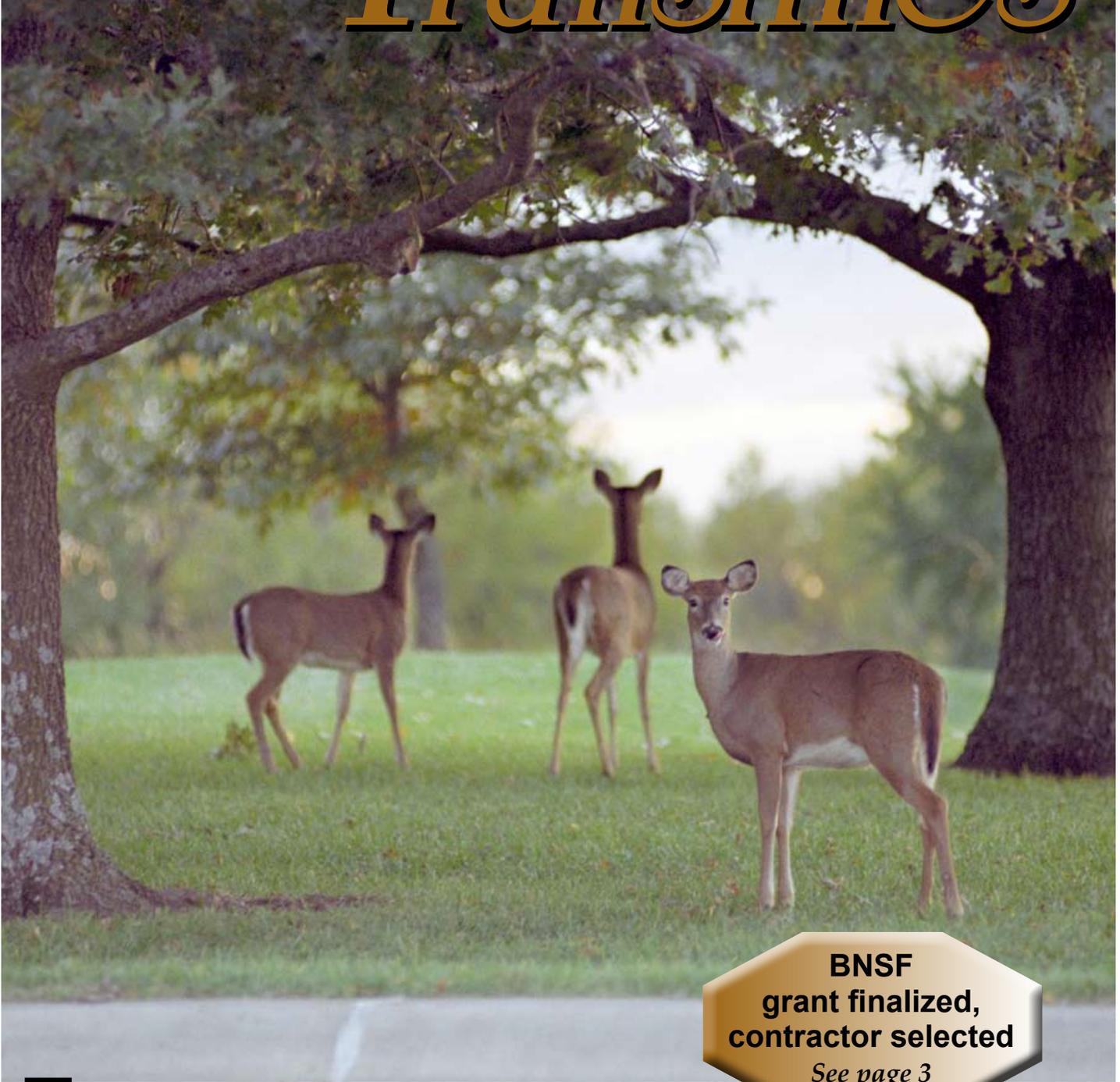


Translines



**BNSF
grant finalized,
contractor selected**
See page 3

Inside ...

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- ◆ **Ceremony marks 1st historic byway**



By Secretary Deb Miller

KDOT 2.0: Founding fathers would love it

“Information,” Thomas Jefferson said a long time ago, “is the currency of democracy.” If Jefferson was around today, he’d love what we’re doing with social media.

While Jefferson strikes me as the type of person who would be a fan of all the amazing apparatus, iPhones and apps we have today, his real appreciation would be for the unprecedented access social media gives citizens to their government.

In a very short amount of time, social media has become part of the way the government connects to the governed, and here at KDOT we’ve jumped in with both feet. Through the Kansas Transportation Online Community (KTOC), Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, Facebook, blogging and more, we’ve not only found new ways to get our messages to Kansans, we’ve established a very efficient way for Kansans to access information and talk back to us.

Over the past two years, KDOT staff have established at least 10 Twitter accounts that have attracted more than 4,200 followers. They have posted some 13,500 tweets on specific road conditions, live coverage of events, public meetings, legislative debate, safety messages and much,

much more. The number of followers and tweets grows every day.

We have posted a number of videos (including our first “video news release”) on YouTube that have been viewed thousands of times; hundreds of photographs have been viewed on Flickr; and KDOT is involved in several Facebook pages related to projects or safety. I know we can’t access Facebook from our work computers, but the beauty of social media is that it keeps government open after hours (and every hour of every day) for those who want access to data or share a comment.

And, we have established KTOC as a forum for transportation discussions between not only KDOT and citizens/stakeholders, but between those in that latter group. While most government agencies – especially local governments – use social media, we believe KDOT is the first and maybe only government agency in the country to have an online community. We have used KTOC to post important information about project selection, project scoring and much more, and we have encouraged the more than 1,000 members to let us know what they think – even if they disagree with us. KTOC also hosts a number of blogs and during the just completed Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day campaign, Governor Parkinson and U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood submitted blogs written specifically for KTOC.

To those of us who are technically challenged by the equipment (I confess) or feel as if new social media platforms are being created before you can get a handle on the old ones (I confess, again), we shouldn’t miss the point here. Don’t get wrapped up in the tech; it’s all about information and reducing the number of hoops you have to jump through to get it.

If Jefferson and the other founding fathers had an internet hookup today, they’d probably be blogging about how social media applies to the philosophy of open, transparent government and encouraging citizens to use it.

And, they might even be tweeting about what a good job KDOT is doing.



Eisenhower Building-
2nd Floor West,
700 SW Harrison,
Topeka, Ks 66603-3754

Governor: Mark Parkinson
Secretary of Transportation: Deb Miller
Chief of Transportation Information: Steve Swartz
Editors: Stan Whitley and Kim Stich

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On the... COVER

Several deer graze near a road in Melvern State Park. Motorists should use extra caution in November, especially at dawn and dusk, as deer/vehicle crashes peak. Photo by Sonya Scheuneman



Secretary Deb Miller announces a \$35 million grant to BNSF Railway Company on Oct. 18 at Johnson County Community College. BNSF President Matthew Rose and Gov. Mark Parkinson (right) also spoke at the event. Photo by Kurt Weaverling

BNSF grant finalized, contractor selected

An agreement for a \$35 million grant to BNSF Railway Company from the state's Rail Assistance Program has been finalized, Secretary Deb Miller announced at a news event at Johnson County Community College on Oct. 18. At the same event, BNSF President and Chief Executive Officer Matthew Rose announced it has selected T.J. Lambrecht Construction and Walsh Construction as the primary contractor to construct its new intermodal facility in Edgerton.

The \$35 million grant from the Rail Assistance Program will be repaid from the state utilities sales tax generated on the intermodal facility and the separate logistics park development.

"The rail grant not only helps get this project under way now, it supports a long-term investment that will create about 8,700 jobs at full build-out and have huge economic returns for the state," Miller said.

BNSF intends to begin construction planning this fall with facility construction expected to start in 2011.

"The Kansas City market has developed into one of the most important freight transportation hubs in the Midwest and the nation," Rose said. "BNSF's new intermodal facility will help the region's economy grow in a more energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly way by expanding this market's capacity to shift even more freight traffic from an all-highway mode to rail."

The contractor has a commitment with BNSF to hire at least 85 percent of its workforce locally in the Kansas City area, to hire employees and subcontractors at the prevailing wage, and to use Minority and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises for a significant amount of the work. The project will generate an estimated 660 construction jobs.

Douglas named new bureau chief

By Kim Stich

While some people may find lawmaking procedures tedious, new Governmental Affairs Bureau Chief Lindsey Douglas is fascinated by it.

"I love the legislative process,"

Douglas said. "I like tracking a piece of legislation from introduction to signing and it's interesting the amount of input that individuals can have on that process."



Lindsey Douglas

Douglas' first day as Bureau Chief was exactly one year after her first day at KDOT when she started as a Legislative Liaison. Previously she was at the Department of Agriculture as the Special Assistant to the Secretary on Environmental Issues. She also spent three years as a contract lobbyist for the Hein Law Firm.

One of her goals is to streamline the bureau's tracking of legislation.

"Kyle Schneweis really got the ball rolling in getting us to be more strategic in the way we approach legislative matters," she said. "We want to maintain the big accomplishments we were able to make last year at the state level. Now we're focusing more on the federal side."

After receiving a bachelor's degree from Washburn University, she went to Vermont Law School for a year and received a Masters of Studies in Environmental Law.

"After living somewhere else, you really appreciate home," she said. "You realize Kansas is a good place to live and raise a family."

Douglas and her husband, Jon, have a son, Porter. He was born in May one day after the T-WORKS bill signing she attended in Kansas City. "We got T-WORKS wrapped up, and then I could have Porter," she joked.

KDOT proceeding with rail Service Development Plan

By Stan Whitley

Thanks to a \$250,000 grant from the federal government, KDOT will move forward with a Service Development Plan (SDP) for interstate passenger rail service between Kansas City and Oklahoma City with a potential connection to Fort Worth.

The Federal Railroad Administration recently announced the approval of the \$250,000 grant to KDOT to proceed with the planning. John Maddox, KDOT Freight and Rail Program Manager, said Kansas is adding \$125,000 to the federal grant and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is adding another \$125,000 for a total of \$500,000.

With assurances the federal money is coming and with the Kansas and Oklahoma money committed, KDOT has hired the engineering firm of Parsons Brinckerhoff to do the study. Maddox said that study should be complete by fall 2011.

“While KDOT is the lead agency in studying this issue, whether or not passenger rail service is expanded in the state is ultimately a legislative decision,” Maddox said. “KDOT’s charge is very simple – gather as much information and data as possible for the Legislature so they can have a well-grounded, factual debate as part of their decision-making process regarding the potential expansion of passenger rail service in Kansas.”

This information and data gathering task began with an Amtrak Feasibility Study and will continue with the SDP. Completed in March by Amtrak, the feasibility study provided preliminary cost and revenue estimates plus potential schedules for four options of state-sponsored passenger rail service between Kansas City, Oklahoma City and Fort Worth.

Maddox said Alternatives 1 and 3 from that list were selected for further study, based on a number of meetings to get public input.

Alternative 1 would be a nighttime train connecting with the existing Amtrak Southwest Chief at Newton and running south to Oklahoma City, where a connection could be made with the existing Heartland Flyer to Fort Worth, and the rest of the Amtrak system.

Alternative 3 would be a daytime train running from Kansas City to Fort Worth.

The SDP will be compiled for each of the two alternatives. It will provide a detailed business plan that

outlines the steps necessary to expand passenger rail service as well as how it would operate.

Herrick appointed to rail commission

To further the development of passenger rail service in Kansas, Gov. Mark Parkinson has appointed Chris Herrick, KDOT Director of Planning and Development, to the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission.

The commission, which was created by House Bill 2552, will help develop plans to expand high-speed rail passenger service in Kansas.

Herrick has worked at KDOT for nearly 20 years. Herrick oversees Program and Project Management, Transportation Safety and Technology and the Bureau of Transportation Planning. He earned a bachelor’s in civil engineering from the University of Minnesota and a bachelor’s in business administration from the University of Kansas.



Chris Herrick

Bountiful baskets



At left, KDOT employees look at different baskets at the annual Headquarters Breakfast, Baskets, and Bake Sale event that raised more than \$2,000 to support the United Way. Above is the Division of Engineering and Design’s T-WORKS basket.

Smile!

Gov. Mark Parkinson turned the tables on KDOT photographers to show his appreciation for their work with the Governor's office over the past eight years. In a note, the Governor wrote:

"Since 2003, you've taken literally thousands of photographs for the Sebelius and Parkinson administrations. Not only have Kathleen and I and the staff greatly appreciated your diligence and the consistent quality of your work, you've been able to provide so many visitors to this Governor's Office with permanent snapshot reminders of those special times each of them spent inside this historic building. Kansans from every corner of our state, visitors from around the country and the world, as well as foreign dignitaries, the list is a very long one - and we're very, very grateful for your service."



Gov. Mark Parkinson turned the camera on KDOT's photographers (from left) Larry Katsbulas, Sonya Schuneman and Kurt Weaverling to thank them for their efforts during the past eight years.

Largest local ARRA project opened to traffic

The largest local American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project in Kansas was opened to traffic recently during a ribbon cutting ceremony at Northwest 46th Street and Oakley in north Topeka.

The Northwest 46th Street improvement project was needed to address safety concerns and capacity issues along the heavily travelled roadway. Project construction began in March 2010 and included the construction of two multi-lane roundabouts located at the intersections of 46th Street and both Fielding Road and Oakley.

In addition, 46th Street was widened to four-lanes from Oakley to Fielding Road and a left turn lane was added at 46th Street and Northwest Button Road.

"One of the things I really like about this project is that not only does it provide short-term economic stimulus, it also will support long-term economic development in this part of the county," said Secretary Deb Miller.



Secretary Deb Miller speaks at the event celebrating the completion of the Northwest 46th Street improvement project in North Topeka. Photo by Kurt Weaverling

"But as important as the economic benefits are, the biggest benefit of this project is enhanced safety."

Miller said the N.W. 46th Street project accomplished exactly what the federal stimulus program was designed to do: namely, supporting short-term economic stimulus for businesses associated with construction of the project and provide long-term economic

development in northern Shawnee County.

Hamm Inc., was the primary contractor on the \$2.9 million roadway improvement project. The 46th Street improvement was a cooperative project between KDOT and Shawnee County.

Overall, 77 local projects totaling \$34.7 million were selected throughout the state to receive ARRA funding.

District News...

K-7 project takes shape

The K-7 and 55th Street/Johnson Drive interchange project replaces an at-grade signalized intersection with a new above-grade interchange in Shawnee (Johnson County). The interchange project includes construction of a roundabout to merge the K-7 on- and off-ramps with 55th Street/Johnson Drive, and a second roundabout currently under construction will be located west of K-7.

District One

When complete, 55th Street/Johnson Drive will run under K-7.

In mid-October, crews began pouring the decks for the new pair of K-7 bridges spanning 55th Street/Johnson Drive. Most work to the west of 55th Street and Hedge Lane Terrace is nearly complete, including the new roundabout. The project is currently on schedule and crews will continue work throughout the winter, as weather permits.

The \$21.4 million project began this spring and is scheduled for completion in fall 2011. It is a cooperative effort funded in part by KDOT and the City of Shawnee.

K-61 work progresses

K-61, an ARRA project in McPherson County, is moving forward with eyes on transferring traffic off of the old K-61 and on to the new south bound lanes by late November/early December of this year.

District Two

Once traffic is moved onto the new lanes work can begin to remove much of the old roadway then start the earth work for the future north bound lanes, which will be constructed next year. Plans call for the four lane highway to be completed and tied into the Reno County portion of the new K-61, completing a four-lane roadway between McPherson and Hutchinson in the fall of 2011.



The old equipment buildings are being replaced at Norton and Atwood.

Subarea gets upgrades

District Three is working on two separate projects to modernize the Norton and Atwood Subarea buildings. Through the capital outlay program, the project continues a multi-year program to address the equipment bays in some of the KDOT Subareas. The existing facilities were constructed in the late

District Three

1950s and early '60s and are not of sufficient depth or width to house the dump trucks when equipped with a salt/sand spreader and snow plow.

“With the older facilities, we couldn’t park inside – fully equipped with the salt/sand spreaders or snow plows,” said Norton Subarea Supervisor Jeff Jones. “And during the storms, critical time was lost due to attaching the equipment and loading the salt/sand material.”

Time was also lost during storms when the trucks’ compressors froze the brakes. “Parking inside will alleviate this problem and prevent the ice-build up on the windshields as well,” he said.

The new facilities will be heated and feature better insulation, concrete aprons, improved drainage and an upgraded office with ADA compliances. The facilities will also provide drive-through access, reducing the chances for any backing accidents.

The \$590,000 project should be

complete by May 2011. Paul Wertemberger of Hays is the prime contractor.

U.S. 169 on track

The U.S. 169 system enhancement project in Montgomery County is now 60 percent finished and well on track to meet the scheduled November 2011 completion, according to Dave Owings, Engineering Technician Specialist at

Photo on next page

Independence and KDOT project manager.

Started in early 2009, the \$43 million project is a realignment and expansion of a 5.3-mile section of the highway from east of Coffeyville northeast to the Potato Creek Bridge. Owings said four of the six bridges, including Potato Creek, have been reconstructed.

“We’re covering up our lime-treated subgrade with an asphalt base on the mainline before winter sets in,” he added.

District Four

Although most of the new pavement will be asphalt, the tie-ins to the north and south ends of the Coffeyville Industrial Park will be concrete, said Owings, as will the turning medians. Forty acres of wetland mitigation is also included with the project. Sherwood Construction of Wichita is the primary contractor.

Continued on page 7

This aerial photo shows the new interchange of U.S. 166 and 169 at the southern end of the Coffeyville system enhancement project. (Photo by Mike Moore)



Economics discussed

The Southwest Kansas Chambers of Commerce hosted the “Southwest Kansas Economic Summit,” which focused on how people could work together as a region to resolve economic issues.

Patty Clark, State Director of USDA Rural Development, discussed the impact a regional change can have on a state level. Bradley Kramer, Director of Advanced Manufacturing Institute, discussed how great of an impact alliances and partnerships have on a regional level. Ed O’Malley, President and CEO of the Kansas Leadership Center, spoke about why persistence within the region will ultimately pay off.

District Six

Ford County Commission Chair Kim Goodnight facilitated the transportation breakout. District Engineer Larry Thompson discussed T-Works and the project selection process. Thompson and Rep. Gary Hayzlett listened to concerns of residents such as the progress of the Amtrak study, elimination of passenger rail in Southwest Kansas and the four-lane expansion of U.S. 54.

District News

Continued from page 6

Local celebrations

Ribbon cuttings took place this fall on two local projects in District Five. The first was Boyd Road, a primary north-south route in Barton County providing a 10-mile link from the west intersection of U.S. 281 and K-4 continuing south to K-96. The old curves were steep and required a 20-mph limit, whereas the newly-constructed super-elevated curves have a larger radii that allows traffic to negotiate this section at 55 mph.

Barton County’s ribbon cutting for the new Boyd Road Curves was Sept. 27. Venture Corporation of Great Bend was the prime contractor for the \$1 million project.

District Five

Two other recent roadway improvements on Boyd Road include a new railroad crossing completed by the Barton County Road Department north of the new curves, and the reconstruction of a bridge over the Walnut Creek, currently under construction by King Construction south of the new curves.

The second ribbon cutting ceremony was on Oct. 6 for the 6th Avenue and Boyer

Road Recovery Act project in El Dorado and was attended by city, school and transportation officials.

The \$2.2 million project consisted of the removal and reconstruction, with some realignment, of Boyer Road and 6th Avenue in El Dorado from Central Avenue to Metcalf Road. The existing road was heavily potholed and in overall poor condition. Some of the improvements included the widening of the roadway to include a center turn lane, the addition of curb and gutters and the addition of a sidewalk between Metcalf Road and Oil Hill School located just west of Hunton Road.



At left, attendees cut the ribbon for the Boyd Road project in Barton County. Above, attendees cut the ribbon for the 6th Avenue and Boyer Road project in El Dorado. Both were Recovery Act projects.

Information for the District news briefs section is provided by the District Public Affairs Managers.

“Put the Brakes on Fatalities” Day a great reminder, but road safety is on my mind every day of the year

Editor’s Note - This was the final installment for the 20-day Put the Brakes on Fatalities safety series that appeared on the Kansas Transportation Online Community (KTOC) from Sept. 13 to Oct. 8.

By U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood

Those of you who have benefited from this terrific web page provided by the folks at KDOT know that this week-end, the US Department of Transportation, state agencies, and safety advocates across the country will mark an auspicious day. Sunday, October 10, 2010-- or 10-10-10 --is the 10th anniversary of “Put the Brakes on Fatalities” Day.

This is a day when we focus public awareness on driver behavior, vehicle safety, and roadway improvement in an effort to reduce traffic deaths across America. And these efforts are working.

As we announced last month at DOT, traffic fatalities in 2009 were down considerably from the previous year--even though the number of miles driven went up during the same period. In fact, last year saw the lowest number of traffic fatalities since 1950.

The numbers from the first six months of 2010 are even more encouraging. Road fatalities from January to June of this year are down another 9.2 percent compared to the same period last year. This means we’ve had 17 straight quarters of year-to-year declines.

But if you know one of the nearly 34,000 people killed on

our roadways in 2009--if you lost a loved one--then you know that number is still too high.

So Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day is an opportunity for the safety community to highlight important initiatives like Click it, Or Ticket; Over the Limit, Under Arrest; and Phone in One Hand, Ticket in the Other. And it’s a chance for us to remind people that everyone has a personal responsibility to make safe decisions when you get behind the wheel.

It’s a chance to take this safety fight to the next level. And that’s exactly what’s on my mind 365 days a year.

Now, if you read my blog <http://fastlane.dot.gov/>, you know I love many things about my job. But, as you may also know from my rampage against distracted driving, I am also weighed down by the human cost of the crashes on our roadways each year.

Whatever and whoever is involved--car, truck, motorcycle, bicycle, or pedestrian--I don’t see these preventable deaths as statistics; I take them personally. That’s probably why the Washington Post says I approach safety with “evangelical zeal.”

I know that each life lost is a hole torn in a family or circle of friends or community.

And each one reminds me of a job unfinished. We have yet to find the silver technological bullet that leads to crash-proof roads and vehicles. We have yet to get 100% of Americans to buckle up. We have yet to

keep all drivers from drinking. We have yet to eliminate texting and talking on cell phones behind the wheel.

That’s why we need the efforts of all those who participate in Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day. They’ve been doing a terrific job for 10 years--and we must include this innovative K-TOC site as a great addition to KDOT’s safety toolkit.

Unfortunately, now is no time to rest. Our roads are safer now than they’ve ever been, but there is plenty more to do. And, working together, we will make those roads even safer.



Kansas Economic Recovery Jobs Report
The three-month numbers at right illustrate jobs thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

September '10	Non-KDOT	KDOT Only	Total
Employees	2,857	285	3,142
Hours	151,480	10,338	161,818
Payroll	\$3,437,882	\$214,549	\$3,652,431
August 2010	Non-KDOT	KDOT Only	Total
Employees	3,684	319	4,003
Hours	189,715	14,415	204,130
Payroll	\$4,889,024	\$300,560	\$5,189,58
July 2010	Non-KDOT	KDOT Only	Total
Employees	4,453	353	4,806
Hours	233,088	13,615	246,703
Payroll	\$6,110,083	\$210,771	\$6,320,854

Promotions/Transfers

Headquarters

Ruth Mallory, Right of Way Property Appraiser Supervisor
The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies Promotions/Transfer information to Translines.

Calendar of Events

- Nov. 9** – 11 a.m. KDOT employees’ Council Meeting, Third Floor, Eisenhower State Office Building.
- Nov. 11** – State employees off for Veteran’s Day.
- Nov. 12** – 9:30 a.m. - Highway Advisory Commission meeting.
- Nov. 17** – 1 p.m. Construction bid letting, Fourth Floor West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.
- Nov. 25-26** – State employees off for Thanksgiving holiday.

TRB presents award to Miller

Secretary Deb Miller will be presented the 2010 W. N. Carey, Jr., Distinguished Service Award at the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Chairman’s Luncheon on Jan. 26, 2011.

“Miller has provided outstanding leadership in policy and strategic planning for the Board, served with distinction on study committees and technical project panels, and championed research and policy analyses that address long-term challenges faced by transportation agencies at all levels of government,” according to TRB’s news release.

Miller was the 2008 chair of TRB’s Executive Committee, and she also chaired its Subcommittee on Planning and Policy Review. She was a member of the specially appointed study committees that produced the 1996 report, *Paying Our Way: Estimat-*

ing Marginal Social Costs of Freight Transportation, and the 2009 report, *A Transportation Research Program for Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change and Conserving Energy*.

Miller chaired the National Cooperative Highway Research Program Project Panel on Commuting in America III and was chair of TRB’s standing committee on Transportation and Economic Development. An ex officio member of the TRB Executive Committee, she is currently a member and secretary of the Technical Coordinating Committee for Capacity Research of the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2).

The Carey Award recognizes individuals who have given leadership and distinguished service to the Board but who have not necessarily been personally active in transportation research.



KDOT CERAMIC HOLIDAY ORNAMENT

An Employees’ Council Fundraiser



TO ORDER:

- Headquarters:** Contact your Employees’ Council Rep.
- District/Retirees:** Mail completed form and check to: Ruby Hilton, Bridge Design, 700 SW Harrison, 13th Floor, ESOB, Topeka, KS, 66603.
Checks payable to KDOT EMPLOYEES’ COUNCIL

- ◆ **First/Last Name** _____
- ◆ **Work Address** _____
 (Retirees Home Address)
- ◆ **Work Phone** _____

• \$5 each
 • Only 250 available
 • 3” diameter flat ceramic

Quantity _____
 Amount Enclosed _____

For more details, call Ruby at (785) 296-0603

*Fun Facts
and Trivia*

Do you know?

**Kansas Fun Facts
Part Two**

♦The three largest herds of buffalo (correctly called bison) in Kansas are located on public lands at the Maxwell Game Preserve (McPherson), Big Basin (Ashland), and Buffalo Game Preserve (Garden City).

♦Fort Riley, between Junction City and Manhattan, was the cradle of the United States Cavalry for 83 years. George Custer formed the famed 7th Cavalry there in 1866. Ten years later, at the Battle of the Little Big Horn, the 7th was virtually wiped out. The only Cavalry survivor was a horse named Comanche.

♦Wyatt Earp, James Butler “Wild Bill” Hickok and William B. “Bat” Masterson were three of the legendary lawmen who kept the peace in frontier towns like Abilene, Dodge City, Ellsworth, Hays and Wichita.

♦The public swimming pool at the Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City occupies half a city block and holds 2 1/2 million gallons of water.

♦Source: <http://www.50states.com/facts/kansas.htm>



Secretary Deb Miller cuts the ribbon with other local and state officials at the state's first historic byway celebration on Sept. 30. Photo by Kurt Weaverling

Ceremony marks 1st historic byway

By Steve Swartz

Under clear, blue skies and set against the bluffs of Lake Scott State Park, the ribbon was cut on the state's first historic byway on Sept. 30.

The Western Vistas Historic Byway, which stretches 102 miles through Logan, Scott and Wallace counties, was celebrated at event that featured comments from KDOT Secretary Deb Miller, Ron Kaufman of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and John Foster, former Wallace County economic development director.

“Travelers who decide to take this route will not only discover our state's diverse beauty, they will also learn something about the history of Kansas and how our nation developed,” said Secretary Miller.

The byway extends from Scott City to Sharon Springs and includes parts of U.S. 83, U.S. 40 and K-95. It provides travelers the opportunity to experience the El Quarteljo

Pueblo ruins, view unique rock formations such as Monument Rocks and Little Jerusalem, and learn about the various cultures and events that played a central role in America's western expansion. It features seven National Historic sites and six museums.

The state now has 10 routes that are part of the Kansas byways program. Two of them have National Scenic Byway designation.

The state designation for Western Vistas will result in the placement of route markers along the byway, creation of a promotional brochure, inclusion on the next state map and a page on the www.ksbyways.org website.

Secretary Miller noted that the designation will give travelers a reason to stop and explore, eat at restaurants and shop – all to the benefit of the local economy.

“There are features along this route you can't find anywhere else in Kansas and now, as part of the byway program, a lot of people are going to know about them,” she said.

★ ★ ★
KDOT salutes our troops
★ ★ ★

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

Denny Browning, Equipment Operator, District One, Army

Kirk Hutchinson, Program Consultant II, District Six, Army

The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies military information to Translines.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Secretary Miller,

My office was recently contacted by Ms. Jennifer Kubiak, who shared with me the positive assistance Mr. Brian Hoke (Public Service Administrator at Overland Park) recently provided to her about resolving matters of overgrown brush between her property and the highway.

Mr. Brian Hoke is to be commended for his service and I hope you will help me in recognizing him by forwarding on these attached letters of appreciation. His actions reflect the high standards of the Kansas Department of Transportation and it is my pleasure to call his professional work ethic and courtesy to your attention.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Mark Parkinson
Governor of the State of Kansas

T-WORKS

At right, State Transportation Engineer Jerry Younger speaks at the T-WORKS meeting in Independence on Oct. 8, and later, attendees look at information on charts. Six meetings took place across Kansas in October to give the public an opportunity to offer input on how transportation dollars should be invested. Photos by Kurt Weaverling



Upcoming KDOT Training Courses

Classes at Headquarters

- ♦ You'll Catch On, Nov. 2-3
- ♦ New Employee Orientation, Nov. 4
- ♦ Advanced Resource Training Day 1, 2, 3, Nov. 8-10
- ♦ BEST Week 2, Nov. 29-Dec. 2
- ♦ New Employee Orientation, Jan. 6
- ♦ Advanced Resource Training Day 1, 2, 3, Jan. 18-20

Classes at District Offices

- ♦ Transition to Leadership & Ethics, Norton, Nov. 15-19
- ♦ TTL & Ethics, Hutchinson, Dec. 7-9
- ♦ You'll Catch On, Hutchinson, Dec. 14-15

M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in November

10 YEARS

- Bradley Anderson Abilene
- Jason Dlugopolski Leavenworth
- Kevin Endsley Topeka
- Steve Lamb Ellinwood
- Jesse Maddox II Topeka
- Melinda Marlar Topeka
- Daniel Nickelson Girard
- Roy Nilges Colony
- Stephen Otter Norton
- David Tipton Ottawa
- Stacey Wait Hutchinson
- Carl Zorn Strong City

20 YEARS

- Jerry Barker Silver Lake
- John Berndsen Winfield
- Christopher Fasching . Overland Park
- Frederick Gebhardt Pittsburg
- Melissa Millick Topeka
- Edward Niemczyk Newton

30 YEARS

- Michael Sheley Colby
- William Windholz WaKeeney

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

KDOT Computer Training

– from the KCTC

Increase your efficiency!

Windows 7 Operating System

Beginning in November, KDOT employees will receive Microsoft's newest operating system, Windows 7, over the next several months.

The migration will take place bureau by bureau in ESOB, followed by the districts. The process will not be all encompassing, as machines with certain hardware constraints will retain the current operating system,

Windows XP - The Bureau of Computer Services (BCS) and the KCTC have been testing Windows 7 for months on compatibility with numerous software and hardware systems. They will provide training coordinated with the timing users receive the new operating system.

What's New? Users will notice many interface and navigational changes. We think the new operating system has many useful new features including search capabilities, transparent windows, changes in the start menu, taskbar, desktop personalization and more. Windows 7 supports both 32-bit and 64-bit programs. When users are upgraded to Windows 7, they will also be upgraded to Internet Explorer (IE) 8.

Two types of training include:

- 1) A 20-minute web tutorial will serve as an overview of immediate changes and options in Windows 7.
- 2) A three-hour instructor-led class with course material to keep will be available for users wanting more details of Windows 7 and IE8.

Stay tuned for the arrival of Windows 7 in your work area.

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

Welcome new KDOT employees!

District One

Andrew Jenkins, Engineering Technician, Topeka

District Three

Charles Alexander, Engineering Technician Associate, Norton

Douglas Bunjes, Equipment Operator Trainee St. Francis

Preston Clark, Equipment Operator Trainee, WaKeeney

George R. Dickerson, Engineering Technician Associate, Oakley
Michael Herrera, Equipment Operator Trainee, Goodland
Heath Mannis, Equipment Operator Trainee, Goodland

District Four

Amanda Girth, Administrative Assistant, Pittsburg

District Five

Jody Dendurant, Engineering Associate II, Wichita

District Six

Reid Borschetta, Administrative Specialist, Ulysses

The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information for new employees to Translines.