produces hundreds of jobs
- ◆ District News
- ◆ Texting ban in effect
- ◆ Social networking expands ways to receive information



By Secretary Deb Miller

Recovery Act provides real benefits for state

From a budget perspective, much of last year was a disappointment for KDOT.

Uncertainty about when and how much federal funding we would receive forced us to postpone some project lettings early in the 2010 fiscal year. And actions by the Legislature, combined with the Governor's budget cuts, diverted about \$229 million from the State Highway Fund to the State General Fund.

But amidst the gloom, there was a very notable exception – the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Last month, as the Recovery Act passed its first anniversary, we reviewed some of the first year accomplishments in a news release and posted new and updated information on our Recovery Web page - http://www.ksdot.org/Economic_Recovery/.

Hundreds of Kansans worked on transportation projects during the first year of the Recovery Act, peaking at 1,096 in October, and construction spending totaled \$42 million by January. And that's just the beginning. As last season's on-going projects ramp up and new ones get under way, we expect there will be nearly 3,300 construction workers on the Recovery projects this season.

Not surprisingly, there were plenty of critics ready to bash the Recovery Act and its perceived failings on its anniversary. There was the predictable lining up of foes on either side of the great divide that splits our political landscape. Verbal attacks went back and forth. But the fact is, without

the Recovery Act there would be 140 fewer Kansas transportation projects. And it's likely there would be a lot fewer construction jobs ready to start up this spring in Kansas.

Of the criticisms I heard or read I was most amazed by a quote published in a Kansas newspaper that stated that the Recovery Act had happened "with no real benefits for Americans."

Tell that to Ted Willard of Salina. Ted was an out-of-work crane operator when he was hired to work on the Recovery-funded U.S. 69 project in Johnson County. He had been out of work for three months and told us that had the U.S. 69 job not come along, he probably would have had to travel hundreds of miles from home and family to maybe get a job sometime this winter.

And if you ask U.S. 69 commuters in a year or so whether the Recovery Act has any real benefits for them, I think they'll say that a smoother, faster trip to and from work has improved their lives.

Linda Davis, president of HWA Davis Construction in Newton, is a good person to ask about whether the Recovery Act has had any benefits. Her company is doing culvert work on the K-61 Recovery project and she says that because of the work she was able to keep eight jobs on her payroll that would have been lost.

Joe Engler, president of Commercial Construction, which is doing earth work on the K-61 project, says the work saved 10 to 12 jobs in his company. And his project manager tells us that the company has actually hired 13 new employees as a result of the Recovery work.

There are more stories that workers, suppliers, contractors, communities and others could tell, but the bottom line is this: the Recovery Act has done Kansans and Kansas transportation and a world of good. It's provided funding for not only significant state projects that couldn't have been done, but for more than a hundred local road and bridge projects, transit projects and more. It has put paychecks in pockets, helped families put food on the table, resulted in workers and contractors spending money in other areas of the economy and, without a doubt, has kept some Kansans off unemployment rolls.

The Recovery Act has indeed had real benefits for Kansans. In what has otherwise been a depressing budget year, it has been a ray of sunshine.



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On the... COVER

Work to widen U.S. 69 in Johnson County is under way, thanks to Recovery Acts funds. For more information on Recovery Act projects and funding during the past year, see page 6. Photo by Kurt Weaverling

Texting ban in effect

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced in late January federal guidance to prohibit texting by drivers of commercial vehicles such as large trucks and buses. The prohibition went into effect immediately.

“We want the drivers of big rigs and buses and those who share the roads with them to be safe,” said Secretary LaHood. “This is an important safety step and we will be taking more to eliminate the threat of distracted driving.”

Truck and bus drivers who text while driving commercial vehicles may be subject to civil or criminal penalties of up to \$2,750.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration research shows that drivers who send and receive text messages take their eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds out of every six seconds while texting. At 55 miles per hour, this means that the driver is traveling the length of a football field, including the end zones, without looking at the road. -U.S. DOT News Releases, Jan. 26

Severe weather information available

Kansas Severe Weather Awareness Week activities will take place from March 8 - 12. The annual statewide tornado drill will take place on March 9, at 1:30 p.m., with a backup date of March 11. Test tornado warnings will be issued via National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio and the Emergency Alert System (EAS) for distribution statewide.

Please see page 10 for more information about 2009 Kansas tornado facts.



Natural beauty



In recognition of KDOT's roadside management policy, which includes the planting of native wildflowers and grasses, Secretary Deb Miller was presented Audubon of Kansas' Public Land Stewardship and Roadside Beautification award in February. Photo by Sonya Scheuneman

KDOT sponsoring annual sobriety rocks competition

KDOT is sponsoring its fourth annual Sobriety Rocks arts contest that encourages Kansas youth to resist pressure and abstain from drinking alcohol until reaching the legal age limit of 21.

The contest allows Kansas' youth to express themselves through music, art, writing or public service announcement in hopes of winning up to \$4,000 in scholarships. Kansas residents, ages 14 through 20, are encouraged to enter the competition by logging onto www.sobrietyrocksk.net. Entries are due April 15. Four separate \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in June for best music, best art, best writing and best public service announcement. It's possible for one contestant to win in more than one category.

“Half of Kansas high school seniors report having consumed alcohol in the last month, many of them binge drinking,” said Pete Bodyk, Manager

of KDOT's Traffic Safety section. “High levels of drinking among teens of all ages make underage drinking a serious and widespread threat to all Kansans' health and safety.”

Potential topics could include:

- ♦peer pressure to drink alcohol
- ♦finding more to life than drinking
- ♦problems that are created or made worse by alcohol
- ♦why waiting until age 21 to drink is smart.

The updated home page at www.sobrietyrocksk.net features 2009 winners and runners-up to inspire those students to enter this year.

Entries will be judged by instructors and professionals in the four categories, KDOT representatives and student advocates across the state.

Log onto www.sobrietyrocksk.net for additional contest information and a complete set of rules.

District News...

Information and photos provided by the District Public Affairs Managers

K-7 gets green light

Construction for a new interchange on K-7 at the 55th Street/Johnson Drive intersection in Johnson County hit a roadblock in September 2009, when KDOT decided to postpone the project bid letting due to funding uncertainties. The project was given the go ahead to be let for bid in November 2009 and was awarded to Miles Excavating, Inc., Basehor. The cost is \$21.4 million.

District One

When the interchange project is completed in late 2011, 55th Street/Johnson Drive will run under K-7. The project includes construction of a roundabout at the interchange to merge the K-7 on- and off-ramps with 55th Street/Johnson Drive. A second roundabout will be built west of K-7 at the intersection of Hedge Lane Terrace and 55th Street. When completed, this interchange will be similar to the roundabout interchange located at N.W. 46th Street and U.S. 75 in Topeka.

Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-March 2010, with a tentative completion date of fall 2011. This project is a cooperative effort, funded in part by KDOT and the City of Shawnee.

Recovery Act continues

District Two, Area Three will oversee the construction of four American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funded local projects this year. These are projects that would not have been constructed without assistance from the Recovery Act. The projects are:

District Two

♦A mill and three-inch overlay on Cedar Street in Marion. Cedar Street is the main entrance into Mar-

ion and the project starts in front of the KDOT Area office and runs south a half mile. APAC Kansas, Inc. is the prime contractor. Total cost is \$136,456.74.

♦Ash Street in Hillsboro is the main entrance into Hillsboro and this project starts a few blocks south of U.S. 56 (at Orchard Drive) and extends several blocks south. APAC Kansas, Inc. is the prime contractor. Total cost is \$302,263.91.

♦A bridge repair on a structure located between Council Grove and Americus. Beachner is the prime con-

tractor. Total cost is \$173,707.05.

♦The prime contractor on the \$391,000 project is King Construction, of Hesston, and Penco Engineering, of Plainville, designed the new structure and is performing the inspection. The project will be complete this summer.

District Three

The work includes removing the existing structure as well as building the new one.

“Their work will also include all the necessary grading and improvements to the area such as guardrail,” Area Engi-



Bridge replacement work in Ellis County is under way thanks to Recovery Act funds.

neer Kevin Zimmer explains.

♦A concrete overlay on south Trapp Street (U.S. 56B) in Herington. Pavers, Inc., is the prime contractor. Total cost is \$299,808.41.

Bridge to be replaced

One of District Three’s local American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) jobs is well under way in Ellis County. The existing county bridge, located five miles southwest of Walker on Antonino Road, is a narrow 81-foot long steel-truss bridge. Built in 1925, the bridge deck is only 20 feet in width. The replacement project will widen the roadway to 30 feet, plus lengthen the

“This project will be built on new alignment, and straightens out some pretty drastic curves. I would imagine many of the locals see this as a major improvement, especially those hauling bigger pieces of farm equipment.”

Remodeling completed

Remodeling projects were completed in 2009 that updated facilities at two District Four subareas. The Mound City Subarea has a new salt dome and 10-bay equipment storage building at its mixing strip along K-7 north of town. In addition, a wash bay extension at the subarea

Several historical exhibits can be seen at the new safety rest area on U.S. 69 at Trading Post.



District News

Continued from page 4

shop houses six trucks and has proved extremely convenient during winter storms.

The Altamont Subarea underwent a renovation that expanded and remodeled the shop and office areas last year. The project included lengthening the four truck bays and making the restroom handicapped accessible.

In November 2009, KDOT opened a new safety rest area for the traveling public on U.S. 69 at Trading Post. The rest area houses numerous exhibits relating to the region's history and the Battle of Mine Creek. The facility also has picnic areas and a short walking trail landscaped with native grasses and flowers. The rest area was dedicated, along with the expanded U.S. 69 four-lane freeway, during a ceremony last July.

District Four

Rewarding experience

As a Reno County Youth Friend Volunteer, Shelley Charles, Human Resources Administrative Specialist in Hutchinson, and her therapy dog, Harley, go to Faris Elementary School every Tuesday from noon to 12:30 p.m. to the special needs classroom. Her designated match is Autymn, a child with quadriplegia and has no vision. "She has the sweetest smile, which just melts your heart," Shelley said.

They first met in 2008 when Autymn was coming out of a classroom being pulled in a wagon. The teacher stopped so they could visit with her.

District Five

Shelley gave her name – but there was no response. She told her that her dog Harley was here – still no response. Harley walked up to her and kissed her on the hand and Autymn displayed this gorgeous smile, Shelley said. That



Autymn enjoys spending time with District Five employee Shelley Charles and her therapy dog, Harley.

was it – they (Shelley and Harley) were hooked. They were able to make the match with her for this school year.

In describing their experience, Shelley said, "Harley works the room, loves the children and always gets leftovers from the teachers. Just being able to give back and spend time with these special children is the most rewarding part of my week."

Successful teamwork

District Six employees Marilyn Murray, Isaac Armstrong and Steve Park spent three days working day and night to get the District computer network back online, which went down on Feb. 8.

District Six

They even drove half-way to Topeka to pick up a new router instead of waiting for it to be delivered in hopes of fixing the problem. While the network was down, they pulled files from the network so other employees could still be productive during that time.

The teamwork effort finally proved successful as they got the network back online the evening of Feb. 11.



Work on the I-135/47th Street Recovery Act project in Sedgwick County has continued throughout the winter. Photo by Kurt Weaverling

First year of Recovery Act produces hundreds of jobs

Hundreds of Kansans worked on transportation projects during the first year of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and many more will have jobs this season as ongoing projects ramp up and others get under way.

The entire \$378 million Kansas received for transportation projects has been committed ahead of the March 1 deadline. Nearly 150 projects ranging from an urban interchange to county road resurfacing will be completed or under way this construction season.

The Recovery Act was signed into law on Feb. 17, 2009, and three days later KDOT announced five major state projects and a plan to share about \$32 million with local governments. Other Recovery funds were allocated for Wichita and Kansas City, for transit and Transportation Enhancement projects, which include cultural, aesthetic, environmental and bicycle/pedestrian projects.

“The Recovery Act did exactly what it was supposed to do – put

people to work and improve the state’s transportation infrastructure,” said Secretary Deb Miller.

“Our state projects are truly game-changers that couldn’t have been built in the foreseeable future without this one-time funding. These projects create jobs during construction, enhance safety and support long-term job growth,” she said.

Construction spending so far has totaled \$42 million and jobs reached 1,096 in October.

“As these projects ramp up to full speed this season, I expect them to generate nearly 3,300 construction jobs,” said Deputy Secretary and State Transportation Engineer Jerry Younger. “There will also be jobs created or sustained by the purchase of construction materials and services and the spending of paychecks.”

To see a list of all Recovery projects in Kansas and related information, visit KDOT’s Web site at http://www.ksdot.org/Economic_Recovery/.

Kansas ARRA highway projects

K-61 in McPherson County

Scope of work: Construction of a 14.5-mile four-lane roadway

Importance: Will tie into similar work in Reno County completing a four-lane roadway between Hutchinson and McPherson.

Cost: \$64.2 million

Completion: Winter 2011

Estimated to support more than 2,900 jobs

U.S. 69 in Johnson County

Scope of work: Reconstruction of interchanges at 95th and 103rd Streets and widening of U.S. 69 to three lanes in each direction between 103rd and I-35

Importance: Will help remove a regional bottleneck in one of Kansas’ fastest growing regions

Cost: \$82.3 million

Completion: Fall 2011

Estimated to support more than 2,500 jobs

I-135 and 47th Street in Wichita

Scope of work: Reconstruct the I-135 and 47th Street interchange, the intersection of 47th and Broadway and improvements to the 47th Street corridor

Importance: Remove bottleneck and open the area to economic opportunities

Cost: \$16.1 million

Completion: Winter 2011

Estimated to support more than 690 jobs

K-23 in Gove County

Scope of work: The use of ‘practical improvement’ approach to improve 16 miles of K-23

Importance: Enhance safety and help support an important regional freight corridor

Cost: \$7.8 million

Completion: Fall 2010

Estimated to support more than 330 jobs

K-18 in Riley County

(from Ogden to Wildcat Creek Road)

Scope of work: Construction of four-lane freeway and railroad relocation

Importance: Help support significant population and economic growth in the region

Cost: \$84 million estimate for Phase I which will be let in March. Phases II and III not funded

Completion: Winter 2012

Estimated to support more than 4,200 jobs

Retirees

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT in March.

Headquarters

Jill Burton, Engineering Technician Specialist, Design

District Two

Donald Urbanek, Equipment Operator, Ellsworth

District Four

David L. Redfern, Equipment Operator, Iola

District Five

Stephen R. Peters, Equipment Operator Senior, Greensburg

District Six

Rodney L. Wolfe, Storekeeper Specialist, Garden City

The following employees officially retired from KDOT during the past quarter.

Headquarters

James Studebaker, Engineering Technician Specialist, Design

District Two

Clarence E. Berry, Equipment Operator Senior, Salina

District Three

Thomas L. Beatty, Equipment Operator Senior, Russell

James R. Bowman, Equipment Operator Senior, Russell

Merl R. Dunning, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Stockton

Robert C. Robben, Equipment Operator Specialist, Goodland

District Six

Larry F. Lock, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Scott City

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

Missouri diverging diamond interchange first in the U.S.

It's an unorthodox design, but the first diverging diamond interchange built in the United States is serving its purpose for the Missouri DOT.

After years of traffic backups and accidents involving motorists trying to turn left at a popular intersection in Springfield, state transportation officials think they have found the solution in the new diverging diamond that is now getting serious looks from several other states.

Missouri unveiled the nation's first such interchange last June at the intersection of Missouri 13 and Interstate 44. It is designed to move traffic more efficiently by giving left-turning cars uninterrupted, or free access to the highway through their own ramps by channeling traffic, temporarily, to the opposite side of the road, according to Don Saiko with MoDOT.

"Left-turning cars in traditional interchange designs have intermittent access to the freeway and are more likely to collide with oncoming vehicles, especially when yielding to through traffic,"

Saiko said. "The diamond interchange allows left-turning traffic to go through the interchange faster and more safely," he said.

The design is also financially appealing because it uses existing lane space without requiring new land for additional bridge structure, he said. It cost \$3 million to install the design compared with the \$10 million for a bridge, which prompted MoDOT officials to try it.

"The interchange has delivered. The number of crashes within the interchange plunged by 60 percent from June to October of 2009 from the same months of 2008," Saiko said. "And, he said, it has solved the clogging problem in commutes."

"The interchange is expected to save money because the diverging diamond - compared with a conventional diamond - can streamline freeway lanes with shorter ramps and less spacing, thus demanding less land," he said.

For more information, go to: http://www.modot.org/springfield/major_projects/Greene/I-44andRoute13.html



The first diverging diamond interchange in the nation opened last June at the intersection of Route 13 and Interstate 44 in Missouri. Photo provided by the Missouri Department of Transportation.

Construction gears up across Kansas

District One

- Location:** Atchison.
Scope of work: Four-lane replacement of existing Amelia Earhart Missouri River Bridge.
Cost: \$63.2 million.
Completion: Spring 2011
- Location:** Douglas County
Scope of work: Grading and bridge work for four-lane expansion of U.S. 59 from the Douglas-Franklin county line north 11.1 miles.
Cost: \$57.1 million.
- Location:** Johnson County.
Scope of work: Pavement reconstruction and widening from four- to six-lanes of U.S. 69 from 103rd Street to I-35.
Cost: \$82.3 million.
Completion: Fall 2011

District Two

- Location:** Herington
Scope of Work: Concrete overlay on south Trapp St. (U.S. 56B) from the south city limit to 4th Street in Herington.
Cost: \$299,808 (ARRA Project)
- Location:** On U.S. 24 just east of the U.S. 81 interchange.
Scope of Work: Replacement of the Dry Creek drainage bridge. Grading and seeding is also part of the project.
Cost: \$442,000

District Three

- Location:** K-23 in Gove County
Scope of Work: A pavement replacement of two lanes from the Lane County line, north to the southern city limits of Gove. The ARRA job will use the practical improvement approach to widen the existing pavement.
Cost: \$7,817,057
Completion: September 2010
- Location:** K-8 in Smith County
Scope of Work: Replacement of posted bridge on K-8, located 5.9 miles north of

- U.S. 36 Junction
Cost: \$1,358,816
Completion: Fall 2010 – completed and open to traffic (except the bridge-deck overlay)

District Four

- Location:** U.S. 169 at Welda in Anderson County
Scope of work: Removing the overpass over an abandoned railroad line and replacing it with a box culvert. The cul-



Concrete work takes place on the U.S. 50 project in Finney County. Photo by Calvin Carter

- vert will separate the highway from the Prairie Spirit Trail.
Cost: \$1.36 million
Start: Spring 2010
Completion: Late 2010
 - Location:** U.S. 169 realignment and expansion to four-lane expressway east of Coffeyville in Montgomery County.
Scope of work: Grading, surfacing and construction of an interchange at U.S. 169/U.S. 166. Includes replacing the Potato Creek and Claymore Creek bridges, and constructing new bridges over the South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad crossing and at the interchange.
Cost: \$42.5 million
Start: March 2009
Completion: November 2011

District Five

- Location:** U.S. 54 in Pratt and Kingman counties
Scope of work: Expansion of U.S. 54 from two lanes to four lanes. Forty-four miles of right of way was purchased bypassing the cities of Pratt, Cunningham and Kingman. Two projects currently under construction will construct 10 miles of concrete paved four lane roadway, including an interchange on the bypass of Cunningham.
Cost: \$71.6 million (actual bids plus estimate for the Kingman County paving portion that will be let in April)
Completion: Spring 2012
- Location:** I-135 & 47th Street South (U.S. 81) in Wichita
Scope of work: Reconstruction of the I-135/47th St. Interchange, replacement of four bridges, improvements to the 47th & Broadway intersection and access changes along 47th St. (U.S. 81) between I-135 and Broadway.
Cost: \$16,147,807
Completion: mid-2011

District Six

- Location:** U.S. 50/U.S. 400 in Finney County from one mile west of Holcomb to 1.4 miles east of the west junction of U.S.50/U.S.83.
Scope of work: Construction of four-lane upgradeable expressway with interchanges at U.S. 50 and Big Lowe Road near Holcomb and at the west junction of U.S. 50/U.S. 83 and at-grade intersections at Chemlka Road, Anderson Road, VFW Road and 3rd Street.
Cost: \$68.1 million.
Completion: July 2011.
- Location:** K-34 in Clark County
Scope of Work: Bridge replacement of three bridges.
Cost: \$7.9 million
Completion: Late 2011

Upcoming KDOT Training Courses

Classes at Headquarters

- ♦On Second Thought, March 4
 - ♦New Employee Orientation, March 11
 - ♦SMART - Day 1, 2, 3; March 16-18
 - ♦Leadership Basics Bootcamp, March 16-18
 - ♦Action Planning 101, March 24
 - ♦Transition to Leadership/Ethics, March 29-31
 - ♦You'll Catch On, April 1-2
 - ♦New Employee Orientation, March 5-6
 - ♦SMART - Day 1, 2, 3; May 11-13
 - ♦Transition to Leadership/Ethics, May 24-26
 - ♦You'll Catch on, May 27-28
-
- ♦You'll Catch On, Hutchinson, April 6-7
 - ♦SMART - Day 1, 2, 3; Hays, April 6-8

Spanish courses available

The Organizational Development Unit has created an on-line Spanish curriculum. The curriculum consists of 17 online modules offering employees a basic understanding of essential Spanish used for construction sites and office environments. The different modules include learning about the culture, alphabet, numbers, time, safety, construction phrases, equipment, tools, materials and emergency phrases.

To register for this curriculum, go to the KDOT Learning Center at http://kdottraining/KDOTTraining/cst_MainHomeFrameset.html and type the word Spanish in the search box.

Report shows strength of stimulus money

A new report - *Projects and Paychecks: a One-Year Report on State Transportation Successes under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* - finds that more than 280,000 jobs were created and more than 12,250 transportation projects are under way across the country as a result of the jobs bill signed into law one year ago.

The study, released by the American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials in conjunction with state transportation departments

(DOTs) in Nevada, Michigan, Georgia and Rhode Island, finds that one year after its passage, state DOTs have put 77 percent of the \$34.3 billion provided for highways and transit projects.

With bids running as low as 30 percent below estimates, states have stretched federal dollars even further, creating more jobs and improvements.

The report also found that as of Jan. 7, 1,125 bridges had been improved or replaced, 21,400 miles of pavement had been resurfaced or widened, and 1,700 safety traffic-management projects had been put into place. -*Roads and Bridges Magazine, Feb. 9*

M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in February

10 YEARS

Brian Fry Great Bend
Billy Meins Humboldt

20 YEARS

Joseph Haug Wamego
David Luedke Atwood
David Owings Coffeyville
Delvin Schultz Ellsworth
Samuel Wingert Peabody

30 YEARS

Edward Burdick Topeka
James Ehrlich Russell
Fred Hummer Chanute
Jaynes Nuzum Junction City
William Sullivan Bonner Springs
David Wiggins El Dorado

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

M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in March

10 YEARS

Raymond Jennings Topeka
Gregg Kunard Topeka
Eilene Ramsey Topeka

30 YEARS

Mark Davis Dodge City
Wayne Gudmonson Independence
Maclovio Rojas Jr. Garden City
Douglas Thirkell Salina

20 YEARS

Louis Boeckman Corning
Roger Calkins Lakin
Robert Dennison Topeka
Leslie Fowler Topeka
Richard Hamit Overbrook

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

Fun Facts and Trivia

Do you know?

2009 Kansas Tornado Facts

Total number of
tornadoes: 103

(43 above the 1950-2009
average of 60)

(28 above the past 30-
year average of 75)

(7 above the past 20-year
average of 96)

Fatalities: 0 Injuries: 6
Longest Track: 12.6 miles
(Bourbon County, May 13,
EF1)

Strongest: EF2 (Finney
County, April 18 and Staf-
ford County, June 15)

Most in a county: 11 (But-
ler)

Days of occurrence: 24
(also called Tornado Days)

Most in one day: 21 (June
15)

Most in one month: 46
(June. This was the 4th
highest total for any June)

First tornado of the year:
March 7 (Reno County,
4:13 p.m., EF0, 1.32-mile
length, 75-yard width)

Last tornado of the year:
August 2 (Haskell-Seward
County, 8:50 p.m. CDT,
EF1, 3.5 mile length, 75-
yard width)

*From the National Weather
Service, the Kansas Emer-
gency Management Associa-
tion and the Kansas Division
of Emergency Management
2010 information packet*

Social networking expands ways to receive information

Ways to find information on various state agencies and activities have expanded with social networking options. Below are some of the main Twitter, Facebook or other social networking tools that can be used to gather information.

♦Adjutant General

Twitter updates -

<http://www.twitter.com/KSAdjutantGen>

<http://www.twitter.com/KansasEmergency>

<http://www.twitter.com/KansasGuard>

Facebook -

<http://www.facebook.com/KansasNationalGuard>

<http://www.facebook.com/Kansas-Division-of-Emergency-Management>

Web site -

www.kansas.gov/ksadjutantgeneral

♦Department of Agriculture

Twitter updates -

<http://twitter.com/KSDeptofAg>

Web site -

www.ksda.gov

♦Department of Corrections

Myspace -

<http://www.myspace.com/495271499>

Web site -

www.dc.state.ks.us/

♦Department of Health and Environment

You Tube -

<http://www.youtube.com/user/KD-HEChannel>

Twitter updates -

<http://twitter.com/KDHE>

Web site -

www.kdheks.gov

Facebook -

Listed as: Kansas Department of Health
and Environment

♦Kansas Highway Patrol

Twitter updates -

www.twitter.com/kshighwaypatrol

Blogs -

www.kshighwaypatrol.blogspot.com/

Web site -

www.kansashighwaypatrol.org/

♦Department of Revenue, Department of Motor Vehicles

Facebook -

<http://www.facebook.com/KansasDMVProject>

Twitter updates -

<http://twitter.com/dmvproject>

Flickr -

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/dmvproject/>

Web site -

www.dmvproject.ks.gov

♦Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services

Web site -

<http://www.srskansas.org/>

♦Department of Transportation

Twitter updates -

<http://twitter.com/KDOTHQ>

<http://twitter.com/KansasCityKDOT>

<http://twitter.com/WichitaKDOT>

<http://twitter.com/GardenCityKDOT>

<http://twitter.com/TopekaMetroKDOT>

<http://twitter.com/NEKansasKDOT>

<http://twitter.com/HutchinsonKDOT>

http://twitter.com/Chanute_KDOT_DE

Web site -

www.ksdot.org/

Kansas Transportation Online

Community - <http://ktoc.net/>

♦Department of Wildlife and Parks

Twitter updates -

<http://twitter.com/KDWP>

Blogs -

<http://ksfishing.blogspot.com/>

<http://kdwp.blogspot.com/>

Web site -

www.kdwp.state.ks.us/

Step Back in Time



Early computers were definitely big, like this one being operated by KDOT workers in December 1957.

Deaths

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

Wilbur Anschutz, 72, died Feb. 4 in Overbrook. Survivors include his wife, Eva, three sons, three brothers, four sisters and seven grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Zion Lutheran Church or the Osage County Relay for Life and sent in care of Feltner Funeral Home, 818 Topeka Ave., Lyndon, 66551.

Don Crofts, 74, died Feb. 10 in Topeka. Prior to his retirement he was supervisor at the former Burlington Subarea.

Memorials may be made to the First Christian Church in LeRoy and can be sent to the VanArsdale Funeral Home, 433 C Street, LeRoy, 66857.

Grant helps fund development of Passenger Rail Plan

KDOT has been awarded a \$250,000 grant to create a Service Development Plan for potential expanded passenger rail service in Kansas. The grant is included in the \$8 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail program.

The Service Development Plan is a detailed, comprehensive business and operations plan for implementing passenger rail service. It will build on a soon-to-be completed Amtrak Expansion Feasibility Study that will assess the capital requirements and operating costs needed to provide state-sponsored passenger rail service between Kansas City, Oklahoma City and Fort Worth. The study and plan are early information gathering steps that will assist the Kansas Legislature in deciding whether to fund railway infrastructure improvements and service operation subsidies.

The grant requires a 50 percent match of \$250,000. KDOT and the Oklahoma DOT have committed to share the cost of this match requirement.

“I’m pleased that Kansas has received this grant, and now we must find match money in our budget, which has been hard hit by cuts and decreased revenue this year,” said Secretary Deb Miller.

“After the Amtrak study and the Service Development Plan are completed, we will provide the reports to the Legislature, who ultimately will determine whether the proposed expansion of rail service can be funded.”

President Obama and Vice President Biden made multiple grant award announcements in February with most targeted at the development of large-scale, high-speed rail programs. Thirty-one states and the District of Columbia will receive grants.

KDOT also applied for two grants that were not selected. One requested \$7.6 million to make track improvements between Emporia and Barclay on BNSF Railway tracks. The project would allow increased speeds on Amtrak’s Southwest Chief, a Chicago to Los Angeles daily route that makes six stops in Kansas.

The second was a \$10 million request to upgrade signals and crossings on BNSF Railway tracks from Newton to the Oklahoma state line. These improvements would be necessary if an extension of the Heartland Flyer passenger rail service is extended from Oklahoma City to Newton.

Additional information on the High-Speed and Inter-city Passenger Rail program is available at U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood’s blog (<http://fastlane.dot.gov/2010/01/president-obama-delivers-on-american-highspeed-rail.html>).

KDOT Computer Training

– from the KCTC

Increase your efficiency!

Have you noticed anything new in recent KCTC classes? A new “book look” is coming to the KCTC classes.

Instructors Karen Ellis and Misty Rodriguez are using those Word long document tools and Adobe shared review options to develop customized curriculum for each KCTC class.

It’s a slow process transforming 26 course titles from scratch, but we think it will be well worth the effort. The process began in November 2009 and will take several months to finish.

Why are we doing this? We believe we are developing a better teaching product and a better reference manual by incorporating KDOT-specific examples in the learning environment and referencing “how-to’s” unique to KDOT. Every student computer application manual from MS Word Level One to Crystal Report Writer Level Three will be KDOT-based. Another perk to is that it will save the agency money.

We thank the employees from Support Services who have promptly produced several Word and Crystal Report manuals already used in classes since January. We hope to be entirely reliant on our new courseware by fall 2010. So, as you attend a class with “a new look,” please let us know what you think.

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

Kansas Department of Transportation
Bureau of Transportation Information
 Eisenhower State Office Building
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Promotions/Transfers

Headquarters

Jim Haugh, Systems Software Staff Consultant, Computer Services
The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information to Translines.

KDOT monthly retiree meeting in Topeka

KDOT retirees meet in Topeka on the first Tuesday of each month at the Coyote Canyon restaurant, 1251 S.W. Ashworth Place (Huntoon Street and Wanamaker Avenue). Lunch begins at 11 a.m., with a program that follows. All KDOT retirees are invited to attend.

For more information, contact Rodney Maag at 785-266-5449.

Calendar of Events

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

March 12 - 9:30 a.m. - Highway Advisory Commission meeting.

March 24 – 1 p.m. Construction bid letting, Fourth Floor, West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.

March 30-31 – KDOT Transportation Safety Conference, Overland Park Doubletree Hotel.