

# Translines



Cast vote  
for  
Kansas project  
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*By Secretary  
Deb Miller*

# Small actions can make big difference

*“A penny saved is a penny earned.”*  
- Benjamin Franklin

If Ben Franklin were a state official in Kansas today instead of a Founding Father in the late 1700s, he might still be expressing the same sentiment.

But he probably wouldn't be speaking in terms of pennies anymore. He might be turning phrases like “A sheet of paper not printed on is a sheet of paper earned.” Or, “A gallon of diesel not burned in a dump truck is a gallon of diesel earned.” I could go on, but you get the idea.

We're at a point in our state where these sorts of conservation measures are no longer insignificant – if they ever were. At KDOT, our costs have risen faster and higher than anyone could have forecasted. Drivers are driving less, which is going to mean less fuel tax revenue for the agency. Congressional inaction to shore up the Highway Trust Fund threatens to leave Kansas some \$120 million short in all-important federal allocations.

Add to this the less-than-expected revenues coming into state coffers and it's easy to see why Gov. Sebelius is asking agency heads to reduce this year's spending. And, next year's budget promises to be more of the same.

Last month, the Governor and Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson

sent a letter to all state agencies about the amount of paper the state uses. They said that when Kansans and state employees were asked to submit their ideas for how the state could save money, the universal theme was that the state uses too much paper. Based on that, they have set a goal for all state agencies to reduce their paper consumption by 20 percent in 2010. Achieving that goal will save the state an estimated \$2 million a year, they said.

I'm pleased to say that KDOT already has efficiency practices in place that also save paper. Our Crew Card system drastically eliminated paperwork and has freed up supervisors to spend more time on projects. The Forms Warehouse has saved tons of paper by allowing us to electronically process requisitions for a broad variety of goods and services.

And, we've adopted conservation measures to save other resources, including fuel. I detailed some of those fuel-saving actions a few months ago in this space, but they include less mowing, parking the big trucks and driving smaller vehicles when possible, carpooling to conferences and meetings and making use of the teleconference.

While these measures have us headed in the right direction, we have to be diligent about conserving and creative in developing new efficiencies. We can't continue to operate as we have in the past. We're on the edge of a funding crisis that isn't going to end soon. Every dollar we don't have to spend by turning off lights or turning down the thermostat will make a difference. Our State Highway Fund doesn't operate as a “use it or lose it” proposition. What we don't spend this year remains in the State Highway Fund for use in subsequent years.

So at the risk of talking in clichés, I'll tell you that we're all in this together and the little things we do – if we do them consistently – can make a difference to our bottom line. We can save money, resources and be good environmental stewards. But it's not something we can put off. If Ben Franklin were secretary of transportation, he'd probably be saying the same thing he was saying two centuries ago:

“You may delay, but time will not.”



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On the...

# COVER

*The I-35/87th Street/U.S. 69 interchange in Johnson County was named one of 10 national finalists for America's Transportation Award. For more details, please see page 3.*

## Public encouraged to cast votes online

# Kansas finalist for national award

An innovative Kansas interchange project unique for both its design and its partnership arrangement has been named a national award finalist. And that's potentially good news for students.

The I-35/87th Street/U.S. 69 interchange in Johnson County this month was named one of 10 national finalists for America's Transportation Award. The award is cosponsored by AAA, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). The project, which

was opened in October 2006, was named one of 23 regional winners in July.

Kansas and the other nine states

will now compete for the Grand National Prize – selected by a panel of community, business and transportation leaders – and the People's Choice Award, which will be decided by popular online vote. The awards come with grants that, in Kansas, will further education opportunities for students in engineering, math, science and technology.



Go to KDOT's Web site, [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org) and vote for Kansas to win the national People's Choice Award!

al opportunities for students in engineering, math, science and technology.

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## KDOT worker killed in Neosho County crash

Richard W. Sheldon, 45, of Yates Center, died July 31 when the KDOT dump truck he was driving rolled on K-39 just east of U.S. 59 in Neosho County.

"My heart goes out to Rick's family and friends," said Deputy Secretary for Engineering/State Transportation Engineer Jerry Younger. "Those of us at the Department of Transportation are deeply saddened by the loss of our co-worker and will keep the Sheldon family in our thoughts as they face the difficult times ahead."

Sheldon was an Equipment Op-

**Continued on page 11**



*Jerry Younger, Deputy Secretary for Engineering and State Transportation Engineer, discusses recommendations made by the Kansas Local Bridge Task Force during a news conference on July 28. Photo by Larry Katsbulas*

## Task Force reviews local bridge inspection program

# Recommendations made for Kansas

By Stan Whitley

Recommendations designed to improve the timeliness and quality of local bridge inspections in Kansas were announced July 28 during a news conference in Topeka.

"KDOT and our local partners must do a better job conducting local

bridge inspections in accordance with all the criteria set forth in the National Bridge Inspection Program," said KDOT Deputy Secretary for Engineering and State Transportation Engineer Jerry Younger. "Simply put, Kansans should expect the bridges they drive on to be inspected at the frequency and accuracy

level specified in federal law."

To meet that expectation, a Kansas Local Bridge Task Force was created. The task force is composed of representatives from KDOT, the Kansas Association of Counties, the Kansas County

**Continued on page 10**

# Transportation task force announced

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has announced the creation of a task force charged with crafting a new strategic transportation approach that positions Kansas for the future.

“We know transportation is critical to seizing economic opportunities and creating jobs to stimulate our economy,” Sebelius said. “With our state’s 10-year transportation program coming to an end, now is the time to begin planning for the future to ensure we keep our infrastructure in good shape and put our state in position for economic growth. I’ve asked task force members to create a vision that is mindful of our money, recognizes the needs of both rural and urban Kansas and uses the strength of all transportation modes.”

Sebelius directed Secretary Deb Miller to assemble a task force comprised of transportation experts and influential community leaders from across the state. The task force, Transportation-Leveraging Investments in Kansas (T-LINK), is charged with developing a set of recommendations for a new strategic transportation approach.

Sebelius sent letters to T-LINK members asking that their recommendations be shaped by the following priorities:

◆ A commitment to keeping roads and bridges safe and in good repair;

◆ A collaborative project selection process that aligns our transportation investments with our state’s economic priorities;

◆ A new approach that reflects today’s fiscal realities, but also creates a framework to prepare our state for the future. Miller and Tim Rogers, Executive Director of the Salina

Airport Authority, will serve as co-chairs to T-LINK, which had its first meeting on Aug. 27.

“The nation is at a transitional point in regard to transportation policy and it is crucial that Kansas be in a position to take advantage of changes that are coming,”

Miller said. “The course we chart must reflect today’s realities but prepare us for the future. We have assembled a team of leaders who are positive about the task, enthusiastic and eager to begin work.”

Sebelius said Kansas has enjoyed 20 years of success in transportation because legislators from both parties across the state have worked together. Following this approach, legislative leadership from both parties will be asked to appoint the appropriate legislators to serve as task force members.

More information about T-LINK can be found at [www.kansastlink.com](http://www.kansastlink.com)



## T-LINK Members:

- ◆ Tim Rogers, *Chair, Salina Airport Authority, Salina*
- ◆ Secretary Deb Miller, *Chair, Department of Transportation, Topeka*
- ◆ Fred Bailey, *Bailey Truck Line, Abilene*
- ◆ Gary Beachner, *Beachner Grain, St. Paul*
- ◆ Mary Birch, *Lathrop and Gage, Overland Park*
- ◆ Joan Brabec, *Twin Valley Developmental Services, Inc., Greenleaf*
- ◆ Commissioner Shelly Buhler, *Shawnee County, Topeka*
- ◆ Ed DeSoignie, *Heavy Constructors Association, Kansas City*
- ◆ Allie Devine, *Kansas Livestock Association, Topeka*

- ◆ Commissioner Pat Hageman, *Rooks County, Natoma*
- ◆ Bernie Hayen, *City of Manhattan, Manhattan*
- ◆ Brenda Herrman, *City of Hays, Hays*
- ◆ Bart Hildreth, *Wichita State University, Wichita*
- ◆ Jan Huston, *Highway Advisory Commission, Americus*
- ◆ Roger Kaminska, *Operating Engineers Local 101, Kansas City*
- ◆ Mike Kelley, *YRC Worldwide, Kansas City*
- ◆ Don Linville, *Garden City Chamber, Garden City*
- ◆ Richard Lopez, *SER-Jobs for Progress, Wichita*
- ◆ Dean Mann, *Citizens Bank, Fort Scott*
- ◆ Scott Moore, *City of Wichita, Wichita*

- ◆ Bill Pickert, *BKD, Wichita*
- ◆ Mayor Joe Reardon, *Unified Govt. Wyandotte County, Kansas City*
- ◆ Randall Riggs, *City of Newton, Newton*
- ◆ Bob Totten, *Kansas Contractors Association, Topeka*
- ◆ Pat Weaver, *KU Transportation Center, Lawrence*
- ◆ Jane Westerman, *Cargill, Dodge City*

## Ex-Officio Members:

- ◆ Secretary David Kerr, *Department of Commerce, Topeka*
- ◆ Secretary Joan Wagnon, *Department of Revenue, Topeka*
- ◆ Michael Johnston, *Kansas Turnpike Authority, Wichita*
- ◆ Steve Weatherford, *Kansas Development Finance Authority, Topeka*



## KDOT booth will encourage motorists to Move Over

It's been Kansas law since 2006. And efforts to promote the Move Over laws that focus on improving safety for emergency and maintenance workers continue in numerous ways including a new promotional item for the Kansas State Fair.

Bright orange and white glove box holders featuring the two Move Over laws will be given out at the KDOT booth. The glove box holders also provide Kansas travel information with several phone numbers to assist motorists on Kansas highways.

Ice scrapers were a big hit last year and will be passed out again. They offer 511 information, explaining how people can get up-to-date Kansas road condition and weather information either by calling 511, or by going to <http://511.ksdot.org>.

KDOT's booth, along with the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office (KTSRO) - a combination of the former Kansas Drunk Driving Prevention Office and the Kansas Safety Belt Education Office - will be located in the middle of the Eisenhower Building. Employees from District Five will assist at both booths.

"Organizing and staffing the booths is a real team effort," said Public Information Officer Steve Swartz. "Together we provide a lot of information on various transportation topics to the public."

This year's state fair will take place from Sept. 5 to 14. Operational hours of the booth will be from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on opening day, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.



*Attendees cut the ribbon at the ceremony dedicating the new home of Reno County Area Transit (Rcat) on Aug. 12 in Hutchinson. Photo by Larry Katsbulas*

## Reno County transit facility dedicated

HUTCHINSON – The new home of Reno County Area Transit (Rcat) was dedicated at a ribbon cutting ceremony Aug. 12 in Hutchinson.

The facility, which consolidates the Rcat operation from three locations to one, cost about \$3 million to construct. Of that, \$2.5 million was federal transit money passed through by KDOT. Reno County contributed \$440,000 to the

project.

Rcat has 19 vehicles that provide about 400 rides a day on fixed-route buses, paratransit, and by 24-hour advance notification. Rcat is also a pilot site for a computerized dispatch project funded by KDOT.

Speaking at the dedication and ribbon cutting was Secretary Deb Miller.

## ACPA Recognizes Leverenz as Honorary Life Member

The American Concrete Pavement Association (ACPA) has named retired KDOT engineer John Leverenz as the recipient of its 2008 Honorary Life Member award.

In honoring Leverenz as the recipient of the award this year, ACPA recognized him for his outstanding service to the transportation-construction community, as well as demonstrating leadership, dedication, and passion for advancing the art and science of concrete pavement.

A founding member of ACPA, Leverenz brings many years of experi-

ence as a contractor, a DOT engineer, and now as a consultant, to the concrete pavement industry. He served the industry as an educator, developing a course on Portland cement concrete pavements for the National Highway Institute and then teaching the course many times during his career.

Leverenz has continued to contribute to the industry over the years. ACPA named him the Outstanding Government/Public Official in 2000.

Leverenz worked for KDOT 10 years and retired as the District Four Engineer in 2001.

# National memorial to be displayed at Expo

Work zone safety will be highlighted at the 2008 Maintenance Training Expo in Salina on Sept. 3 and 4 at the Bicentennial Center.

As part of this focus, the National Work Zone Memorial, sponsored by the American Traffic Safety Services Association, will be on display honoring those who have lost their lives in work zones crashes.

“Highway workers face life-threatening situations every day in work zones,” said Peter Carttar, Kansas Department of Transportation’s Construction and Maintenance Assistant Bureau Chief. “Unfortunately, there are several KDOT employees’ names on this national memorial. Our goal is to never have to add another name.”

Numerous sessions at the expo stress safety in work zones. “Each year, attendees receive critical safety training and information because our top priority is to keep everyone safe in work zones,” Carttar said.

Technologies designed to keep motorists and employees safe and provide better service to the traveling public throughout the year on roadways in Kansas will also be featured at the Expo. The event is sponsored by KDOT and the American Public Works Association.

Other subjects include first responder safety, hydraulic control systems, basic crack sealing, fall protection, oil



*Attendees at last year’s Maintenance Training Expo check out equipment on display. Photo by Kurt Weaverling*

distributor safety, chain saw safety, vegetation management, concrete pavement basics, and weather forecasts and storm identification.

A panel session with maintenance employees sharing incident/emergency response experiences and lessons learned will be featured. Participants can also climb on and drive a variety of different equipment during the ride/drive session.

For more information about the expo, contact Carttar at 785-296-3576. - **K.S.**

## Welcome new KDOT employees!

### Headquarters

**Brenna Hastings**, Administrative Assistant, Materials and Research  
**Jacqueline Nystrom**, Administrative Assistant, Computer Services

### District One Headquarters

**Rebecca Crawford**, Program Consultant I, Topeka  
**Jerrod Edington**, Equipment Mechanic, Topeka  
**Tyler Hiltibrand**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Wamego  
**Danialle Lowry**, Administrative Assistant, Topeka

**Rebecca Rayn**, Administrative Assistant, Wamego

**Harold Wallace Jr.**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Gardner

### District Two

**Tony Askamit**, Engineering Technician Associate, Salina  
**David Casper**, Equipment Operator Senior, Salina

**Ben Levinson**, Engineering Technician Senior, Salina

**Leonard Nicholson**, Equipment Mechanic, Salina

**Jeff Noland**, Engineering Technician Associate, Belleville

**Ron Shipman**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Marion

**Paysence Wagoner**, Engineering Technician Associate, Junction City

### District Four

**Timothy Marmon**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Garnett

**Ricky McVey**, Mechanic, Iola  
**District Six**

**James Benear**, Engineering Technician Associate, Liberal

**Fletcher DeV Vaughn**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Hugoton

**Matthew Doane**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Syracuse

**Clyde Eaves**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Rolla

**Francisco Hernandez**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Liberal

**Rodney Kester**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Sublette

**Christopher McDaniel**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Ashland

**Darren Ramsey**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Dodge City

**Jason Sober**, Equipment Operator Trainee, Ashland

**Jolene Watson**, Administrative Specialist, Dodge City

*The Bureau of Personnel Services*

**Dear Secretary Miller:**

We are writing to commend and express appreciation for the recent work completed by KDOT crews in North Newton. As you know, Highway 15 is also North Newton's Main Street. KDOT crews have just completed the asphalt overlay of each drive approach that enters onto Main Street

We found the crew members to be courteous and helpful. We heard many appreciative comments from our citizens. Our maintenance department was able to coordinate efforts and make use of leftover asphalt at the end of each day. This allowed us to complete street patching in several areas and kept the material from going to waste.

This is not the first time that North Newton has benefited from KDOT's consideration. We have enjoyed the helpful cooperation on several occasions from your area engineering and maintenance departments. We just thought you should know this.

Yours truly,  
 Ron Braun, Mayor  
 John Torline, City Administrator

**National finalist**

**Continued from page 3**

The \$70 million interchange is located on one of the most heavily traveled sections of highway in Kansas and is one of the first single point urban interchanges (SPUI) constructed in the state.

Also unique is the partnership arrangement between KDOT and the cities of Lenexa and Overland Park. The city of Lenexa was the lead partner for design of the SPUI – a role KDOT normally has – and set the schedule. KDOT leaders say the arrangement created more “buy-in” for the project and contributed to the strong relationships that were forged. The high level of public involvement and communication among partners, area residents, businesses and travelers has also been cited for the project's success.

According to award sponsors, the Grand National Prize winnings will support a graduate-level grant in the transportation field and the People's Choice Award will fund a community service project to be selected by the winning state department of transportation. KDOT has designated UpLink as the potential beneficiary of the People's

Choice grant. UpLink is a Kansas City area effort that connects the workplace to the classroom in order to further students' academic skills and interests in the areas of math, engineering, technology and science.

“This project has done a great deal to enhance traffic flow and safety on a heavily-traveled stretch of Kansas highway,” said KDOT Secretary Deb Miller. “And now I hope there will be lots of public support for it so we can, through UpLink, encourage young people to consider high-demand occupations such as engineering.”

Lisa Adkins, president of Youth-Friends, which oversees UpLink, said that by encouraging student interest in math, science, engineering and technology, there are multiple benefits.

“Voting for Kansas will not only help UpLink support students directly, it will contribute to the cultivation of a skilled, future workforce that will help our state, region and nation be successful,” Atkins said.

To cast a vote for Kansas, visit the KDOT Web site at [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org) and click on “America's Transportation Award.”



*A load of sub-grade mix is placed on U.S. 36 in Atwood as part of a geometric improvement project that is under way from K-25 to Fifth Street. Photo by Kristen Brands*

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

*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.*

**District Four**  
**Brad McGregor**, Equipment Operator, Army

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





By

**Lea Ann Curtis**

***TRANSPORTATION***  
**TALK**

# KDOT values attach positive meaning to date

For most of us, Sept. 11 is thought of as a sad day.

For me, fortunately, I have a more recent, positive association with that date. It was on Sept. 11, 2006, that I came to work for the Kansas Department of Transportation. After two years at KDOT I am so happy to be a part of this great organization. I have found a very comfortable sense of belonging. I appreciate the organizational values I see demonstrated here each day and am proud to be a part of KDOT.

It makes me proud to know that whatever the task, it will be done with heart if it is being performed by a KDOT employee. I think that's because KDOT is a collection of very good people who care about others and take pride in their work.

There are things, large and small, that reinforce for me every day our positive organizational environment.

The fact that people care enough about each other and their communities to participate in fund raisers for a fellow employee in need or events to raise money for local food banks, United Way, Health Charities, March of Dimes and other meaningful groups makes me proud to be a part of KDOT. The fact that KDOT belongs to local Chambers of Commerce, promotes KDOT's services in parades and participates on local community emergency planning groups makes me proud. It's the selfless dedication of our fellow employees who on a moment's notice are in their trucks and on the way to assist with clean up after a tornado, flood, blizzard or other natural disaster that makes me proud.

It makes me proud to know that the Kansas road system is one of the best in the United States. To watch our construction staff work in partnership with contractors to improve that system and to see our maintenance forces preserve the system makes me proud. KDOT was one of the first state transportation agencies to use an intelligent computer system that is able to actually learn from experience with various road surface treatments and predict future pavement condition based on that experience. It makes me proud to know that the innovative use of glass beads in highway markings to make them more visible at night was developed by a Kansas Department of Transportation employee.

It makes me proud to work alongside people who take the time to recognize a co-worker for a task done well. KDOT employees expect the best in each other and that is what they get.

At every KDOT office I've visited I have met kind and interesting people who are very welcoming and genuinely interested in helping in any way they can. It makes me proud to see so many individuals wearing orange even when it is not required and, most importantly, because they want people to know they are KDOT Proud!

I, too, am KDOT Proud!

*Lea Ann Curtis is Chief of the Bureau of Personnel Services.*

## Retirees

*The following employee officially retired from KDOT in August.*

**District Six**

**Wallace D. Pepper**, Equipment Operator Specialist, Lakin

*The following employees will officially*

*retire from KDOT in September.*

**Headquarters**

**Carla S. Mumma**, Staff Assistant to the Director, Operations

**Janet K. Wohler**, Administrative Specialist, Wamego

*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.*



# 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.



## If you build it...

At left, employees from the Bureau of Local Projects build a cable-stay bridge out of cans and licorice as part of the Project Topeka Ultimate Design-Build Challenge and Bake Sale on July 24. Below, employees load more than 4,000 pounds of food donated as part of the fund raiser. Photos by Kurt Weaverling



## Deaths

KDOT extends condolences to the family and friends of two retired KDOT employees who recently passed away.

**Jerry N. Brumley**, 71, died July 30 in Topeka. He worked for KDOT almost 50 years and retired from working in Program and Project Management in 2005. He is survived by his wife, Marian, two sons and two grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Parkinson's Disease Association, PO Box 251, Topeka, 66601.

**Claud William Ewing**, 76, passed away July 25 in Osage City. He worked as a machinist for KDOT and retired in 1991. He is survived by two sons, one daughter, a sister, nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Claud Ewing Memorial, a fund to be determined by the family, and sent in care of the Kansas State Bank, 327 S. Brownie, Scranton, 66537.

*Fun Facts  
and Trivia*

**Do you  
know?**

◆ In 2006, more than 10 percent of the electricity produced in the United States, was generated from coal hauled by BNSF Railway

◆ BNSF hauls enough grain to supply 900 million people with a year's supply of bread

*(from www.bnsf.com)*

◆ The name AMTRAK comes from the blending of 2 words- "America" and "track"

◆ Between October 2006 and September 2007, Amtrak carried 25.8 million passengers

◆ Amtrak operates 21,000 miles of route, covering 46 states

*(from www.amtrak.com)*

**Learning about KDOT**



*KDOT employees and their children check out the equipment at the Area Four office in Topeka while participating in the Bring Your Child to Work Day on July 23. The event was sponsored by the KDOT Employees' Council. Photo by Kurt Weaverling*

**Bridges**

**Continued from page 3**

Highway Association, the League of Kansas Municipalities, the Kansas Section of the American Council of Engineering Companies and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The 19-member task force was charged with identifying and evaluating measures that local governments and KDOT could take to improve the inspection process of local bridges.

Five options were identified and carefully examined by the task force. One option will be implemented and a second option is still under consideration to determine if it can feasibly be implemented.

**Selected Option** – This would provide increased KDOT oversight and quality assurance. KDOT would establish guidelines for inspections and the local public authority would use those guidelines in a consultant agreement to perform inspections. Inspections performed under this option would be paid entirely with local funding.

**Option Under Consideration** – Locals would have the option of allowing KDOT to contract and administer their inspections. Under this option, KDOT takes complete responsibility for all aspects of bridge inspections on local roads. Inspections performed under this option would be

paid for using a combination of federal and local funding.

Currently, local bridge inspections are to be regularly submitted to KDOT and reported to FHWA. All bridges on the State Highway System are inspected regularly with most being inspected every two years.

The failure of the I-35W Minneapolis bridge in August 2007 was the impetus for an increased focus on the safety of bridges and the bridge inspection program in Kansas. The task force identified a number of problems with the local bridge inspection program in Kansas over a period of time from both internal and FHWA reviews.

"An examination of data records revealed a large number of overdue local inspections," said Younger, who serves as task force chairman. "Just as concerning were the number of errors and missing data on the local inspection reports."

The task force recommended three positions be designated within KDOT to handle the increased oversight and quality assurance responsibilities that will be required with both options.

The recommendations will be shared statewide with local units of government for their review later this summer before any final action is taken.

There are approximately 25,500 bridges in Kansas, with 20,425 under local jurisdiction.



## Transportation Briefs

### Public/private partnerships soar

The number of public-private partnerships in the U.S. transportation sector has soared to record levels in recent years and continues to climb, according to a study announced by U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters.

"This nationwide trend on the part of state and local governments is further proof that innovative approaches to financing and managing transportation are increasingly attractive compared to traditional tax and spend methods," Secretary Peters said.

The new report found that more transportation public-private partnerships were completed over the last three years than in any other comparable time period in history. According to the report, more than 20 major highway and transit projects are currently being conducted in partnership with the private sector at various stages of development in the United States.

The report also found the use of public-private partnerships is increas-

ing at a record pace due to their proven track record of relieving congestion and encouraging infrastructure development, Secretary Peters said. - *U.S. DOT, July 2008*

### American driving declines

New data released in August by the U.S. Department of Transportation show that since last November Americans have driven 53.2 billion miles less than they did over the same period a year earlier—topping the 1970s' total decline of 49.3 billion miles.

"We can't afford to continue pinning our transportation network's future to the gas tax," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters.

Americans drove 4.7 percent less, or 12.2 billion miles fewer, in June 2008 than June 2007. The decline is most evident in rural travel, which has fallen by 4 percent—compared to the 1.2 percent decline in urban miles traveled—since the trend began last November.

As Americans drive fewer miles, less revenue is generated for the Highway Trust Fund from gasoline and diesel

sales—18.4 cents per gallon and 24.4 cents per gallon, respectively. During the first quarter of 2008, motorists consumed nearly 400 million fewer gallons of gasoline, or about 1.3 percent less than during the same period in 2007, and 7 percent less—or 318 million gallons—of diesel. - *U.S. DOT, August 2008*

### 2007 stats released

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), has released State Transportation Statistics 2007 (STS)—a 140-page reference guide to transportation data by state.

The fifth annual STS covers data on infrastructure, safety, freight transportation, passenger travel, registered vehicles and vehicle-miles traveled, economy and finance and energy and environment.

To find STS 2007 on the BTS Web site, go to State Transportation Statistics. To order a copy of the State Transportation Statistics 2007, contact BTS by phone at 800/853-1351, by e-mail at [orders@bts.gov](mailto:orders@bts.gov). - *U.S. DOT, August 2008*

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

### KDOT salutes employees celebrating state anniversaries in August

#### 10 YEARS

Michael Becker . . . . . Centralia  
Sharron Bohnenkemper . . . . . Holton  
David Franks . . . . . Erie  
Jeremiah Jacobs . . . . . Girard  
Teddy Vogan . . . . . Salina

#### 20 YEARS

Jerry Bueker . . . . . Mayetta  
John Deckert . . . . . Topeka  
Kevin Golay . . . . . Chanute  
Robert Graham . . . . . Clay Center  
Lindy Holmes . . . . . Topeka  
William Hughes . . . . . Valley Falls  
Leroy Shupe . . . . . Circleville

#### 30 YEARS

Mark Becker . . . . . Plainville  
Ricky Gitchel . . . . . Phillipsburg  
James Hodgson . . . . . Topeka  
Wayne Marsch . . . . . Leavenworth  
Gordon Murray . . . . . Mankato  
Marion Newkirk . . . . . Lyons  
Brenda Perry . . . . . Topeka  
Gary Rutledge . . . . . Spring Hill  
Cindy Vervynck . . . . . Lawrence

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

### Sheldon

#### Continued from page 3

erator in the Yates Center office and had worked at KDOT since October 2007. He is survived by his wife, Michell, one son, one daughter, his parents, and three sisters.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sheldon Children Educational Fund and sent in care of the Campbell Funeral Home, 310 W. Rutledge St., Yates Center, 66783.

In the past 26 years, 14 KDOT workers have been killed while on the job. Tyrone T. Korte of Seneca had been the last KDOT employee to be killed while on duty. He died after being struck by a pickup truck on Sept. 11, 2007, on U.S. 59 south of Lawrence.

## Promotions/Transfers

### Headquarters

**Randy Ackley**, Engineering Technician Specialist, Design

**Andrew Jenkins**, Professional Civil Engineer I, Planning

**Travis Malone**, Engineering Associate II, Topeka

**David Wegner**, Utilities Technician, Design

**Troy Whitworth**, Staff Maintenance Manager, Construction and Maintenance

### District One

**Steve Allen**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Topeka

**John Mah**, Engineering Technician Senior, Topeka

### District Two

**David Bergman**, Equipment Operator Specialist, Minneapolis

### District Four

**Benton Wood**, Equipment Operator Specialist, Waverly

### District Five

**Gregory Thomas**, Equipment Operator Specialist, Wellington

### District Six

**Clifton Trisler**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Bucklin

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

## Secretary's column wins NTPAW award

Secretary Deb Miller's column about the need for a national transportation vision was named a skills award winner at the 2008 National Transportation Public Affairs Workshop in Nashville in August.

The column, which was published in the March 2008 issue of *Translines* under the headline "U.S. needs to develop transportation vision," won in the CEO Column category.

"If this country is to remain competitive and a world leader, we need to start taking transportation more seriously and talking about what a national transportation policy should look like," Miller wrote.

Of the column, one of the three California judges wrote that it was, "bold for an official to step out and challenge the status quo."

## Calendar of Events

**Sept. 1** – State employees off for Labor Day holiday

**Sept. 5-14** – KDOT booth at the Kansas State Fair in the Eisenhower Building

**Sept. 9** - 11 a.m., KDOT employees' Council Meeting, Third Floor, Eisenhower State Office Building.

**Sept. 12** – 9:30 a.m. - Highway Advisory Commission meeting.

**Sept. 17** – 1 p.m. Construction bid letting, Fourth Floor, West Wing, Eisenhower State Office Building.

**Sept. 20** – KDOT golf four-person scramble at Rolling Meadows golf course, 10 a.m. tee times. Contact Kevin Adams to enter at 296-5297 or [kevina@ksdot.org](mailto:kevina@ksdot.org)

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

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