Inside...

◆ Projects advanced to create jobs, save money
◆ Monthly Translines to be discontinued

◆ Team educates kids about KDOT
◆ Construction starts across Kansas
◆ Photos promote Kansas Byways
KDOT has tradition of finding efficiencies

Efficiency. It’s a word we’ve been using a lot of late, and we’ll be using it a lot more in coming months.

It’s not a new word or concept for this agency. KDOT has always done a good job of finding ways to save money and improve processes with its available resources. Time and again over the years, our staff has found ways to do things smarter and more efficiently.

As the Governor has looked for more efficient ways to operate state government as a whole, he and his staff have looked, among other things, at the number of people and resources required to deliver state services. With that in mind, he offered the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program (VRIP) process. As winter approached, our primary focus for dealing with those reductions was on our field operations, where a large number of equipment operators took the retirement package and style of identifying a group of core employees to help define the scope and framework for a large internal efficiency study that will be done with the assistance of an outside consultant.

My gut feeling is that we’re doing pretty well when it comes to efficiencies. But, we will do a comprehensive, leave-no-stone-unturned review of all of our functions to either find ways to operate more efficiently, or be confident that what we are currently doing makes the most sense and generates the best results for the state.

This review will help ensure we deliver on each of the T-WORKS watchwords. It will help us be TRANSPARENT about our operations and ACCOUNTABLE to the administration, Legislature and taxpayers. And finally, it will require us to COLLABORATE with employees, stakeholders, contractors and other agencies to find efficiencies that make sense for the agency.

On another note, we are already well into office realignment at headquarters. The Eisenhower State Office Building was designed for 800 employees, but we are now below 650. We are moving some offices into new areas in order to free up larger areas that can accommodate other smaller state offices. That will improve our own internal communication and free the agency from paying rent for space we don’t need.

Jerry and I will keep you informed during each stage of the efficiency process as we travel through this initiative together. I know this type of process makes employees uneasy. KDOT is a smaller, but more efficient agency than it was 20 years ago thanks to creative thinking, better processes and better equipment. After all, finding ways to improve how we deliver a safe transportation system to meet the needs of Kansas.

In visiting with colleagues at other state DOTs, I’ve learned many of them have gone through similar efficiency reviews in the last few years driven by drastically shrinking revenues. Some studies have been done by DOTs on their own initiatives, and some have been required by their governors or by legislative mandates. I am pleased Governor Brownback gave us the opportunity to look internally for our own efficiencies and report back to him on our findings.

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In keeping with a broad effort toward greater efficiency, we at KDOT are changing how we communicate internally. In January, we launched the weekly Translines Express, which is delivered to KDOT e-mail addresses on Wednesdays. Translines Express provides news in a package and style that is timely and quick and easy to read. For those without easy access to a computer, Translines Express is simple to copy and post on a Subarea bulletin board.

For decades, the monthly Translines was distributed in paper form to KDOT employees, retirees and others – about 5,000 copies in all. A few years ago, in an effort to more efficiently and quickly distribute Translines, as well as save printing/mailing costs, we reduced the print run by about 1,500 copies. All workers inside the Eisenhower State Office Building, as well as hundreds more outside headquarters, received their Translines by e-mail only. A reduced number of copies continued to be sent to the Districts for our field workers. Hundreds more were mailed to retirees and others outside the agency.

The Kansas Byways program is enjoying the early results of a Federal Highway’s National Scenic Byway grant to capture photographic images taken along the Kansas Byways.

The award of a $200,000 Digital Media, Website Development and Marketing grant for the Kansas Byways was a shared application with KDOT and the Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism for the Kansas Byways program. Each contributed equally toward the 20 percent local match.

Gizmo Productions, Topeka, was selected to shoot still photos and video through the seasons along the Kansas Byways, and to produce of three-minute vignettes of the sights and activities found along each byway. The still images and videos will be available for use by the local byway committees and the state agencies in brochures, website and media promotions.

The goal is to showcase Kansas Byway communities to those interested in sights and activities to see and enjoy in Kansas.

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Because of the early success of the weekly Translines Express, and the continuing effort to identify efficiencies and reduce costs, the monthly Translines newsletter will be discontinued after this edition.

I know that many of our readers outside the agency enjoy reading Translines and will want to continue to keep up with KDOT news. You can read each edition of Translines Express on our homepage under Publications and Reports. If you’d like to be added to our e-mail-only distribution list, we will make sure you receive Translines Express every Wednesday. No printed copies will be available.

To make Translines Express as useful and informative as possible, we encourage you to let us know if you have news the rest of the agency would be interested to know.

Steve Swartz
Public Information Officer

Photos promote Kansas Byways

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Many of the 32 preservation projects were to be scheduled for 2013; otherwise, they had yet to have a start date. KDOT is able to move the projects ahead of schedule partly because of savings captured in recent project lettings.

“We will get these projects under contract this spring and summer so we can take advantage of the great bid prices,” said Acting Secretary Barbara Rankin. “And, accelerating the schedule means more workers will be receiving paychecks before the end of the year.”

Advancing the project schedule was suggested last month by the Democratic legislative leadership during a news conference focusing on jobs.

“When Representative Davis and I announced our Kansas Jobs First plan last month, more than 50,000 Kansans were still unemployed. Accelerating T-WORKS projects will not only improve our state’s economy, it will add hope to hundreds of Kansas families still struggling to make ends meet,” said Senate Democratic Leader Anthony Hensley.

“I’d like to thank the Governor and KDOT for moving forward on this important endeavor. This is the right thing for Kansas because it’s the right thing for Kansas workers.”

“Job creation must be the first priority of the 2012 legislative session. This is a simple, revenue neutral action that will help get Kansans off the unemployment rolls and onto a payroll,” said House Democratic Leader Paul Davis.

“Kansans expect their leaders, whether they’re Republicans or Democrats, to work together to move the state’s economy forward, and I think the announcement is a great example of how we can work together to create jobs,” the Governor said.

The list of projects to be advanced, as well as all other T-WORKS projects, can be viewed on the T-WORKS website at www.ksdot.org/TWorKS.
**Bridge work continues**

Progress on the U.S. 77 Big Blue River bridge replacement project in Marshall County is progressing. The new bridge and realigned U.S. 77 roadway is being built east of the existing bridge and highway, along with a portion of K-9 that will be realigned to tie into the new roadway.

The new bridge will be 40-foot wide, with two 12-foot lanes and eight-foot shoulders. In addition, project work will include a deceleration lane for northbound drivers turning east onto K-9 and an acceleration lane for eastbound drivers on K-9 turning north onto U.S. 77.

Construction continues on replacing the U.S. 24 viaduct in Clay Center.

Crews have completed all three piers for the new bridge and are now placing the steel girders. Grading and earthwork for the new roadway alignment is also under way. United Contractors of Johnston, Iowa, is the primary contractor on the $7.6 million project. Construction began last August on this T-WORKS project and it is scheduled to be completed in late July.

**K-25 project discussed**

The upcoming closure of K-25 in Logan County was the focus of a Feb. 9 open house in Winona. Through practical improvement measures, the roadway will be reconstructed from Russell Springs to the U.S. 40 junction this spring.

*“Many of the folks were mainly concerned about how they could access their fields and livestock throughout the construction timeframe,” said District Three Construction Engineer Travis Scott.*

“They now know that we aren’t going to leave them ‘landlocked’ and most people understand that the project’s phasing, as well as the county road system, will provide these points of access for them.”

Bus routes, mailbox relocations, the project timeline and residents’ concerns were the main topics discussed.

“We’ve been building a true partnership with the county officials, especially the road and bridge department in Logan County,” said Area Four Engineer Mathew Withington. “They know there will be increased traffic on the county roads, which will serve as an unofficial detour for many of the local residents.”

The project includes removing the existing pavement, stabilizing the soil beneath the asphalt and constructing a new, wider pavement. At the same time, a bridge project on K-25 three miles south of Colby is scheduled to take place. The bridge replacement will utilize the same detour as the K-25 practical improvement rebuild.

**T-WORKS project outlined**

KDOT staff and consultants met with nine members of the U.S. 166 Advisory Committee at Baxter Springs in late January to review the U.S. 400 Corridor Study and discuss the T-WORKS U.S. 166/400 expansion project.

The group examined project boundaries, reaching consensus in favor of a freeway/partial expressway from the Kansas-Missouri border northwest for two miles to the U.S. 166/26 junction. It was also recommended that this junction be converted to an interchange. Remaining project funds would be applied to corridor preservation in Cherokee County.

**Work to reduce congestion**

For nearly a decade, the City of Wichita has been looking for ways to alleviate congestion for drivers crossing the Wichita-Valleym Center Floodway on the west side of town. Much of the floodway runs parallel to I-235 and there are a limited number of bridge crossings and even fewer access points to I-235. Rapid expansion on the northwest side of the city has greatly increased traffic volumes.

Later this year, bids will be accepted for the estimated $50 million project that will include two bridges over the floodway plus access to southbound I-235 and a ramp from northbound I-235 to West 13th Street. A break in access study was completed and the project was approved by KDOT and the FHWA.

The two-year project will be financed with Wichita’s part of the Sedgwick County 1 percent sales tax. Construction inspection will be completed by the Wichita Metro construction offices.

**District News**

Continued from page 6

**District Three**

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**Safety efforts recognized**

The Liberal Construction office and the Syracuse Subarea have been cited for exceptional safety in 2011, according to Tim Cruz, District Safety Specialist.

Both crews can boast no equipment accidents or personal injuries in 2011, along with good facility reviews. What separated the two were total hours worked, with the Liberal Construction office reporting 12,090 hours worked and the Syracuse Subarea reporting 11,777 hours worked.

District Engineer Larry Thompson thanked the work groups for their efforts to create a “safety culture” in District Six. “These results show that we are all working to send everybody home at the end of the day without injury to themselves or damage to our equipment. I’m glad for the opportunity to recognize their achievements,” he said.

Several other crews and offices had no equipment accidents or personal injuries in 2011, including the Dighton, Cimarron, Ness City and Dodge City subareas, along with the district crew, district paint crew, Garden City office and shop, Syracuse office and shop, and the District Six Materials lab. Cruz said the district office and the district lab have now gone five consecutive years with no equipment accidents or injuries.

**Information for the District news briefs section is provided by the District Public Affairs Managers.**
Construction starts across Kansas

**District One**

**Project:** I-35 at Homestead Lane (Johnson County interchange project)

**Scope of Work:** Construct a new Diverging diamond interchange at I-35 and Homestead Lane to provide access to planned development within the area including the new BNSF Intermodal Facility and Logistics Park. In addition to the new interchange, the project will construct Homestead Lane as a paved roadway to the north form I-35 to 191st Street.

**Cost:** $30.6 million

**Completion Date:** Fall 2013

**District Three**

**Project:** I-70 reconstruction in Sherman County

**Scope of Work:** Removal of the existing pavement, stabilization of the sub-grade and placement of new concrete pavement. Also included is the upgrade of bridge rails, the installation of new guardfence and replacement of lights at five interchanges. Work began in June 2011 on the crossovers and the preparation of the bridges in the eastbound lanes for two-way traffic. Thanks to the mild winter, grading work has continued.

**Cost:** $46.5 million

**Completion Date:** October 2013

**District Four**

**Project:** K-47 in Wilson and Neosho counties

**Scope of Work:** Tied projects to reconstruct 10 miles of K-47 from U.S. 75 on the west to U.S. 169 on the east. The new roadway will be 40 feet wide with eight-foot shoulders. K-47 is closed during the project and traffic is detoured.

**Estimated cost:** $21 million

**Start:** Spring 2012 (In February letting)

**Completion Date:** September 2012

**The Neosho River Bridge will be replaced this year.**

**District Five**

**Project:** U.S. 50 four-lane expansion

**Scope of Work:** Grading, bridges and concrete pavement on U.S. 50 west of the K-61 junction east to east of Yoder/ Airport Road in Reno County, including two new U.S. 50 interchanges at Airport/ Yoder Road and K-61. This project is adjacent to the Salt City Business Park in Hutchinson.

**Cost:** $31.9 million

**Completion Date:** Fall 2013

**District Six**

**Project:** Preservation on U.S. 56

**Scope of work:** Gray County, from Haskell/ Gray county line, east to the east city limits of Ensign, 24.8 miles.

**Start dates:** Starts April 30 to May 10, with 100 working days

**Project:** Preservation on U.S. 50 (advanced work from 2013)

**Scope of work:** First resurfacing action on this section of U.S. 50 since major modification project completed in 2001. Project calls for two-inch surface recycle and ultra-thin bonded asphalt surface in rural sections from county line to west city limits of Montezuma; two-inch cold mill and inlay in Copeland. Two-inch cold mill and ½ inch overlay in rural sections from Montezuma to Ensign; two-inch cold mill and inlay in Montezuma and Ensign. The project restricts work within Copeland, Montezuma and Ensign during harvest.

**Cost:** $4.7 million

**Start dates:** Starts April 30 to May 10, with 100 working days

**Project:** Preservation on U.S. 50 (advanced work from 2013)

Two-inch surface recycle and ultra-thin bonded asphalt surface in rural sections from county line to west city limits of

Crazy Bowl

Sixteen teams participated in the annual Employees’ Council Crazy Bowl event in Topeka Feb. 19.

Dirt work is under way on U.S. 50 in Reno County.
Fun Facts and Trivia

1. In square miles, what is the smallest Kansas county?
A. Pottawatomie  B. Rice  C. Reno  D. Wabaunsee

2. Martin and Osa Johnson of Chanute, Kansas, are famous for:
A. Argonia   B. Ellsworth  C. Dodge City  D. Pittsburg

3. What is the biggest intact meteorite in Kansas?
A. 3 pounds, 9 ounces  B. 74 pounds

4. What are the Arkaree Breaks?
A. Steep-sided, rugged canyons that have formed near St. Francis  B. Limestone formations near Santa Fe  C. Natural rock configurations that enclose parts of Wilson State Lake  D. None of the above

5. Kaw Point Park in Kansas City commemorates:
A. The first full-sized steam ship that docked there in 1833  B. The Lewis and Clark expedition that stopped there in 1804  C. The first barbecue cook-off in the region in 1841  D. Where the steamboat Arabia sank

6. You can find a mile-wide sinkhole, a bison herd and a smaller sinkhole that is home to St. Jacob’s well here.
A. Kansas City  B. Wichita  C. Hoxie  D. Syracuse

7. The Cross Timbers State Park is near:
A. Kansas City  B. Wichita  C. Junction City  D. St. Louis

8. What were formed 280 million years ago, 650 feet below the surface?
A. 1  B. 14  C. 25  D. 48

9. Where is the Birger Sandzen Memorial Gallery?
A. Lindsborg  B. Sedan  C. Hoxie  D. Syracuse

10. What percent of the corn grown in Kansas is eaten as corn?
A. A  B. 14  C. 25  D. 48

11. About how many caves are in Kansas?
A. 1  B. 14  C. 25  D. 48

12. What town in Kansas was hit by tornados on May 20 of three successive years – 1916, 1917 and 1918?
A. Dodge City  B. Ellsworth  C. Codell  D. Andover

13. Susanna Madora Salter was elected mayor of:
A. Dodge City  B. Ellsworth  C. Codell  D. Andover

14. About how many casinos are in Kansas?
A. A  B. 14  C. 25  D. 48

Calendar of Events

March 13 – 11 a.m. KDOT Employees’ Council Meeting, Third Floor, Eisenhower State Office Building.

March 21 – 1 p.m. Construction Bid Letting, Fourth Floor, Eisenhower State Office Building.

Retirees

The following employee will officially retire from KDOT on March 1.

Jerry A. Richey, Equipment Mechanic Specialist

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

John J. Engel, Public Service Administrator I, Norton

Mike A. Ponton, Equipment Operator Senior, Bonner Springs

Answers on page 12

Welcome new KDOT employees!

Headquarters
Eric Bailey, Right of Way Property Appraiser I, Right of Way
Regis Campbell III, IT Project Manager, Computer Services
Ray Hauske, Procurement Officer III, Fiscal Services
Jessica Ransone, Program Consultant II, Transportation Safety and Technology
Scott Schiller, Applications Developer II, Computer Services
Joel Ramsdell, ETA Class Series, Topeka
Gary Crawford, ETA Class Series, Topeka
Mark Wendi, Environmental Scientist II, Design

District One
Greg Branlage, Engineering Technician Associate, Topeka
Tamarra Brown, Senior Administrative Assistant, Topeka
Isaac Willems, Engineering Associate II, Topeka
Jason Woodward, Equipment Mechanic Senior, Bonner Springs

District Four
Jonathan W. Viles, Equipment Operator Trainee, Kansas City
Jeremy Cox, Equipment Operator Trainee, Garden City
Ray L. Hadley, Equipment Operator Trainee, Dodge City
Richard D. Harrell, Equipment Operator Trainee, Syracuse
Toby J. Medina, Equipment Operator Trainee Ulisses
Arrick G. Weis, Equipment Operator Trainee, Dodge City

Promotions/Transfers

Headquarters
Crystal Ackerman, Professional Civil Engineer I, Transportation Safety and Technology
Ryan Barrett, Professional Civil Engineer I, Design
Dan Bergeron, Engineering Technician Specialist, Design
Clements Bone, Engineering Technician Specialist, Design
Robert Herman, Engineering Technician Specialist, Design
Kelly Howey, Professional Civil Engineer I, Design

District Five
Nicholas Baker, Equipment Operator Specialist, Kinsley
Michael Jenkins, Equipment Operator Specialist, Hutchinson

District One
Angela Cormier, ETA Class Series, Topeka
Howard Lubliner, Professional Civil Engineer I, Olath

District Two
George Luna, Equipment Operator Specialist, Marion

District Three
Mathew Wethington, Professional Civil Engineer II, Oakley

District Six
Rodney Kennemer, Engineering Technician Specialist, Garden City

The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information for promotions/ transfers to Translines.
**KDOT Computer Training**

*from the KCTC*

**PowerPoint - A great presentation**

We were recently enjoying a little laugh over the YouTube hit “Life After Death by PowerPoint” by Don McMillan. His latest version expands on his funny portrayal of PowerPoint mishaps filmed in previous years.

We can all probably use a little review - here are some tips:

- Know your audience – be creative but don’t be silly, make slides easy to read
- Don’t overcrowd – limit points to 3-6 per slide, limit text and don’t cram information
- Slide design elements – repeat elements on each slide, use consistent title and text spacing, no sentences and avoid all caps
- Use bullets effectively – bring points in one at a time, gray out points when finished and be careful with special effects
- Design – avoid busy backgrounds, use bold, italics and color, use no more than two fonts, keep elements in the same location
- Clip art – should enhance, is usually unnecessary, try to use same style of clip art and avoid most motion clips
- Drawing elements – use thicker lines, use alignment function and grids, and keep consistent placement
- Conclusion – create a summary slide, focus on final impressions and emphasize main points
- Don’t read – use shorter sentences, action verbs, simple grammar and keep notes short

**Answers**

1. Wyandotte
2. C. Pioneering wildlife filmmakers, authors and explorers
3. D. 1,200 pounds
4. A. Steep-sided, rugged canyons that have formed near St. Francis
5. B. The Lewis and Clark expedition that stopped there in 1804
6. Big Basin Preserve in Clark County
7. C. More than 280 years old
8. The salt deposits at the Kansas Underground Salt Museum
9. A. Lindsborg
10. A. 1 percent
11. D. 528
12. C. Codell, in Rooks County
13. A. Argonia
14. The Kansas State Capitol.

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**MILESTONES**

KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10 YEARS</th>
<th>30 YEARS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Gatz II            . Pratt</td>
<td>William Bartron       . Topeka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Huehl          . Lincoln</td>
<td>Christine Belknap      . Garden City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Lambrecht-Harvey . Topeka</td>
<td>Steven Gerber         . Garden City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Martin           . Leavenworth</td>
<td>Donald Hart            . Chanute</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20 YEARS</th>
<th>40 YEARS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Anstey       . Americus</td>
<td>Charles Espinoza       . Topeka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric Idol          . Topeka</td>
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<td>Dale Kirmer        . Topeka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Shields      . Baldwin City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emmett Tooley     . Saint Marys</td>
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State service anniversaries are compiled by Personnel Services. Employees and home towns are included in this list.