

Retirement

Younger retires: After 30 years, 11 transportation secretaries and three major funding programs, Deputy Secretary and State Transportation Engineer Jerry Younger is retiring Friday.

Deputy Secretary Younger, who began his KDOT career on July 28, 1986, fresh out of the KU School of Engineering, will take over the helm of the Kansas Aggregate Producers' Association and Kansas Ready Mixed Concrete Association in Topeka. He started his tenure at KDOT as an Engineering Associate and worked his way up through the ranks. Before becoming Deputy Secretary/State Transportation Engineer in 2006, he was District One Engineer, Topeka Metro Engineer, field engineering administrator in Wichita, and a squad leader in Road Design.

Along the way, he gained the respect and trust of those inside the agency, including contractors, stakeholders, governors and state legislators.

"One of the pleasures of being Secretary at KDOT was working with a great team and Jerry was a pure gold member of the team. We encouraged KDOT staff to be responsive to our stakeholders while still being responsible for KDOT's mission. Jerry fully epitomizes that approach," said former Secretary Deb Miller, now a commissioner at the Surface Transportation Board in Washington, D.C.

Legislators depended on his knowledge and ability to communicate not only with them, but with staff and their



Jerry Younger

constituents.

"Communication is so very important in finding resolutions to problems and Jerry grasps this better than any legislative liaison I've worked with. Jerry is exceptional at working with my constituents and understands how to solve problems across my district when I ask for his help," said State Sen. Elaine Bowers of Concordia.

"As a member of the House of Representative's Transportation Committee, I am a much better educated and more valuable legislator because of Jerry Younger's on-going education efforts," said Rep. Tom Sloan of Lawrence.

Younger said while he takes decades of KDOT experiences and stories with him when he leaves Friday, the personal relationships he established at the agency will be most cherished.

"Of course there are loads of highlights, some lowlights and plenty of funny stories that make up a 30-year career. What I will treasure most, though, is the opportunity to work and connect with a bunch of folks focused on making Kansas transportation the best it can be. Yes, I was blessed to work with many great partners outside of KDOT but my greatest appreciation is for our KDOT employees who have dedicated themselves to public service despite not always receiving the recognition, gratitude and respect they deserve," Younger said.

"Even though my next stop will take me to the 'other side', I will always bleed KDOT orange."

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

Snyder, Ludlow participate in series: Wichita Metro Engineer Don Snyder and Dodge City Area Superintendent Galen Ludlow are two of 20 people sharing stories in the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day (Pbfd) safety blog series. The series runs from Sept. 13 to Oct. 10 at <http://ksdotblog.blogspot.com/>.

Snyder tells of the time he and his wife were bicycling. "We were struck from behind by a motorist who drifted to the side of the road and hit us," Snyder said. "I was riding behind my wife and was struck first, and we are unsure if the impact launched me into my wife or if the

car struck her also."

Ludlow shares a story about a work zone incident. "I began backing away toward the shoulder as they quickly approached. When the vehicle passed me I screamed 'HEY!' as loud as I could, and the driver slammed on the brakes and came to a stop," Ludlow said. "As I walked up to the vehicle, I observed a young lady of high school age with a bag of makeup sitting on her lap."

Pbfd focuses on all types of traffic safety and encourages everyone to take extra safety precautions.

Retiree

The following employee retired Sept. 1.
District One
William Oehm, Equipment Operator Marysville

Trivia!

50th anniversary of Star Trek – Sept. 8

1. What is James Kirk's middle name?
2. Who talked Nichelle Nichols (Lt. Uhura) out of leaving Star Trek: The Original Series?
3. Who is the only actor to be in all Star Trek incarnations, including the animated series and films, up to 2009?
4. Instead of hitting the evil Kirk in the episode "The Enemy Within," Leonard Nimoy created this.
5. Who was the first cast member of The Original Series to appear on The Next Generation?
6. How many crew members were on the U.S.S. Enterprise NCC01701?
7. What is Spock's full name?
8. James Doohan (Scotty) is missing this.

General

Wade's son honored: TJ Wade, son of Cindy Wade (RWM Support Manager in Information Technology Services), was named the 2016 Male Athlete of the Year at the 27th annual Sunflower State Games.

Wade won the gold medal in target archery, his second in the last two years. More than 7,100 athletes participated in 47 different sports in the games in Topeka from July 8-24. For more information, go to www.sunflowergames.com.

Kansas State Fair

Good times: Sample a variety of fried foods; check out the enormous vegetables, odd artifacts, homemade crafts and the infamous butter sculpture; and all the other unique attractions at the 103rd annual Kansas State Fair. Last year's fair set a record attendance with 369,322 people attending. This year's fair runs from Sept. 9 to 18. The KDOT and Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office booths are in the Eisenhower Building and open at 11 a.m. on Friday, and then are open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day. The booths have a variety of



transportation and safety brochures, state and bicycle maps, note pads and shopping bags. For more information on the fair, go to www.kansasstatefair.com.

Kudos

A Facebook post and a phone call thanking employees -

"I would like to thank the two KDOT employees who stopped and helped me this morning on I-70, just past the 635 exit, I picked up a bolt in my tire. They stopped and changed my tire in heavy traffic, I am so grateful, when I thanked them, their response was, we are highway men. I don't know their names, but wish I did. It was kind of them to stop and help me. We hear complaints about construction, etc., but there are truly kind people working for KDOT, and I thought I would let you know. Again thank you so much for the help this morning.

Posted by Deb Gross

Editor's Note - the KDOT employees are Jack Hopkins and Chris Hathaway from the Speaker Road Subarea office in Kansas City.

District One Administrative Assistant Kathy Slawson received a call from Carolyn Bloom. Slawson relayed the conversation -

"I was driving along thinking how nice the road is," she said. She mentioned that she never sees anyone working and that it's amazing, she doesn't know when they do it. I explained that they work at night to minimize the inconvenience to the public. She indicated that she drives that route every day and she's sure that others who do appreciate it as well and she just wanted to say, "Thank you!"

KTA



Work is under way to prepare for the concrete to be placed on the Osage County bridge at MM 157.

District Six

New and now improved: Last fall area and subarea crews from Syracuse, Lakin and Garden City teamed up to rebuild a Commercial Drivers' License testing site in Garden City. Leveling the pad and adding asphalt millings brought the site up to an acceptable standard and ensured that drivers working on their CDL could be tested in southwest Kansas. That work earned the KDOT crews kudos and an Example of Excellence award.

Recently, subarea crews from Garden City, Lakin, Scott City and Dighton teamed up to make a good thing even better, building upon the base placed last fall. The crews placed a two-inch hot asphalt overlay on the pad and the improvement caught the eye of the CDL manager for western Kansas.

Kent Selk, from the Kansas Department of Revenue's Division of Vehicles, sent a note to Ron Munyan, Area One Superintendent in Syracuse.

"I wanted to take a minute and thank you for all your hard work in completely reconstructing the Garden



KDOT in District Six assisted the Kansas Department of Revenue by rebuilding a Commercial Driver's License testing site last fall.

City CDL course. We greatly appreciate being able to use your facility for our CDL testing, which provides a great service to Kansans."

"Again, my sincere gratitude for all your work at partnership."

Kansas Transportation

Thursday, Sept. 1

From devastation to revitalization

It could be described as a nightmare. On March 23 and 24, Kansans living in the south-central part of the state watched as the largest wildfire in Kansas history overtook homes, structures and livestock. More than 400,000 acres burned.

"The area looked like a desert wasteland," Jerry Baker, a KDOT Subarea Supervisor from Medicine Lodge described what was left in the blaze's wake. "The aftermath view of the area was depressing."

During the fire, KDOT crews were essential to containing the fire. They assisted emergency officials by directing traffic, closing roads when needed and they even provided water for the fire department using their 2,000 gallon brine tanks.

"Several times we were pretty close to the fire due to its erratic behavior while we were providing water and where we were placed for traffic control." Baker said. "We set up traffic control where the fire chief wanted us at Aetna Road then he had us move back to Lake City Road [and] when that got too close I pulled us back to the U.S 281/U.S. 160 Junction to better control traffic and safety reasons."

Baker said that he felt a wide range of emotions as he watched the prairie burn. "Feelings about the fire ranged from awe to fear at times, sadness thinking about all of the losses to property, livestock and wildlife then by the time it was over, exhaustion [there weren't] that many of us and we had to pull some long shifts."

KDOT also assisted with the recovery efforts in the area by repairing important infrastructure and cleaning up debris.

"Besides replacing and repairing our signs and guardrails, we worked with several landowners removing dead, burnt trees; cleaning ditches and repairing washes, which helped them with their fence removal and repairs." Baker said.

Over the course of five months, the weather has brought regrowth to the fire-stricken land. Where there was once a large, black scar there is now



Above, just after the fire; below, five months later.



fresh, green prairie. Earlier this month, the U.S. 160 Guard Post Project Team was selected as the Example of Excellence for because of their efforts. They replaced 331 guard fence posts and five signs that were destroyed. "All in all I'm very proud of my crew and all of the other crews that helped us during the fire and with all of the repairs afterwards. They are a good group of hard working people," Baker said. "Another thing that was amazing to witness was all of the fire departments from all over that came to help." To see drone footage of the wildfire from Kiowa County Media, click [here](#).

To see more stories on other transportation topics, check out the regular posts on the Kansas Transportation blog at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>

Highlighting KDOT workers: KDOT field workers face oncoming traffic, impatient and unsafe drivers, extreme weather conditions and many other hazards while maintaining our roads and infrastructure so communities can thrive.

A new initiative aimed at both internal and external audiences will recognize those hardworking individuals who risk their lives to keep Kansas moving.

A semi-regular illustration project, titled #IAMKDOT, begins tomorrow to highlight and bring awareness to the work KDOT employees do for our state.

Typographical elements will be included in these drawings that describe what kind of person the employees are when they aren't wearing an orange vest. Some have children, some are coaches, and some are sports fans, for example.

#IAMKDOT illustrations will be posted to KDOT's Kansas Transportation blog and other social media to remind the public that these hardworking men and women aren't robots. They aren't slowing down traffic to irritate or inconvenience. They are working hard to ensure that our way of life is maintained and improved. It is our hope that #IAMKDOT illustrations will encourage the drivers to slow down in work zones, and treat KDOT employees with respect and patience.



District One

A microburst struck the KDOT Blaine Subarea facilities late on Aug. 23, located just west of the K-99/K-16 junction in Pottawatomie County. No equipment was damaged during the storm.



The storm damage includes destruction of the equipment shed (above), roof blown off the sand/salt materials shed (left) and several broken windows in the Subarea shop.

District Four



KDOT inspectors Wade Park, left, and Warren Ebberts of the Iola office measure the surface recycle on a recent preservation project on K-58 between Leroy and U.S. 75. The surface recycle was followed by a chip seal. Dustrol, Inc., of Towanda was awarded the \$285,801 construction contract.

District Three

Osborne County saw nearly four inches of rain on Aug. 24, leading to flooding in the area. Parts of U.S. 24 and U.S. 281 were flooded, along with several county roads and ditches. Right: The U.S. 24/U.S. 281 junction in Osborne County. Below: Osborne Subarea Supervisor Trevor Thornton flags on U.S. 24 two miles west of Osborne as KDOT crews provided traffic control during the flooding situation.



District Two



After a rollover crash on Aug. 16 involving a semi-tractor and trailer hauling a wind generator tower (left), K-177 in Morris County was closed to traffic on Aug. 17 between K-4 and U.S. 56 (below). The closure was necessary to lift the tower out of the ditch with a crane and place it on a different trailer. K-177 was re-opened on Aug. 18.



District Four

Interim Secretary Richard Carlson, center, and Sen. Jake LaTurner, to his left, speak to U.S. 69 Association members and people from the public who attended the Sept. 1 meeting in Pittsburg that was hosted by member Ken Brock. The group discussed the U.S. 69 expansion project. The first phase of the project is set to let for construction in October.



TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Tiberius
2. Martin Luther King Jr.
3. Actress Majel Barrett Roddenberry
4. The famous Spock neck pinch
5. DeForest Kelly
6. 430 men and women.
7. S'chn-T Gai Spock
8. His right middle finger, which he lost during World War II.

District One



A photo from Earthcam of 95th Street in the Kansas City metro area on Aug. 25 shows a lightning strike during a thunderstorm.

General

Hitting the road: Data released recently shows U.S. driving is up 3.3 percent for the first six months of 2016. Travel on the state highway system in Kansas is even higher at 3.6 percent over where it was one year ago. Traveling through Kansas has been rising steadily the past few years, setting records in 2014 with 30.71 billion and 2015 with 31.38 billion miles driven.

“Fuel prices are lower than they were a year ago and the overall economy is good, both reasons that encourage travel,” said KDOT Planning Assistant Bureau Chief Alan Spicer. “Kansas has benefited being in the middle of the country and having increased national travel from both passenger and freight vehicles.”

The increase in travel over the past few years comes as the country has climbed out of a recession.

“I believe the long-term trend is upward,” Spicer said. “Travel, both nationally and through Kansas, will continue to rise in the next few years. The population is still growing, and we have more people on our roads than ever before. Even with economic and lifestyle changes, the long-term trend is still upward.”

In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Earl Jackson who died on Aug. 8 in Topeka. He served as a Highway Maintenance Superintendent in District One, retiring in 1992.

KTA

East Kellogg project awarded: The KTA has approved the bids and awarded a contract for the Turnpike-managed portion of the East Kellogg improvements project. The contract consists of constructing ramps on I-35/KTA from mile marker 50.9 to 52.3 and a six-lane freeway on Kellogg Avenue between Greenwich and K-96. Learn more about it [here](#).

Do you know of a KDOT retiree not receiving Translines?

Please let them know that if they are interested in receiving it, send an email to Kimberly@ksdot.org

District Four



Two sculptures by Kansas artist Stan Herd were dedicated Sept. 1 at Parsons. At right, helping cut the ribbon were, from left: Deputy Secretary of the Kansas Department of Commerce Steve Kelly, Stan Herd (with scissors), Greg Brewer of the Parsons Arts Council, Parsons City Manager Debbie Lamb, and Parsons Economic Development Director Jim Zaleski.



The limestone and stone sculptures, titled ‘Ancient Man’ and ‘Turtle Island (pictured above),’ are located northeast of the U.S. 400/59 junction in the Tolen Creek Park and trail system. The art project was funded by a grant through the Creative Arts Industry Commission of the Department of Commerce, private funds and in-kind services by the city of Parsons.



Topeka - every Wednesday
7:30 a.m. to noon
10th Street - south side of the Statehouse grounds

To locate/find out more about other farmers markets, check out the From the Land of Kansas website at <https://fromthelandofkansas.com/discover-resources/farmers-market-resources>

Poster Art Contest

Kansas kids ages 5 through 13 are invited to enter artwork representing their thoughts on "Put the Brakes on Fatalities." Three statewide winners will be selected from the 18 regional winners!

Age Categories

5 to 7 years old

8 to 10 years old

11 to 13 years old

Each regional winner will receive a **BICYCLE** and **HELMET** from Safe Kids Kansas

Statewide prizes – \$50 Visa cards, movie passes, **PLUS** family hotel and entertainment packages:

◆ **Wichita:** Best Western Airport Inn/Exploration Place

◆ **Topeka:** Capitol Plaza Hotel/Kansas Children's Discovery Center and Topeka Zoo

◆ **Kansas City:** Crowne Plaza Kansas City-Overland Park Hotel/Prairiefire

Visa cards courtesy of the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas/Movie passes courtesy of AAA Kansas

◆ All entries must be postmarked by September 23, 2016, to be eligible.

For rules and more information, go to www.ksdot.org



SUBMIT VIDEO & WIN

CALLING ALL TEENS IN GRADES 8-12 TO HELP **PUT THE BRAKES ON FATALITIES**

Submit your short 6-60 second video and you could win an iPad, GoPro camera, or a DJI Osmo camera!

Put the Brakes on Fatalities: 2015 Winners
KansasTempika • 1/3 videos

Be Here To See It PSA
D16 VideoClub

Put the Brakes on Fatalities
East Theatre

Brake

STOP
PUT THE BRAKES ON FATALITIES