

Translines EXPRESS

March 11, 2015

Employee Recognition



McPherson Love's Travel Center Project Team was selected as the **Example of Excellence** for the fourth quarter of 2014. Team members worked to coordinate efforts on the Love's driveway project and two other projects scheduled within a half-mile on U.S. 56 just east of I-135, combining them into one project. KDOT team members and consultants with the projects include, first row, left to right, Judy Wagner, Troy Culver, Brandy Sutherland, Joe Palic, Kathleen Deitering, Karla Waters, Dawn Hueske; second row, Sandy Wong, Thad Fowler, Marie Taylor, Secretary Mike King, Jeff Sims, Melinda Desch; third row, Randy West, Brian Geiger, Michael Fletcher, Ed Thornton, Jim Tobaben, Mike Moriarty, Brian Gower, Justin Owens, and Tyler Glissman. KDOT team members not pictured include Steve King, Mervin Lare, Kevin Jirak, Jessica Upchurch, Kristina Ericksen and Jeff Henry.

Headquarters

Slimmer retires: Transportation Planning Bureau Chief Dennis Slimmer celebrated 45 years at KDOT last summer, and now he's celebrating another milestone – becoming a retiree.

During his tenure, he has served in the Bridge Design section, Construction Department, District One and the Division of Planning and Development. He has been Transportation Planning's Bureau Chief since 2008.

"I'm going to miss the daily interactions, particularly with Alan Spicer and Rebecca



Dennis Slimmer

Rochelle - it's always fun, but we got the work done," Slimmer said. "Alan is a font of knowledge – he's the library of Planning." Slimmer said he's had a number of jobs at KDOT, almost like separate careers but still with the same agency. "It kept me interested – the work is rewarding and the people are great" he said. "I closed my remarks the other day by saying that I would always be proud to say that I worked for KDOT and that's the truth." Slimmer is planning his first vacation with his wife to New Orleans. "That was one of my favorite places when I was traveling to AASHTO events, but now I get to go and actually share the sites and history of that beautiful city with Kathy."

Public Transportation

Karl Fundenberger, Director of Bicycle Operations for Topeka Metro, speaks with attendees at the Public Transportation Day event at the Capitol on Tuesday. Participants included Lawrence Transit, the Flint Hills Area Transportation Agency, Kansas Truck, the American Public Transportation Association, the Community Transportation Association of America, the Kansas University Transportation Center and the Kansas Rural Transit Assistance Program, the Kansas Public Transit Association and the South West Transit Association.



In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT employee Barb Blue who died on Feb. 26 in Topeka. Blue joined KDOT in 2001 as the ATIS coordinator/511 program manager. She was instrumental in creating the 511 telephone traveler information system in Kansas. In January 2014, Blue became an IT Project Manager in the Office of Information Technology Services.

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT employee Leif Holliday who died on March 5 in Topeka. Holliday worked for KDOT approximately eight years for the Bureau of Transportation Planning as a Data Analysis Engineer, Models and Forecasting Engineer and Traffic and Field Operations Manager. His wife, Sharron, is a legal assistant in KDOT's Chief Counsel's office.

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree Alice Ellegood of Oakley who died on Feb. 4. She worked for many years at the Oakley Area office before retiring in the mid-1970s.

District Two

K-177 bridge repair: Work began Tuesday on a bridge located on K-177 3.7 miles north of Council Grove. The project involves repairing bridge joints, cleaning and painting the bridge bearings, making curb repairs and applying a polymer overlay on the bridge deck.

Traffic will be reduced to one lane controlled by a traffic signal with a 10-foot width restriction. Repairs should be completed and the bridge reopened in early August.

The purpose of the repairs are to extend the life of the bridge and improve ride quality.

Mill Valley Construction Inc. is the contractor on the \$271,000 project.

General

Second retirement: KDOT retiree J.R. Campbell is retiring again - as the official scorer for the Washburn University men's and women's basketball teams. He served for 30 years and kept score at nearly 1,000 games. Read the entire Topeka Capital-Journal story at <http://goo.gl/8lr5sY>

Weather



Equipment Operator Ed Specht, from the Oakland Subarea office in Topeka, clears I-70 in Topeka during the snow storm on Feb. 28.

Below are comments KDOT received on Facebook, Twitter and e-mail for efforts on the Feb. 28 storm:

When I left Wichita Saturday afternoon and traveled on 15 to Abilene, the road was amazing. Please let your road staff "thank you!"

Kristin Copeland

A shout out to all the crews of @HaysvilleCity @WichitaKDOT that have worked their tails off getting these streets ready for the work week.

Tommy Gallegos

@NEKansasKDOT tell them thank you for their hard work! The roads were great this morning!

Kyle Culbertson

Traveling to & from KMEA in Wichita this AM. Thanks @KDOTHQ for keeping I-135 safe, despite the budget woes.

Mike Rose

A thankless job well done . Thank you to all that make our KS roads some of the safest in the nation thru all sorts of weather.

Ralph G Laris

Just wanted to thank KDOT crews for the clear roads on my way home today.

Calysta Snell

We just came from North of Rossville via 24 Highway and all roads are in great shape!

Virginia Channel Schmelzle

Snowy Saturday woof-out to all the folks working tonight to keep us safe. @kshighwaypatrol @NEKansasKDOT @MoDOT_KC @OverlandPark_PD Winston @Mr_Woofy

Thanks Kim and the crew we need you all to keep us safe

Teresa Burns

Trivia!

Part One -

In Kansas, where is the largest...

1. Electric shovel?

2. Hand dug well?

3. Second largest hand dug well?

4. Spur?

5. Van Gogh painting?

6. Prairie dog?

7. Souvenir travel plate?

8. Meat cleaver?

9. Russian egg?

Aviation



Aviation Division Deputy Director Tiffany Brown, right, and Winfield High School senior Taylor Humphrey will be partners in the 2015 Air Race Classic.

From the *Wichita Eagle* - **Air race:** Tiffany Brown, Deputy Director of KDOT's Aviation Division, is planning to participate in her first race as a pilot. Brown, a pilot since 2013, will be the pilot in command of Team TNT in the 2015 Air Race Classic, a four-day, 2,199 nautical mile air race that begins June 22. "It's a way to expand my flying skills, expand my scope as a pilot," Brown said.

She'll be partnering with Winfield High School senior Taylor Humphrey on the nine-stop race that begins in Fredericksburg, Va., and ends in Fairhope, Ala. They will be competing against more than 50 other teams of two- and three-women in a race that shares a Top 10 purse of \$15,000. For more information on the 2015 Air Race Classic, go to <http://airraceclassic.org/2015race.asp>.

Retirees

The following employees will retire from KDOT in April.

Headquarters

Clemens Boos, Ellsworth Bridge Inspection Technician, Structures & Geotechnical Services, Minneapolis

Dee Jay Estes, Engineering Technician Senior, Structures & Geotechnical Services

Ralph Pollock, Project Engineer, Research

James Richardson, Professional Civil Engineer II, Road Design

Dennis Slimmer, Manager/Administrator, Transportation Planning

Douglas Thirkell, Equipment Planning Technician, Maintenance, Salina

District One

Blinda Bowin, Administrative Specialist, Osage City

Gary Moulin, Highway Maintenance Superintendent, Osage City

Donald Taylor, Equipment Mechanic Specialist, Topeka

Kenneth Teal, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Holton

District Three

Bobby Gassman, Administrative Specialist, Oakley

District Four

John Short, Engineering Technician Specialist, Pittsburg

Cindy Tichenor, Accountant I, Chanute

James Waltermire, Equipment Operator Senior, Chanute

District Five

Duane Heine, Engineering Technician Senior, Hutchinson

District Six

Michael Blau, Engineering Technician Senior, Garden City

KDOT Transportation Blog

Kansas Transportation

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

Don't miss out on the drone discussion



Agriculture is the first topic in a series of discussions about the use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) by public and private interest groups in Kansas. The working sessions will culminate at the Kansas UAS Summit in Wichita this fall.

The agriculture discussion was scheduled for 2 p.m. today in Manhattan and focused on the use of UAS in the agriculture sector. Subsequent meetings will be hosted by KDOT's Aviation Division later this spring and summer and will focus on:

- Emergency management and law enforcement, Hutchinson
- Research and survey, Salina.
- Small business interests, Wichita
- UAS policies and regulations, Topeka.

"The full integration of unmanned aerial systems is expected to make Kansas a leading state for total economic impact and jobs," said Aviation Director Jesse R. Romo. "It's prudent for us to be on the leading edge of this budding industry, to understand the needs of industry, and to try and figure out how we safely and efficiently get from here to there."

For more information on future discussions, contact Romo at 785-296-2553.

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

Work Zone Safety

Thunderclap: From your home computers, join KDOT's Thunderclap effort to raise work zone safety awareness to hundreds of thousand of people across the country. Go to KDOT's Thunderclap - <https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/23076-go-orange-kansas> and click to participate through Facebook or Twitter, and join the group. It will send a one-time message to your followers at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, the same time as the statewide news conference.



The safety message is simple and to the point - "I will slow down and be alert in work zones and "Go Orange" to remind others to do the same." Please sign up now and forward to others - the effort requires a minimum of 100 participants before March 26. During last year's work zone safety campaign, the safety message was initially seen by more than 300,000 accounts.

Also make sure and check out the new work zone safety public service announcement created by KDOT's Bureau of Support Services - <http://youtu.be/7JPfbUp53iM>

Headquarters



Louis Thompson, Management Systems Analyst in the Bureau of Construction and Materials, accepts his 45-year certificate of service from Bureau Chief Sandy Tommer. Thompson started with the Kansas Highway Commission in 1970.

District Three

Safety winners: District Three recently honored its 2014 Area and Subarea crew safety winners with awards luncheons to recognize their safety achievements on Feb. 18 and 19.

The winners were the Hays Area Office and the Osborne Subarea for the crew award. Both Osborne and Hill City Subareas achieved a perfect record of no accidents or personal injuries in 2014. The tiebreaker came down

to the most weekly safety meetings, which went to Osborne.

"It is an honor to work with such dedicated and safety-minded people here in District Three," said District Safety Specialist Gary Schilowsky. "We hope our areas and sub-areas will continue to maintain and build on providing a safe working environment for our employees."



Above, Hays Area employees are, from left, Rick Giebler, Terri Rule, Max Dirks, Dean Jay, Nick Rogers, John Rome, Kevin Zimmer, Kyle Level, Jeff Stewart, Dean Pierce, Brent Barnett and Dorothy Gross. Below, Osborne Subarea employees are, from left, Ashley Coop, Brian Huiting, Marvin Burch, Jeff Stewart, Wade Wyman, Brad Holloway, Trevor Thornton, Michael Terry and Rod Bencken.



Aviation

KDOT announces Phase I of airport funding: Twenty-one projects have been selected to receive funding to enhance safety and service at public-use airports in the state through the Kansas Airport Improvement Program (KAIP).

KDOT's Division of Aviation received 118 applications for projects totaling more than \$42 million.

Recognizing the needs of continued investment in aviation infrastructure, the 2010 Kansas Legislature passed the T-WORKS transportation program and gave KAIP a funding level of \$5 million a year.

"The project selection process remains highly

competitive," said Aviation Director Jesse R. Romo. "One of the challenges is to balance the needs of local growth while maintaining the existing system at a high level; and the selected projects help us do just that."

Under guidelines of the program, project sponsors are required to pay a minimum of 5 percent of the total project costs up to a maximum of 50 percent, depending on project category. The awarded projects represent \$1.4 million in total state contributions. The remaining projects will be announced at a later date under Phase II of the program.

To see the list of projects, go to <http://goo.gl/DDn1vR>.

District Four

The solar lights that were installed at the U.S. 169/Plummer Road interchange can be seen along the edge of the roadway.



Survey for solar lights available: KDOT and the Pittsburg State University School of Construction have developed a survey to obtain input from the traveling public regarding the self-sufficient solar powered LED pavement lights at the U.S. 169/Plummer Road and U.S. 169/Chanute-Humboldt Road (old 169) interchanges. The solar lights were installed at the interchanges in

the fall 2013. The solar lighting pilot project is a joint endeavor of the two organizations. KDOT staff from District Four cored the holes and placed the lights at the interchanges, with the university providing the installation expertise.

The solar light survey can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/27NVP3P>.

District Five



A recent concrete pour replacing a bridge rail on I-135 in north Wichita is part of an ongoing pavement rehabilitation project (with associated bridge repairs, drainage improvements, sign and lighting replacements) on six miles of the interstate. Traffic speed is reduced to 50 mph in this work zone. The 13-month project is on schedule and should be finished in July.

Freight Truck Parking

KDOT and KTA study truck parking: KDOT and the KTA have started a freight truck parking study. “As more freight is moved across the state, truck parking needs to be reevaluated in order to determine if current needs are being met,” Secretary Mike King said. The state’s truck parking capacity, conditions, trends and opportunities will be studied to develop recommendations to improve state freight network safety, efficiency and competitiveness. “We will identify and analyze factors that are likely

to affect future truck parking choices and needs,” Secretary King said. “This will give us a chance to develop and evaluate a range of solutions.” Freight corridors of significance identified by the Kansas Freight Advisory Committee will be analyzed. Special emphasis will be taken on I-70, I-35 and the Kansas Turnpike as well as secondary freight network routes. The study, which will be done by consulting engineers HNTB, will complete in October.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1. West Mineral | 4. Abilene | 7. Lucas |
| 2. Greensburg | 5. Goodland | 8. Topeka |
| 3. Seneca | 6. Oakley | 9. Topeka |

*Have an idea for a news brief
or picture that could be featured
in an upcoming edition of
Translines Express?*

*Please e-mail your suggestions to
translines@ksdot.org*