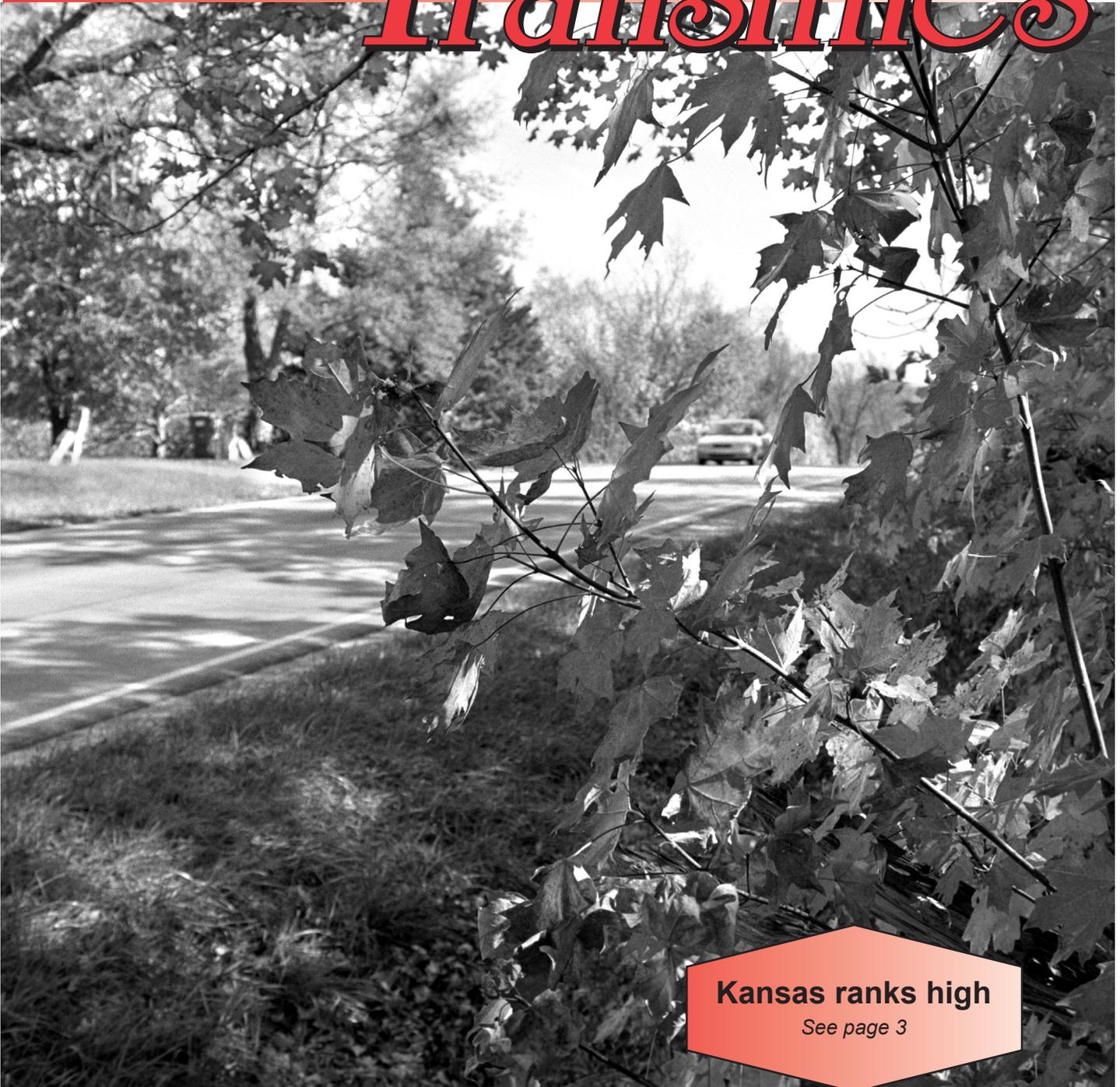


# Translines



**Kansas ranks high**

See page 3

## **I**nside ...

- ◆ **Fund-raising campaign under way**
- ◆ **Remodeling effort greatly reduces costs**
- ◆ **Kansas conducting Statewide Freight Plan**
- ◆ **Put the brakes on fatalities**
- ◆ **Collaboration at heart of T-LINK process**



By Secretary  
Deb Miller

## Collaboration at heart of T-LINK process

One of the most important steps toward developing a new transportation program took place during September in eight cities throughout the state.

Hundreds of Kansans representing cities, counties, transportation advocacy groups, industry associations and more participated in Local Consultation meetings in Ulysses, Hays, Abilene, Topeka, Olathe, Hutchinson, Pittsburg and Wichita. During breakout sessions with members of the Governor’s transportation task force – T-LINK – and KDOT staff, they discussed highways, other modal needs and funding. They were given the opportunity to discuss specific projects and issues important to their communities.

We worked very hard to create a process that is inclusive and will give us lots of opportunity for collaboration. And I think that’s extremely important.

But, it’s a tough thing to do. When you try to be inclusive, you can wind up with a process that doesn’t have much meaning because so many people are talking. It can be difficult to keep the thread of an issue from becoming tangled or broken. Our staff and members of the task force

kept the meetings structured and the discussion focused, and I’m grateful for their success.

To develop something as complex as a transportation program there must be broad buy-in, commitment and understanding that what we’re doing makes sense. Stakeholders and citizens must understand how it is important to them. If we don’t have a careful process through which we can listen and understand what they’re saying, we can’t craft a program that is going to resonate or reflect their varied interests and regional priorities.

Since I became head of this agency I have spent a lot of time visiting with chambers of commerce, Rotary Clubs, legislators and special interest groups. Everywhere I’ve gone it’s been clear that while people have appreciated the approach KDOT has taken in carrying out the current program, there are subtle changes they would like to see. So, I think we must be open about how we approach our business if we want to maintain credibility and if we want our work to continue to seem relevant.

The T-LINK process has been set up and designed in a way we hope will allow us to do that. It allows us to connect not only with the views of various stakeholder groups, but also with Kansas communities throughout the state.

To get a good idea of what we’ve been hearing around the state (and to get a better idea of our process), I encourage you to visit the task force Web site at [www.kansastlink.com](http://www.kansastlink.com). You can read lengthy summaries of each Local Consult meeting, see what members of the task force are saying, watch video coverage of the meetings and much more.

And while you are at the T-LINK site, spend some time on the “calculator,” a sophisticated, very enlightening tool that will allow you to build your own transportation program and select the funding sources to pay for it. After a short while you’ll have a better understanding of the need to involve as many Kansans as possible in developing the next program.



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

**Governor:** Kathleen Sebelius  
**Secretary of Transportation:** Deb Miller  
**Chief of Transportation Information:** Steve Swartz  
**Editors:** Stan Whitley and Kim Stich

Phone/TTY: (785) 296-3585 ♦ FAX: (785) 296-0287

### Calendar of Events

- Sept. 29-30** – KDOT Operations Meeting, Salina
- Oct. 10** – 9:30 a.m. - Highway Advisory Commission meeting.
- Oct. 11** - KDOT golf at Eagle Bend Golf Course, Lawrence. Tee times start at 10 a.m. Two-person Best Ball format. Contact Kevin Adams to enter, 296-5297 or [kevina@ksdot.org](mailto:kevina@ksdot.org)
- Oct. 14** - 11 a.m., KDOT employees’ Council Meeting, Third Floor, Eisenhower State Office Building.
- Oct. 15** – 1 p.m. Construction bid letting, Fourth Floor, West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.

# Kansas ranks high in national report

KDOT has been recognized as maintaining the fifth best state-owned road and highway system in the nation, according to a California research foundation.

The Reason Foundation recognized KDOT following a study that measured the performance of state-owned roads and highways in 12 different categories.

“Kansas’ ranking reflects the investment by taxpayers in two multibillion dollar highway construction programs,” said Jerry Younger, KDOT Deputy Secretary for Engineering and State Transportation Engineer. “It goes to show what a well-funded, fiscally responsible transportation program will do for your system.”

Kansas was ranked first in the nation in two categories – lowest number of rural and urban interstate miles in poor condition. Kansas has no miles in either category that rated poor.

Reason Foundation’s 17th annual report identified the best and worst transportation systems based on measures related to cost-effectiveness, maintenance and administrative costs, congestion, traffic fatalities, and road and bridge surface con-



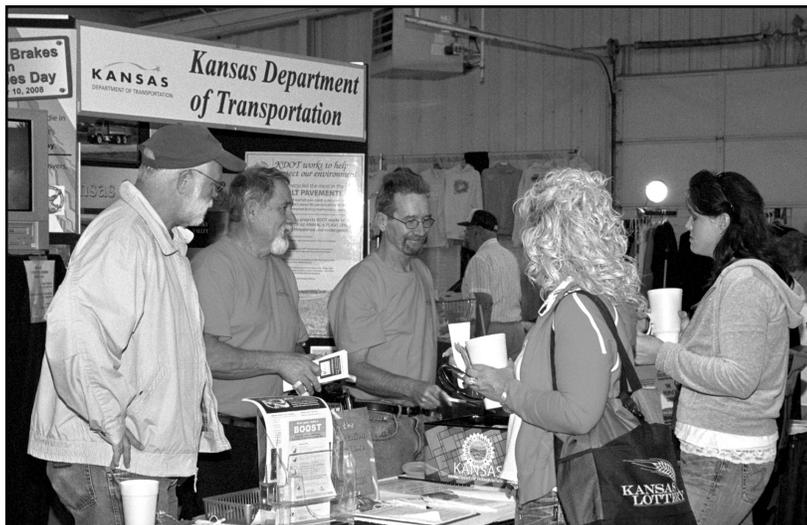
*Kansas’ highway system is ranked fifth in the nation by The Reason Foundation. Photo by Sonya Scheuneman*

ditions.

It is the second straight year that Kansas has rated in the top five nationally.

North Dakota ranked first in the report. Rankings for surrounding states were: Nebraska, 8th; Missouri, 13th; Colorado, 31st; and Oklahoma, 33rd. *-S.W.*

## KDOT booth



*District Five employees John Wiens (left), George Gier and Don Beydler distribute promo items and brochures at the KDOT booth at the Kansas State Fair. Photo by Kurt Weaverling*

## Morgan found guilty of killing highway workers

Just more than one year ago, Tyrone T. Korte and Rolland Griffith were on a highway crew repaving a stretch of U.S. 59 highway about seven miles south of Lawrence on Sept. 11, 2007, when a speeding pickup truck plowed into the pair, killing them.

Two days shy of the first anniversary of the tragedy, Douglas County District Court jurors on Sept. 9 convicted motorist Ramona Morgan, 49, of two counts of unintentional second-degree murder in their deaths.

Morgan was found guilty of killing Korte, 30, a KDOT inspector from Seneca, and Griffith, 24, a construction worker for El Dorado-based Dustrol.

Morgan, from Washington state, is scheduled to be sentenced on Nov. 5. She faces a sentence of between nine and 41 years in prison on each of the second-degree murder convictions.

On the...

## COVER

*The final weeks of fall foliage are slipping by on U.S. 40 east of Topeka. Photo by Sonya Scheuneman*



*Members of the Winfield Area 530 Crew and the Wellington Subarea office pose with Secretary Deb Miller (center) at the Employee Recognition ceremony in Wellington. Photo by Larry Katsboulas*

## Remodeling effort greatly reduces costs

WELLINGTON - An extensive remodeling project earlier this year greatly improved the Wellington Subarea office and also was done at substantial savings.

This effort by members of the Winfield Area Crew 530 was recognized as an Example of Excellence for the second quarter of 2008. Secretary Deb Miller attended the event in Wellington on Aug. 28.

The walls and doors were sagging, creating a variety of inefficiencies within the building used by the Wellington Subarea as well as an office used by the Kansas Highway Patrol. Normally, the job would have been hired out, "but the Area Crew said they were up to the task, had experience and would be able to do the work at considerable savings to KDOT," said Area Engineer Allen Grunder.

The remodeling involved removing the cinder block walls, ceilings, floor tiles, rest rooms; and rerouting plumbing and electrical work. The crew then installed new walls, doors, lighting fixtures, ceilings, floor tile, trim and then painted the offices. The Wellington Subarea Crew also assisted in this effort.

"They created a very pleasant and efficient facility,"

Grunder said.

Members of the Area Crew 530 team include Matthew Groene, Louis Hoover, Stanley Schwantes and Robert Ternes.

Do you know of a KDOT group, team, unit, or office

that has gone above the call of duty? Then nominate them for the Example of Excellence award. All KDOT employees are encouraged to suggest ideas and can now fill out Form DOT 1204. Once it is filled out, the nomination is then sent to the selected Division Director, Bureau Chief, District Engineer, Area Engineer, or Subarea Supervisor who can then sign the form and submit the nomination to Trans-

portation Information.

Hard copies of the form are still available by calling Transportation Information at 785-296-3585 and require the signature of one of the supervisors listed above.

The award is given quarterly with nominations for the third quarter due to the Bureau of Transportation Information by Sept. 30 and nominations for the fourth quarter due by Dec. 31. - *K.S.*



# Fund-raising campaign under way

Through the end of October, KDOT employees will have the opportunity to help support vital community services by contributing to the Community Health Charities/United Way fund-raising campaign.

District employees have already received pledge cards and most Topeka workers will receive their cards Oct. 20 and have until Oct. 31 to return them.

There are nearly 50 Community Health Charities (CHC) agencies and, depending on the community, approximately 30 United Way (UW) agencies that benefit from the annual campaign. Donors can specify which agencies they want their contributions to go to, or they can choose to contribute "undesignated funds" and the funds will be allocated among the various agencies.

KDOT campaign co-chairs Opal Rodenbaugh and Ingrid Vandervort acknowledged that these are difficult economic times. Increases in the cost of gasoline, groceries and other goods and services have put a pinch on household budgets.

But, they noted, donations can be spread out over the entire year, making it easier to give.

"You can break it down to an easy level and can give as little as you want," said Vandervort. "A small monthly contribution may not be missed, but, when added up over 12 months, it pays for meals for seniors, sets up a support group for families with special health needs and much more."

Secretary Deb Miller, who said her own family has benefitted from organizations supported by United Way, said that even though a person may not need community services now, it's important to know they are there when the need arises.

"We all know someone who may be dealing with a health issue, supporting a family member suffering Alzheimer's or in need of other support services," said Miller. "And, we're all aware that no matter where we live, we can be just moments away from a natural disaster."

Donations to CHC and UW are tax deductible. Contributions made through payroll deduction will begin in January and continue through December 2009.

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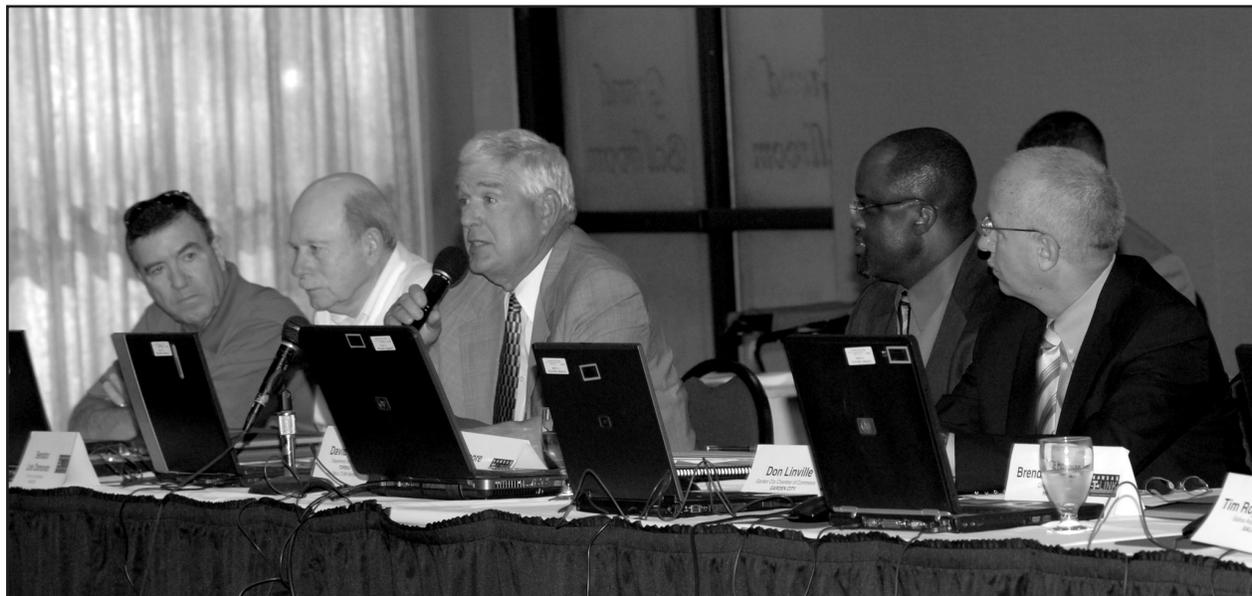
***'A small monthly contribution may not be missed, but, when added up over 12 months, it pays for meals for seniors, sets up a support group for families with special health needs and much more.'***

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**Ingrid Vandervort**

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## Planning for the future



*Members of the Governor's transportation task force – T-LINK – listen to Revenue Department representative Dave Corbin, center, at the first T-LINK meeting Aug. 27 in Topeka. From left are Michael Johnston, KTA; Sen. Les Donovan; Corbin; Scott Moore, city of Wichita; and Don Linville of Garden City. For more on the task force, see the Secretary's column on Page 2. For a summary of each T-LINK and Local Consultation meeting, visit the T-LINK Web site at [www.kansastlink.com](http://www.kansastlink.com). Photo by Kurt Weaverling*

**Step Back in Time**



*Surveying work for Kansas highway construction in 1952.*



# KDOT Computer Training

*— from the KCTC*

Increase your efficiency!

**Where are Karen and Misty?**  
KCTC trainers Karen Ellis and Misty Rodriguez continue delivering Crew Card training in the Districts. Crew Card should finish just as the KCTC's annual fall tour of Microsoft Office classes begin. We will be delivering Microsoft classes to Districts Three, Four and Six from October to December, emphasizing computer classes needed for the ET Progression. Karen and Misty will rotate travels to maintain our regular schedule at the Eisenhower building.

## MS Office Shortcuts:

### Formatting:

- ♦Ctrl Z is the magic undo combo. It simply undoes your last action.
- ♦Ctrl Y will redo an action.
- ♦Ctrl B, Ctrl I, or Ctrl U apply bold, italics or underline to highlighted text, respectively.
- ♦Ctrl P prints whatever is in an active window.
- ♦Ctrl Enter inserts a page break in Word.
- ♦Alt Ctrl C inserts the copyright symbol,
- ♦Alt Ctrl R inserts the registered trademark symbol and Alt Ctrl T makes the trademark symbol.

### Outlook:

- ♦You can jump to the section you want; Ctrl 1 switches to the Mail window, Ctrl 2 switches to the Calendar, Ctrl 3 to Contacts, Ctrl 4 to Tasks, and Ctrl 5 to Notes.
- ♦In Outlook e-mail, hit Ctrl N to compose a new message, Ctrl R to reply to a message. Ctrl Shift M starts a new message in Outlook. Use Ctrl Shift C for a new contact.

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

## Welcome new KDOT employees!

### Headquarters

- Michele Gies**, Administrative Assistant, Design
- Brian Stahlecker**, Procurement Officer I, Fiscal
- John Shaver**, Right of Way Agent I, Right of Way

### District One

- Paul Beeman**, Equipment Operator, Emporia
- Raymond Burns**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Topeka
- Peter Espinoza**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Topeka
- Tyler Ganaden**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Edwardsville
- Daniel Hallowell**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Osage City
- Melissa McMahon**, Engineering Technician, Olathe

*The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information to Translines.*

- Joshua Powell**, Equipment Operator Trainee, District Bridge Crew
- Michael Rumbley**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Topeka
- Rebecca Ryan**, Administrative Assistant, Wamego
- Andrew Taylor**, Engineering Technician, Olathe

### District Two

- David Davis**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Marion
- Michael Neugebauer**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Washington
- Rodney Taylor**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Clay Center

### District Three

- Seth Gilbert**, Engineering Technician Associate, Oakley
- Kenneth Jones, Jr.**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Sharon Springs
- Tom J. Plummer**, Engineering Technician Association, Oakley

### District Five

- Steven Caswell**, Equipment Mechanic, Pratt

### District Six

- Robert Brown**, Land Surveyor I, Garden City



By

**Ron  
Seitz**
**TRANSPORTATION  
TALK**

## Bureau functions as 'mini-KDOT'

One thing I find as I visit with various KDOT folks is that there are a lot of people in the agency who really don't know very much about what the Bureau of Local Projects (BLP) does and what our role is.

This isn't surprising given that we are a small bureau and most KDOT employees don't deal with us since we are not part of "mainstream" KDOT that deals with improving and maintaining the state highway system. It seems to me that this column is the perfect opportunity to introduce you to our bureau.

The main focus of the BLP is to work with our local partners – cities and counties – to assist them in meeting the transportation needs of their systems. Our funding is primarily federal aid, but we also administer the project development on state-funded projects through the KLINK 1R, Geometric Improvements, Economic Development, Local Partnership Grade Separation and System Enhancement programs. In a normal year we may let as many as 130 projects and have 500-600 active at some stage of project development. Those familiar with the BLP sometimes refer to us as a "mini-KDOT" because we perform the same activities as other parts of KDOT, but with a local agency focus.

BLP is made up of five work units that work integrally to accomplish our goals:

- ◆ The Program Team is responsible for the calculation and distribution of federal funds to the local agencies, development of the local five-year program, programming of individual projects and overseeing our production

control.

- ◆ The Road Team provides technical expertise in the areas of road design, environmental clearances and documentation and plan/project development issues, as well as being the project managers for all of our projects that are designed either by the local agency or a consultant hired by them.

- ◆ Structural and major hydraulic issues are handled by our Bridge Team, which also is charged with the administration of the National Bridge Inspection Program for the 20,500 bridges on the local system.

- ◆ The Contracts Team handles engineering agreements for preliminary engineering and inspection on our local projects when federal or state monies are used to pay for the work. The team also is responsible for local agency/state agreements for both local projects and for state highway projects that may extend into a city or include extensive work on a county road.

- ◆ The duties of our Local Liaison include providing outreach and communication to the local agencies to help keep them informed of things that are going on that may affect their program or projects. The Liaison also is responsible for advising and assisting the local agencies on the schedules and rules that apply for their right of way acquisition and utility relocations.

As you can see, we have a broad range of duties that span the gamut of what KDOT does. The only roles we do not perform are construction and maintenance, although we do review and approve construction change-orders on projects that are constructed under our program that allows certain local agencies to let their own projects.

BLP is facing many of the same issues that KDOT is dealing with today, including uncertain federal and state funding for the future, escalating construction costs, budget reductions and difficulty in hiring and retaining qualified staff. The challenges of meeting our goals are complicated by the fact that we are not completely in control of our destiny. Local agencies have large transportation networks with extensive needs but have limited revenues to address their concerns.

We have implemented several measures in the past few years to improve the way we do business. These include streamlining our plan review process to reduce project development times, the electronic plans process and allowing an employee to be located outside of headquarters.

The space allowed here does not allow me to go into the detail I would like. I know this was a very brief glimpse of BLP, but I hope it has given you a better idea of what we are about.

*Ron Seitz is Chief of the Bureau of Local Projects.*

# Kansas developing Statewide Freight Plan

A multimodal Kansas Statewide Freight Plan (KSFP) is being developed to help KDOT examine the diverse components of the state's freight system, including highways, rail lines, intermodal air cargo transportation and waterways.

A key component of the KSFP will be a freight commodity flow analysis that will provide a comprehensive look at major commodity flows within, originating, terminating and passing through the state of Kansas.

"Ultimately, the KSFP should establish links with the Kansas Long Range Transportation Plan," said John Maddox, KDOT State Freight and Rail Unit Program Manager. "This will allow KDOT to respond to stakeholder needs regarding the movement of freight and address public concerns associated with increased freight traffic across all transportation modes."

The KSFP will provide KDOT a working document that will allow the agency to address current and near-term freight transportation needs as well as plan for future needs. Maddox said the plan will consider links to the national and international freight systems as well as regional freight corridors.

An outline of work tasks has been developed and includes:

- ◆ Overview of freight transportation characteristics and transportation logistics;
- ◆ Kansas freight system definition;
- ◆ Inventory of existing and planned freight facilities in Kansas;
- ◆ Current and projected commodity flow analysis;
- ◆ Multimodal bottleneck analysis;



*KDOT is examining the diverse components of its freight system to develop the Kansas Statewide Freight Plan. Photo by Sonya Scheuneman*

- ◆ Economic impacts and benefits of freight transportation activities;
- ◆ Multimodal freight transportation safety analysis;
- ◆ Freight transportation policy trends analysis;
- ◆ Freight transportation policy framework;
- ◆ Freight performance measures and indicators; and the final report.

The consulting firm of Cambridge Systematics, Inc., is in charge of the study. The target completion deadline is March 2009, with an interim report completed by December 2008 for the 2009 Kansas Legislative session. — *S.W.*

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**★ ★ ★**  
**KDOT salutes our troops**  
**★ ★ ★**

*The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies military information to Translines.*

*KDOT would like to recognize its employees who have returned home from military service in support of the war on terror. Employees are listed by district and their branch of service.*

**Headquarters**  
**Kirk Meyer**, Applications Developer II, Army

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## Upcoming KDOT Training Courses

### Classes at District Offices

- ♦ **Transition To Leadership & Ethics;** Topeka D-1; Oct. 7, 8, 9. Also in Hutchinson; Oct. 14, 15, 16
- ♦ **SMART Day 1, 2, 3;** Salina; Oct. 21, 22, 23
- ♦ **You'll Catch On;** Topeka, D-1; Oct. 27, 28. Also in Topeka, D-1; Oct. 29, 30
- ♦ **Business Writing I & II;** Hutchinson; Nov. 13

### Classes at Headquarters

- ♦ **SMART Day 1, 2, 3;** Topeka - HQ; Oct. 7, 8, 9
- ♦ **Leadership Forum\*;** Topeka; Nov. 4, 5
- ♦ **New Employee Orientation;** Topeka - HQ; Nov. 6
- ♦ **Business Writing I & II;** Topeka - HQ; Nov. 17. Also in Topeka - HQ; Nov. 19

You may enroll in any class, except Leadership Forum, from KDOT's Learning Center at [http://pathlore.ksdot.org/stc/LMSprod/cst\\_MainHome-Frameset.html](http://pathlore.ksdot.org/stc/LMSprod/cst_MainHome-Frameset.html).

\*A special notice will be sent out for Leadership Forum enrollment.

### TUITION ASSISTANCE

All employees who meet the following requirements are eligible for Tuition Assistance.

◆ The employee must have worked for KDOT for six months, excluding temporary appointments limited to 999 hours.

◆ The employee must have a current performance review with a rating of satisfactory or better.

For more information, please see the SOM 2.7.4 at [http://kdotweb.ksdot.org/KDOTOrg/OffMangBudg/Documents/SOMPROD/2\\_7\\_4.htm](http://kdotweb.ksdot.org/KDOTOrg/OffMangBudg/Documents/SOMPROD/2_7_4.htm). The application, Form DOT 0028, can be found at KDOT's Forms Warehouse. Or, contact Theda Gabehart, 785-296-0936.

## Checking it out



*Employees observe and test equipment at the 2008 Maintenance Training Expo in Salina on Sept. 3 and 4 at the Bicentennial Center. Photos by Larry Katsbular*

## Deaths

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

**Raymond (Chuck) Barnes**, 85, passed away Sept. 8 at Shawnee Mission Medical Center in Kansas City.

After serving in World War II, he was employed by KDOT in

Transportation Planning until his retirement in 1987.

Survivors include one son, one daughter, one sister, one brother and six grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Garden Terrace of Overland Park.

*Fun Facts  
and Trivia*

**Do you  
know?**

**Public  
transportation**

◆ There are more than 6,500 providers of public and community transportation that offer choices to travel by means other than a car.

◆ Approximately 1,500 agencies provide bus service, 5,760 provide paratransit services and 200 provide rail services as well as other modes of public transportation.

◆ Public transportation is a \$44 billion industry that employs more than 360,000 people.

◆ Each year, public transportation use in the U.S. saves 1.4 billion gallons of gasoline. This represents almost 4 million gallons of gasoline per day.

Source:  
*American Public  
Transportation  
Association*

**Slow down, buckle up**

**Put the brakes on fatalities**

Slow down – save gas, save money and most importantly, save lives. That’s the message behind this year’s Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day safety campaign.

“Slowing down can greatly reduce the likelihood that you will be in a crash, and buckling up can significantly improve your chances of surviving a crash,” said Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller. “Arriving safely a couple minutes later is so much more important than not arriving at all.”

In Kansas in 2007:

- ◆ 99 people were killed and 3,981 were injured in speed-related crashes;
- ◆ 24 percent of all fatalities were speed-related;
- ◆ almost 50 percent of all speed-related fatal crashes involved drivers ages 14-24;
- ◆ a person died every 88.5 hours from a speed-related crash.

In addition, speeding, rapid acceleration and braking wastes gas and can lower your gas mileage by as much as 33 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day is a national safety campaign that strives to decrease all types of vehicular fatalities. More than 43,000 people across the country die in traffic crashes every

year – in Kansas, 416 people died last year and nearly 23,000 people were injured.

This year, all cities and counties across Kansas were invited to sign local proclamations in support of Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day. Other activities include:

- ◆ A record number of 1,574 Kansas kids ages 5-13 participating in a safety poster contest with 18 kids receiving regional or state-wide recognition;
- ◆ Public service announcements airing across the state;
- ◆ Distributing 20,000 safety brochures throughout

Kansas

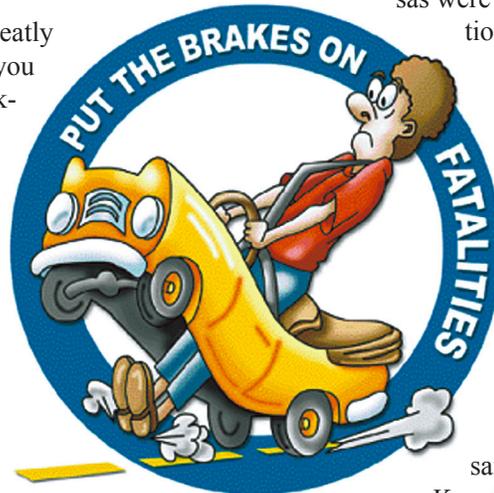
- ◆ Safety messages being featured

on KC Scout signs;

- ◆ Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signing a proclamation designating Oct. 10, 2008, as Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day in Kansas.

Just a few of the organizations that work together on Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day in Kansas with KDOT include the Kansas Highway Patrol, AAA of Kansas, Kansas Contractors Association, Kansas Corporation Commission, Federal Highway Administration, Kansas Turnpike Authority and the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers.

For more information, go to the Web site [www.brakesonfatalities.org](http://www.brakesonfatalities.org). **-K.S.**



**Retirees**

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT in October.

**District One**

**Larry D. Bouton**, Equipment Operator Senior, Topeka

**District Five**

**Marvin K. Schneider**, Equipment Operator, LaCrosse

**Robert L. Ternes**, Public Service

Administrator I, Winfield

**John H. Wherry**, Equipment Operator, LaCrosse

The following employee officially retired from KDOT in September.

**Headquarters**

**Gail A. Sloyer**, Management Systems Analyst, Design

*Employees who choose to have retirement reception information shared on KDOT’s Internet can be found at [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org), under News and Announcements.*

## Transportation Briefs

### DUIs down in 32 states

National figures released in August show a significant decline in the number of drunken driving-related fatalities occurring nationally and in 32 individual states. However, the number of alcohol-related fatalities among motorcyclists is climbing in half of the states.

“More drivers are getting the message that if you drink and drive, you will be caught, you will be arrested and you will go to jail,” said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters.

Peters noted that last year an estimated 12,998 people were killed in crashes where a vehicle operator had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 or higher. She said that represented a 3.7 percent decline from the 13,491 fatalities in 2006. However, she said, figures showing that 25 states experienced an increase in the number of drunken motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes were disappointing. - *Roads and Bridges, August 2008*

### BTS reports on variations

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics has released “Seasonal Variation in Traffic Congestion: A Study of Three U.S. Cities,” a technical report about seasonal variations in traffic congestion in Houston, Los Angeles and Chicago. The report examines changes in monthly congestion, including differences occurring in morning and evening congestion, and differences in weekend and weekday congestion. It can be found at [http://www.bts.gov/publications/bts\\_technical\\_report/2008\\_005/](http://www.bts.gov/publications/bts_technical_report/2008_005/). - *U.S. DOT, September, 2008*

### State has salt dilemma

Last year’s salt shortage during the middle of a brutal winter was a bitter pill to swallow, and it could be happening again before the cold months arrive.

Officials in Lake County, Ill., held an emergency meeting to figure out how they are going to plow through the

upcoming winter. Last year’s storms depleted emergency supplies, and a wet spring reduced salt mining. The end result is a product that carries a price three times higher than in 2007. Salt could go for as high as \$145 a ton.

Local governments can either work through the joint purchasing plan and swallow the price hike, or they can negotiate for a regional distributor on their own. Illinois’ Department of Central Management Services has not been able to find a supplier willing to bid on Lake and McHenry counties, and communities in other parts of the state also are without suppliers. - *Roads and Bridges, August 2008*

### Funds improve rural roads

RAYMOND, Miss. – Fourteen states, three counties and two parishes competed for and will receive \$14.7 million in Rural Safety Innovation Program (RSIP) funds to improve safety on rural roads across the United States, according to Deputy Transportation Secretary Thomas J. Barrett.

Rural roads carry less than half of America’s traffic but account for more than half of the nation’s vehicular deaths. Last February, the U.S. Department of Transportation launched the “Rural Safety Initiative” to address this issue.

Though last year’s fatality rate – 1.37 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled – is the lowest in the nation’s history, the 41,059 fatalities in 2007 remain “entirely too high,” said Barrett. “The RSIP program will help us put a national focus on a local problem.”

The awards, made possible by funds from the USDOT’s Delta Region Transportation Development Program and Intelligent Transportation Systems Program, are part of a \$287 million effort to help local and state governments reduce crashes on dangerous rural roads.

KDOT will receive \$284,000 for dynamic message signs and road weather information system. - *U.S. DOT, August, 2008*

## M I L E S T O N E S

### KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in September

#### 10 YEARS

Trevor Deuel . . . . . La Crosse  
 Daryl Dove . . . . . Belleville  
 Terry Grant . . . . . Concordia  
 Marlin Hershberger . . . . . Kansas City  
 Brian Holloway . . . . . Osborne  
 Vickie Kaempfe . . . . . Marion  
 Kevin Krause . . . . . Ellis  
 Paul Langston . . . . . Belleville  
 Rebecca Newbury . . . . . White City  
 Steven Park . . . . . Garden City  
 Cynthia Riechers . . . . . Salina  
 Robert Turner . . . . . Olathe  
 Ronnie Young . . . . . Kansas City

#### 20 YEARS

William Burditt . . . . . Auburn  
 Howard Duncan . . . . . Sabetha  
 Kenneth Hallgren . . . . . Osage City  
 Darel Hardin . . . . . Emporia  
 Kent Huss . . . . . Hays

#### 30 YEARS

Cynthia Behnke . . . . . Sterling  
 Terry Dakan . . . . . Meade  
 Scott Davis . . . . . Kanopolis  
 John Jenkins Jr. . . . . Topeka  
 Janice Long . . . . . Topeka  
 William McAdoo . . . . . Topeka  
 Larry Walker . . . . . Independence  
 Kirk Wohlgemuth . . . . . Effingham

#### 40 YEARS

Robert Martin . . . . . Ensign  
 Frank Tichenor . . . . . Chanute

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

## Promotions/Transfers

### Headquarters

**Terry Blackwell**, Engineering Technician Specialist, Design

**Mark Morrison**, Assistant to the Director, Operations

**Jeffrey Tice**, Assistant Equipment Manager, Construction and Maintenance

**Jessica Upchurch**, Professional Civil Engineer I, Planning

**Daniel Wadsworth**, Accountant II, Fiscal

### District One

**Daniel Barnett**, Engineering Technician Specialist, Topeka

**Roy Jennings**, Highway Maintenance Superintendent, Olathe

*The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information to Translines.*

**Keith Knaak**, Equipment Mechanic, Bonner Springs

**Donna Mahoney**, Assistant Chief Chemist, Topeka

**David Studebaker**, Equipment Operator Specialist, Osage City

**Stephen Woodbury**, Technology Support Consultant II, Topeka

### District Three

**Kegan Hemel**, Engineering Technician Senior, Atwood

### District Six

**Larry Goddard**, Equipment Operator Specialist, Rolla

**Rod Nix**, Construction Mentor, Garden City

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*Bureau of Transportation Information*  
Eisenhower State Office Building  
700 SW Harrison, Second Floor, West Topeka, KS 66603-3754

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